

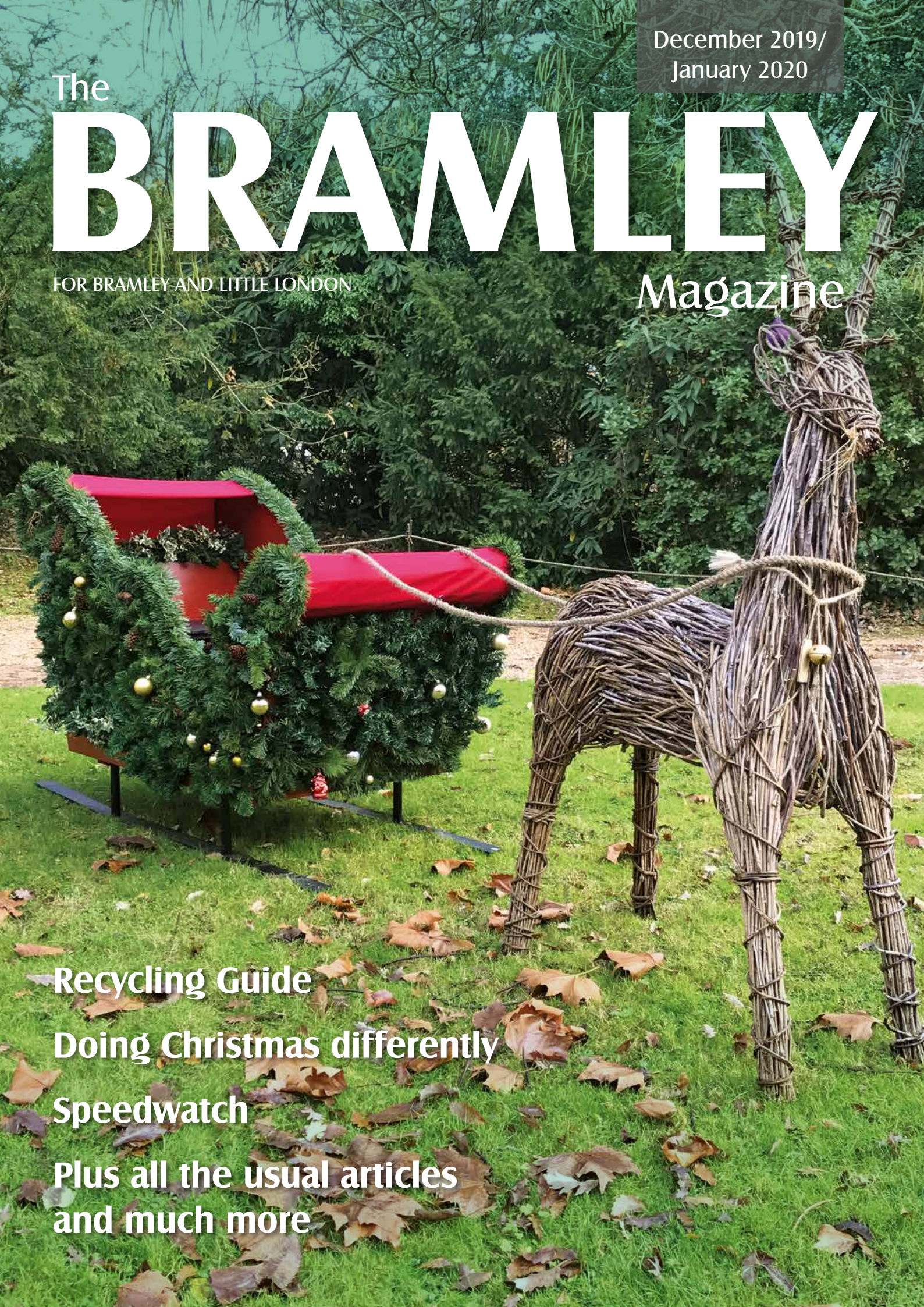
December 2019/  
January 2020

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



**Recycling Guide**

**Doing Christmas differently**

**Speedwatch**

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**December 2019 –  
January 2020**

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

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

Cover photo:  
Christmas at the Vyne  
- Rachel Barclay Smith

Did you know that Queen Victoria didn't just have one Christmas tree, she had nine: one for each of her children? You would need a palace-sized room to accommodate those. And how did they manage without a vacuum cleaner to Hoover up all the needles?

Around 7 million Christmas trees are bought in the UK every year and many of you have probably decorated yours already. In Victorian times they didn't tend to put them up until Christmas Eve, but I know some people can't wait to rush out and buy a tree as soon as December arrives. Just don't make my mistake and buy a tree that is so big it has to stick several feet out of the car window. I'm still not sure how we got it home without decapitating some poor cyclist. I'm sure some of your trees will be designer masterpieces, fashionably decorated with colour co-ordinated baubles and elaborate ornaments. Others (like mine) will be a mismatch of decorations acquired over the years and lots of unfashionable tinsel. There won't be so many lights this year either as I managed to Hoover up the lead last year.....

Outdoor trees are becoming increasingly popular and one of the most famous is the tree in Trafalgar Square, presented to us every year by the people of Norway as a token of appreciation for the British support of Norwegian resistance during the Second World War. There is also a large tree outside Number 10 Downing Street but who knows who will be responsible for switching on those lights this year. If you don't have room for a tree (or nine) inside your home, or just want an extra tree, why not put one in your garden and join in with the Christmas Tree Festival mentioned on page 12? It will be lovely to see all the lights as we drive through the village and, who knows, it may encourage people to drive a bit slower so they can get a better look. I doubt the person driving at 78 mph would even have seen a garden, let alone an individual tree (see page 9).

One of the downsides of Christmas is the amount of waste we generate. Plastic packaging, Pringles tubes, foil containers, old batteries that only last five minutes. It's confusing knowing where to recycle everything so Bramley Green Larder, together with the Bramley Magazine and Bramley Parish Council, are here to help. As an early Christmas present we have a handy recycling guide on page 17 which you can pull out and keep for future reference. Why not stick it on your fridge or cupboard door and make a New Year resolution to reduce your contribution to landfill in 2020?

I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year. Don't forget, there is no magazine in January so we will be back again in February.

Best Wishes

**Rachel**

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!

**Charles Wesley**

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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.

Did you know.....?

- All children receive 15 hours per week pre-school free from the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. You can choose any of our opening hours as EYE grant funded hours.

- We now accept all children aged 2 years or older.

- You don't need to be potty trained to come to us.

- Some children qualify for 15 hours per week when they are 2 years old. Call us for details or visit

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/parents/cis/eye/2-year-old-offer-2.htm#criteria>

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

### Why not pop up for a visit?

Telephone Jo on 07598 588460

Email : [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org)

Visit <http://www.littleapples.org/>  
or search for our facebook page



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**Church diary for December...**

<b>1st</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Making Christingles – Cross House
10.30	Christingle Service – St James
<b>8th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>
	Communion Cancelled at 8.00am
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>15th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
17.00	Carol Service – Little London
<b>21st</b>	<b>Saturday before Christmas</b>
16.00	<i>Light in the Darkness</i> – St James A service for anyone who finds Christmas difficult or painful this year
<b>22nd</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
	<b>NO</b> Sunday@nine
	<b>NO</b> 10:30 service
18.00	Carol Service – St James
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
17.00	Crib Service – St James
23.30	Midnight Communion – St James
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
10.30	Family Communion – St James
<b>29th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>
	<b>NO</b> early services
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James

**... January 2019...**

<b>5th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Christmas</b>
8.00	Holy Communion - St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>12th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

<b>19th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>26th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

**... and into February**

<b>2nd</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>9th</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>16th</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James

**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

Dorothy Rosina Sharplin, Monday 28 October, at Basingstoke Crematorium  
 Betty Musselwhite, Monday 4 November, at Basingstoke Crematorium  
 Louis Monger, Friday 8 November, at St James Church, followed by the committal at West Berkshire Crematorium

**Confirmation**

Sophia Barclay Smith, Selina Day and David Walford, Sunday 20 October 2019 at St James Church.

**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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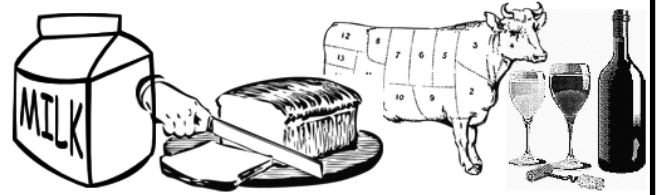


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For as long as I can remember, Christmas has been something to be celebrated in song and verse. You can't read John Betjeman's poem, *Christmas*, without immediately getting a flavour of St James's Church in Bramley passing through your mind:

"The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day."

And then there are all those songs we start to hear in the supermarket, which, however much you may resent the idea of Christmas starting in mid-November, do get us humming along and the words come popping into our heads unbidden.

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas;  
Soon the bells will start –  
And the thing that will make them ring  
is the carol that you sing  
Right within your heart."

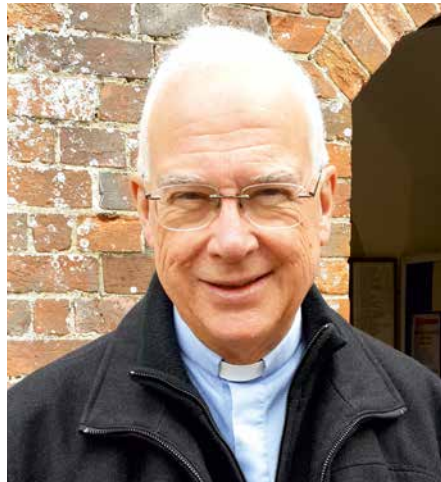
Well, more accurately, the words that come popping into my head are something like, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,... dum de dum dum dum." And that tends to be true for quite a few of the popular Christmas songs that float through the air wherever we go.

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire;  
Jack Frost nippin' at your nose.  
Dum diddle dum diddle dum diddle  
dum... Merry Christmas, everyone."

Or that great song of Paul McCartney's  
"The mood is high... the spirit's up,  
Dum dum de dum... dum dum de dum,  
Simply having a wonderful Christmas  
time!"

Music by Paul McCartney, lyrics by David Cameron, I suppose.

But most of all, of course, the songs that really make the bells ring are the carols that we sing, not just within our hearts, but in the church, carols that many of us have been singing for years and years and years. We all have our



Rev'd John Lenton

favourites; I rather enjoy singing "God rest you merry, Gentlemen," which always conjures up images of a group of Nigel Farage's standing round the bar, beer mugs in hand, singing "Merry Christmas, everyone!" But actually, the well-placed comma in that title line shows that it's not the Gentlemen who are merry, but rather the wish that God would "rest them merry", in other words, encourage and reassure them with the Gospel's message of comfort and joy.

"God rest you merry, Gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay;  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we had gone astray,  
O, tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O, tidings of comfort and joy!"

My all-time favourite carol is actually a modern one written by Graham Kendrick, "Thorns in the straw". My lovely wife has sometimes sung it as a solo at our Carol Service, and I find the way that she sings its melody and the words heart-stoppingly beautiful. The song imagines Mary glimpsing the bitter-sweet story of her new-born Son, as she finds a thorn in the manger straw that cradles her baby's head. It weaves the sorrow of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter into the joyfulness of Christmas, which is what makes it such a powerful account of the Christian message.

"Just a blanket on the floor  
Of a vacant cattle-stall,  
But there the child was born,

She held him in her arms.  
And as she laid him down to sleep  
She wondered - will it always be  
So bitter and so sweet?

And did she see there  
In the straw by his head a thorn?  
And did she smell myrrh  
In the air on that starry night?  
And did she hear angels sing  
Not so far away?  
Till at last the sun rose blood-red  
In the morning sky..."

Great words; a thought-provoking image for Christmas.

Well, as I will say in the church at the end of our Christmas Eve service, let me say to you and your family, "May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas!"

### Hook Choral Society Christmas Concert

21st December at 4pm, St John's Church, London Road, Hook, RG27 9ED. Doors open at 3.30 for mulled wine and mince pies which is included in ticket price of £8. Under 11s free of charge. This is a popular event with a selection of new and old carols and readings. Tickets are available online at [www.hookchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hookchoralsociety.org.uk), Trees Newsagent in Hook or ring 07957 293641 or on the door.

In addition the choir will be singing at the Barrett Homes Christmas event at Chapel Gate, Basingstoke on 13th December (RG21 5TB 5-7pm), our annual Pub Carol Crawl on Thursday 19th December and at Heckfield Place RG27 0LD on Christmas Eve.

We would invite people to come and listen to a selection of carols and celebrate the Christmas season in song. Full details will be found on our website [www.hookchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hookchoralsociety.org.uk)

# BRAMLEY CHRISTMAS MARKETS!



Bramley is THE place to be on Saturday 14 December.  
You can Meet the Neighbours, support local traders, get your Christmas shopping done, enjoy festive treats & music - without even having to leave the village!



## 9.30am BRAMLEY GREEN CHRISTMAS MARKET - Cross House

We're thrilled to welcome back all your favourite sustainable stalls and refills - with some lovely new faces:

- Bramley Green Larder gifts & refills ✦ Beau Farm cheeses & hampers ✦ Sarah Lane's Christmas Crafts
- ✦ Hornet Chilli & Plot34a chilli sauces ✦ Cupper Joe drinks ✦ Fudgin El sweets ✦ Tropics skincare ✦
- North Hampshire Honey ✦ Little Bs Reusables ✦ Emporio Green Army ✦ Waney Edge Woodcrafts
- ✦ Tadley Zero Waste Pantry ✦ Born Again Bohemia reclaimed jewellery designs ✦ Festive music & treats



Sarah Mitchell from **Bramley Green Larder** says:  
" Make a real difference this Christmas ...  
give presents that won't cost the earth. "



**Cross House, St James Church, Bramley - RG26 5DF**  
9.30am - 1.00pm Free parking



## 1.00 pm CLIFT MEADOW CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Clift Meadow

Our annual Fayre has expanded! We'll be in both the Pavilion and the Brocas Hall.  
There'll be plenty of refreshments. Please come and support the many local stallholders:

- ✦ Crafts ✦ Beauty Products ✦ Wood & slate gifts ✦ Christmas cards & frames
- ✦ Felt goods & gifts ✦ Christmas decorations ✦ Festive hampers and sweet cones ✦
- ✦ Reindeer food ✦ Stocking Fillers ✦ Wine Tombola ✦ Raffle & prizes



Stallholder Sue Howell is really looking forward to it:  
" I'm really excited about taking part in this year's  
Fayre. It's such a lovely time of year for the whole  
village to come together. "

**Clift Meadow Pavilion, Minchens Lane RG26 5BJf**  
1.00pm - 4.45pm Free parking



## 4.00pm CHRISTMAS SINGALONG with TADLEY BRASS BAND - Clift Meadow



**B**ramley Community Speedwatch is working for a Safer Neighbourhood. One of its members, Paul Holland, asks: what speed is too fast?

You may have seen recently a new Speed Indicator Device being deployed in Bramley. Bramley Community Speedwatch, with a grant from Bramley Parish Council and donations from County Councillor Rhydian Vaughan and ex Borough Councillor Venetia Rowland, has now been able to deploy its Speed Indicator Device (SID) around the village starting outside the Village Hall on The Street. The first deployment was for six days during the middle of October and the results from the data captured were quite staggering. Almost 48,000 vehicles passed the SID during its deployment with an average of 50% of those vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

A speed of **78 mph** was recorded during this initial deployment!

The data that has been collected from the SID shows that The Street in Bramley suffers from a significant issue of vehicles driving in excess of the 30mph limit throughout the day. The information that is collected is being provided to the Police and other agencies with a view to looking at how to reduce the excessive speeding.

Utilising the data collected from the Speed Indication Device (SID) will allow the Bramley Community Speedwatch team to identify days, times and locations where Speedwatch may be fully deployed to capture details of vehicles that are exceeding the speed limits and help bring the levels of speeding down in an effort to make our community a safer and more pleasant place to live. The details of any offences are forwarded to Hampshire Police and entered onto the Police database. Initially the registered owner of the vehicle will be provided with a written warning



letter. If the same registration number is logged again within 12 months the owner will receive a further warning or a visit from the Police. If they are logged a third time the details will be looked at for further action.

Commercial vehicles or vehicles that belong to companies will have a separate letter sent to their transport manager and the roads policing unit will be made aware.

**How can you help?**

**We are always looking for additional volunteers**

**Who can volunteer?**

Volunteers must be aged at least 17 and will need to complete an application form and a vetting process which can take up to six weeks to clear.

Specialist training will be given to volunteers and volunteers working on the roadside will be given high visibility jackets, wet weather equipment, road side signs and equipment to monitor speed and record vehicle details. Volunteers will be covered under Hampshire Constabulary's public liability insurance for roadside working.

Deployments only last for 1 hour and are looking to be held every 3-4 weeks around the village. By having more volunteers, the frequency and duration of deployments can be increased.

If you would be interested in helping keep our community safe and a nice place to live, then please contact the Bramley Community Speedwatch team:

Email: [cswbramley@gmail.com](mailto:cswbramley@gmail.com)

**Bramley School - Up, Up and Away**

Year Six have been pushing back boundaries, embracing challenges and conquering new heights on their recent residential. From Monday to Friday, the children embarked on a range of adventurous activities in order to develop their courage and teamwork and create powerful memories that will last a lifetime.

From climbing up tall towers to abseiling deep descents, the children participated in many activities that tested their resilience and developed new skills which the classroom cannot teach. Despite the cold conditions, children banded together to make rafts by mastering a range of knots and worked in tandem to ensure they could successfully navigate across a lake in a series of challenges. Showing great determination and bravery, the children navigated through a range of tunnels in the dark in hunt of an elusive light source. The children mastered how to use rifles (only on targets) and how to defeat their opponent with a sword in their fencing lessons. They shot through the sky as they raced on zip wires and collaborated on a range of complex adventure problems which tested their teamwork and communication skills.

Learning in an environment away from the school helped children to build lasting and more meaningful friendships and further prepared them for any future challenges that they may face in school and beyond.



**Summary data from the deployment**

	Vehicles	Under 30mph	%	Over 30mph	%	Max Speed
Wed	8855	4546	51.34%	4309	48.66%	68
Thur	8840	4989	56.44%	3851	43.56%	63
Fri	8956	4580	51.14%	4376	48.86%	55
Sat	7097	3209	45.22%	3888	54.78%	69
Sun	5570	2362	42.41%	3208	57.59%	78
Mon	8155	4191	51.39%	3964	48.61%	59
Total	47473					

**Have you just moved into Centenary Fields?**

We are looking for a volunteer to deliver the Bramley magazine to the new homes in Centenary Fields. If you would like to help please email the editor on [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk)

Thank you

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

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

On Sunday 10 November, St James's Church hosted the Annual Remembrance Service. The service was relayed by video and audio link into Cross House, which was used as

an overflow from the packed church. Many thanks to Ken Payne who spent much time setting up the audio link. The magnificent waterfall of knitted poppies on the screen at the front of the church was displayed again this year, and thanks to Pam Luck and her team of knitters.

The church bells were rung half muffled before the Remembrance Service. Thanks to all the bell ringers led by the Tower Captain Terry Cooper. Thanks also to Wing Commander Matt Roberts from RAF Odiham for attending the service in St James and for his support with the Chinook flypast.

The younger generation were well represented with the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Beavers joining in. Once again we included young readers for the names of the fallen. From our JAM group we had Selina Day (14) and Sophia Barclay Smith (11); from the Scouts, Chloe Smith (12) and Henry Pearson (11); and from the Guides, Megan Simmons (12) and Rose Knight (11). They did really well and all welcomed the inclusion of the young from our community. Generations Chorale added a poignant memory to the proceedings with a rendition of In Flanders Fields, just before the service began, and Give Love O Christ during the service itself. Thank you to George Aitchison for taking these photos and to everyone who came to the Remembrance Service. Your support is always welcomed.

Steve Day – Branch Treasurer  
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<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bramley-district>



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**BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Remember, remember the 5th of November..... I can't believe it's that time of the year again. With funding from both Clift Meadow Trust and the Bramley School Association, along with a grant from the Parish Council, Bramley was treated to an amazing display of fireworks and entertainment at Bramley Primary School. It was so good to see so many residents and friends enjoying the evening. A big thank you to all concerned, and we look forward to next year's extravaganza.

On 30 October Manor Oak Homes held a public exhibition in the Village Hall about their proposals to build a new development on land at Tudor Farm, Bramley. The exhibition was well attended with villagers voicing their views and concerns about the possible development. At the time of writing, a full planning application has not been submitted to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The Parish Clerk has received numerous emails commenting on the proposals and asks that once a planning application has been submitted, residents resend their emails direct to the planning department – details on how to do this can be found here: [www.bramleypc.co.uk/en/submitting-comments-planning-applications](http://www.bramleypc.co.uk/en/submitting-comments-planning-applications)

Remember the Parish Council is only one voice whereas you, the residents, are many voices. If you missed the meeting but would like to see the proposals you can view them at [www.manoroakhomes.co.uk](http://www.manoroakhomes.co.uk) under Silchester Road, Bramley.

The last Parish Council meeting of 2019 will be held on Tuesday 17 December in the Bramley Room at the Village Hall. It starts at 7.30pm and a warm welcome is extended to all residents who wish to join us. If you are unable to make

it you can catch up with proceedings via our website [www.bramleypc.co.uk](http://www.bramleypc.co.uk) or our Facebook page (Bramley Parish Council-Hampshire).

Finally on behalf of all the Parish Councillors I would like to wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

**Useful contact details...**

- Bin collections over Christmas - [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) - select bin collections tab
- Parish Clerk - [parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk)
- Anti-social behaviour reporting – call 101 (Please be patient as often very busy)
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council planning department - [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) - select *find a planning application tab*, Or email at [planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Parish Council meeting dates early in 2020

**Planning Committee Full Council**

15 January	21 January
12 February	18 February
11 March	17 March
15 April	21 April
	19 May/21 May (APM)

Cllr Liz Capel  
Bramley Parish Council

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07894 209 698

*Conversations with a purpose*

## A 1944 Christmas Story

You may be aware that this year is the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. You will not be aware of another 75th anniversary approaching at Christmas time. Who is the handsome young RAF Flight Sergeant in the picture, and why is he clutching pineapples and bananas? All will be revealed.

To begin at the beginning: the young man is my late father-in-law, Derrick Woodgate. He joined the RAF as soon as he was able in 1942 and served mainly in 206 Squadron Coastal Command. The planes flown by 206 Squadron were American B-17 Flying Fortresses. They were less suitable for bombing missions than the famous Lancaster, but ideal for the work of reconnaissance over the Atlantic, which included gathering meteorological information for the Allied forces and anti-submarine warfare.

During the latter part of 1942, shipping losses (sunk by U-boats) were averaging 500,000 tons per month in the Atlantic. Vital supplies to the UK were being lost. A suitable Atlantic base was needed away from the UK to extend the range of the B-17s to allow them to neutralise the U-boat threat. By January 1943 there were 37 U-boats operating in the mid-Atlantic Gap.

Portugal was and still is our oldest ally, under a treaty signed in 1373: incidentally the oldest treaty still in existence in the world. Portugal was neutral in World War 2, and permission was granted for an RAF base in the Portuguese Azores, at Lagens. That is how Derrick Woodgate found himself in the Azores for much of 1943 and 1944.

This was not as comfortable a billet as it might appear. For most of the time tents were the only accommodation: four officers, eight NCOs or twelve other ranks to a tent.



RAF Flight Sergeant  
Derrick Woodgate

Field kitchens provided food. But there were compensations. There was no black-out as there was back home and the local town had restaurants with wines and spirits freely available. There were also pineapples and bananas, unknown at home since the start of the war.

Back home, Derrick's mother, Dorothy Woodgate, was worried about her son and occasional letters, subject to military censorship, did little to allay her fears. In the weeks before Christmas she had a dream that her son Derrick had been killed. Out in the Azores, Derrick had been granted home leave for Christmas.

Shopping opportunities were limited but Derrick and the rest of the crew knew what they would be taking home as Christmas gifts: pineapples and bananas.

It was Christmas Eve when Derrick knocked on the door of the house in West Norwood in South London. His mother answered. She was not expecting to see her son, and she had not seen a banana or a pineapple since 1939. Her fevered brain did the only thing it could, when unable to take in the vision on the doorstep. She fainted and had to be revived. Of course, it was a joyful Christmas after that. Not all of the fruit was consumed, and just after Christmas there was a knock on the front door. A reporter and photographer from the local paper had heard the news of the only bananas and pineapples in West Norwood and wanted to interview the young flight sergeant, who was having his first lie-in for months. He pulled on his uniform over his pyjamas and went downstairs where he posed for the photo that you see. Merry Christmas everyone! And give thanks for the bananas and pineapples you now take for granted.

Michael Luck

## Christmas News from the Bramley Show

As the festive season draws closer, I would like to remind you about the **Christmas Tree Festival**. We are asking residents to decorate and light a Christmas tree in their front gardens to bring some magic to the village. The entered trees will be photographed and the winner will become a village Christmas card for 2020. Please apply by emailing [thebramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:thebramleyshow@gmail.com) and look on the web site [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk)

We are also holding a **Christmas decoration competition**. If you would like to make a hanging decoration, which must be no larger than 20 cm (8 inches) it can be dropped off at the Coffee Morning on Wednesday mornings. They will be judged by the public at the coffee morning on 11 December. If you would prefer, email [thebramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:thebramleyshow@gmail.com) to arrange collection. Please make sure you have your name and contact details attached to your decoration.

The committee is busy preparing for the 34th show on Saturday 22 August. We are making some changes which we hope will encourage more people to visit and enter. There will be new classes for adults and children, so keep a look out for further details. We are also going to hold a **Summer Craft Fair** during the afternoon, so if any potential stall holders would like to book a stall do get in contact via email [thebramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:thebramleyshow@gmail.com)

The new website [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk) is up and running, with photos, a winners' page, gardening hints and tips from Muddy Fingers and ideas for cookery and crafts. We will be adding features on a regular basis so do swing by and have a look, as well as keeping your eye on the Bramley Show and Community Facebook pages for updates.

We will be at the Clift Meadow Christmas Fair on Saturday 14 December, so come and say "Hello".

Sue Howell – Chair

## Local Councillors

A big thank you to Venetia Rowland for all the hard work she put in as Borough Councillor from May 2016 until September 2019.

Your councillors for Bramley and Sherfield are now:

Nick Robinson 07585 578295.  
[Cllr.nick.robinson@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.nick.robinson@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
 Chris Tomblin 07549 637650  
[Cllr.chris.tomblin@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.chris.tomblin@basingstoke.gov.uk)

We will be working together for the residents of Bramley and Sherfield. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help you with any issues you may have.

Nick Robinson

## GOLDEN OLDIES.....SILVER CITIZENS

Gold and silver. Precious things.

A little time on your hands?

Bramley Volunteer Drivers, formerly Bramley Voluntary Care Group, help the community by giving lifts to local people who are unable to use public transport. This could be to the hospital, to the local doctors' surgery, to a dentist or to collect a prescription.



If you feel you could give a little time during the day every now and then and think this is something you'd like to do, then please get in touch. You'll need to have a car that older people can get in and out of easily and have comprehensive insurance. Also, because we work with vulnerable adults, we'll need to set you up with a DBS check, which is all organised and paid for by us. We also pay you petrol money.

If you'd rather help by holding the phone for a month and organising lifts, then that would be most welcome too.

If you'd like to have a chat with me and find out more, then please call me on 07990 915588. You can also visit us on Facebook at Bramley Volunteer Drivers.

Jenny Edwards

Co-ordinator, Bramley Volunteer Drivers

## Do you need a lift to the surgery?

If you do, Bramley Volunteer Drivers will take you there, in return for an agreed donation. We are a group of Bramley residents who are willing to drive those who are unable to drive themselves. We can take you to Clift Surgery, Basingstoke Hospital, your dentist and other health related appointments in the Basingstoke area. By arrangement, we can also go to other hospitals in the region, such as Southampton General.

*How does it work?* Easy. Ring this number: 07787 166924. Our co-ordinator will ring you back and arrange to visit you and make a risk assessment. Once you've been accepted onto our books the process is simple. Leave a message on the answerphone with details of the date, time and place of your appointment. A volunteer will ring you back to confirm, and then ring round the pool of drivers (around 20 of us) to find someone who can take you there. The volunteer will then ring you again to confirm.

*What is an agreed donation?* We suggest £3.00 to the Clift Surgery, £6.00 to Basingstoke Hospital, £15.00 to the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading (plus parking). The money goes to pay for the petrol; our time is free of charge.

*Is this official?* All the drivers have been vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service as being suitable to work with vulnerable adults. Bramley Volunteer Drivers is part of the Good Neighbours Support Service (GNSS), which is itself supported by the Church of England, and funded by local Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.

*Any more questions?* Ring 07787 166924 and leave your name and number. A volunteer will ring back. We're a friendly bunch and eager to help if we can!

Rachel Holland

## Bramley Guides

Hi, I am Hannah and I am a member of Bramley Guides and am currently working towards my Craftism Interest Badge. This involves slowly and carefully crafting items that make a statement, advocate for change and challenge injustice. First, I had to decide on an issue to focus on and I chose plastic because I hate seeing so many animals getting hurt, or worse, dying just because of plastic. The amount of plastic in our oceans is colossal.

For the badge, I had to make a mindful present so I gave my mum a reusable cup together with information on some of the shops and cafes where she could use it and get a discount on her drink. Next, I had to make a human noticeboard so I came up with the idea of a slogan on a T-shirt. Lastly, I need to take my message and make it public, so here I am. It is really important that we all take responsibility to reduce the amount of plastic we throw away, especially, bags, straws and cups.



Hannah with her human noticeboard

Supermarkets and businesses are beginning to make changes, and if we all make little changes too, it can build towards making a big difference. Also, I go to an Environmental Club at School where we have bins especially for plastic bottles in every class and we collect them every two weeks and recycle them. We need to take action now before it is too late to reverse all the damage we have done. So please join me and help preserve our world for generations to come.

Hannah Dewdney

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**News from the Village Hall**



Anyone who has visited the Village Hall recently will have noticed some major changes to the front of the building. The new extension is almost complete with the new grey cladding attached and the new portico nearing completion; this will provide an extended covered area for visitors entering and leaving the building. Work is currently focussed on the internal fit out – the new meeting room, a new storage area, an additional disabled toilet and the new entrance lobby. The ‘first fix’ is in place for new external lighting and a new CCTV system; the former has become really important as users have struggled to navigate the car park during the darker nights as we move into winter. Our contractors have made good progress and despite losing a week from the



schedule due to the bad weather in October, they have worked hard to recover some of the lost time. The Village Hall Trustees are now more focussed on planning for use of the new space, advertising it on our website and exploring options for new furnishings; in the latter context we have just learned that we have been awarded a grant of £979 from ‘**One Stop Carriers For Causes**’ as a contribution to re-equipping our new kitchen and the new extension. We really appreciate this support from our local shop!



As we expect to complete the works on the Hall just before Christmas, it is likely that the grand opening event will take place in the New Year. I will update you on those plans in the next edition of the Bramley Magazine, along with news about our proposals to re-surface the car park at the Village Hall.

Gareth Jones, Chairman,  
Bramley Village Hall Trust

**Bramley Village Hall – the contractor’s point of view**

Last month, I spoke with Mark Maskell, from Underwood Construction Services who are carrying out the construction on the extension and renovation work at the hall and asked him about the project from his point of view.

Although Underwood mainly provide extensions, loft conversions and renovations for private homes, community projects are no stranger to Mark, having worked on community centres and schools in the past. Whilst working on a public building that is fully operational always has unique challenges, the willingness of users to use alternative entrances during the project has helped this project run smoothly. The only difficulty with delivering this project has been with the Great British Weather which made keeping rainwater out of the committee room a bit of a challenge! Mark was very complimentary about the Trust as clients, particularly Cat Hayward, our Events Organiser, who has been his ‘go-to contact’ throughout the project.

From the Trust’s point of view, the project is on budget and schedule so we would like to thank and commend Underwood for their work and continue to look forward to the grand opening.

Lars Smallbone  
‘Young Trustee’,  
Bramley Village Hall Trust.



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**Doing Christmas Differently**

For many of us, the great joy of Christmas is that it's the same year after year. The family reunites, we open presents, we eat turkey, we play the same daft games we play every year. If this is your Christmas, treasure it.

Because for many others, Christmas is more complicated. Many people this year will face the season of 'joy to the world' with less-than-joyful hearts. Perhaps they're grieving the loss of someone they love, without whom Christmas will never be the same again. Or maybe they or someone close to them is sick, and they see no hope. Maybe they're anxious, even desperate, about whether they can really afford Christmas this year, and about what the new year will bring. Perhaps they're just lonely, or feeling lost at the end of a relationship. And some people don't even really know WHAT'S wrong: they just know that they don't feel much like rocking around the Christmas tree.

That's why along with the traditional festivals of carols and the celebration of the Crib Service, we're offering a different kind of service this year at St James's Church. Our *Light in the Darkness* service on 21 December at 4pm is a quieter, more reflective way to celebrate Christmas for those who don't feel much like celebrating. The Christmas message is peace and hope – two things we all need more than ever – so bring your grief, anxiety, fear or whatever is weighing you down and discover the light in the darkness that is at the heart of Christmas.

It's also why we're delighted to be hosting a Community Christmas Lunch in Cross House after the church service on Christmas Day for anyone who would like to do Christmas differently – but in a very traditional way! There'll be turkey

with all the trimmings, music and games, and of course the Queen's speech, with the option of a walk if the weather's good for those that fancy it. We can accommodate up to 30 people and there's no cost (though feel free to make a donation if you wish) and you don't have to come to the service beforehand (though we'd love to see you there!). And if you need a lift, we can organise that too. If you'd like to join us, or know someone who would, please call Alison Jones on 01256 880833.

You can see the full list of services and celebrations at your local church this Christmas under 'Coming Events' on the St James website – [www.stjamesbramley.com](http://www.stjamesbramley.com) - or on our Facebook page, St James Church, Bramley. We'd love to see you there, so why not do Christmas a little differently with us this year?

Alison Jones

**Not so merry and bright?**

Maybe you've lost someone you love. Maybe you're sad, or anxious, or lonely, or just finding life hard.

**We're here for you**

Join us at St James's this Christmas for *Light in the Darkness*, a quiet, reflective service designed especially for those who don't feel like celebrating this year.



4pm, Saturday 21 December, 2019

St James's Church, The Street, Bramley RG26 5DF

**Christmas is for celebrating!**

Join us at St James's this Christmas Day for a traditional

**Bramley Community Christmas Lunch**

After the 10.30am service  
 Good food, good company  
 11.30am-3.30pm, 25 December 2019  
 Cross House, Bramley  
 (transport available)  
 RSVP to Alison Jones 01256 880833  
 or Rev John Lenton 01256 880570  
 by 20 December 2019







# Bramley Recycling Guide

For items not taken in kerbside recycling



**PLASTIC BAGS**  
including bread/veg bags, cereal inner packets, shrink wrap, magazine wrappers & bubble wrap

Foodbanks can also use plastic carrier bags

**BATTERIES, water filters**

**SUPERMARKET IN-STORE RECYCLE BINS**  
Sainsbury, Tadley & Tesco, Chineham (by tills)

- COFFEE PODS / FOIL PACKETS
- PRINGLES tubes & biscuit wrappers
- DENTAL CARE incl electric
- PENS & MARKERS
- BABY FOOD pouches
- WIPES PACKETS (not toilet wipes)
- CRISP, POPCORN & NUT PACKETS must be empty, dry and flattened out

**TERRACYCLE BINS, BRAMLEY SCHOOL**  
or call Becky Kirby 07733 466210

## PLASTIC & FOIL FOOD PACKAGING

- Yoghurt pots, fruit punnets etc
- Foil food containers
- Loose foil - roll it into fist-sized ball
- No black plastic accepted
- Items should be rinsed clean

**SUPERMARKET CAR PARK RECYCLE BINS**  
Sainsbury, Tadley & Tesco, Chineham

**PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS**  
Bramley Coffee Morning (to support Guide Dogs UK) & LUSH shops

**MEDICAL**

- Big pharmacies take out of date/unused medical care items
- Chineham Opticians & Boots Basingstoke recycle soft lenses & blister packs

## CLOTHING / SHOES

- One Stop Shop clothes bin
- Chineham charity shops take good quality items
- Many also take old clothes for scraps
- Tesco car park has bins to recycle shoes/textiles

## WADE ROAD Recycling Centre :

- DRINK/SOUP CARTONS
- LIGHT BULBS
- CERAMICS / POTTERY
- METALS / PANS
- ELECTRICAL GOODS
- GARDEN WASTE

\* please see website listed below for any charges

- PRINTER CARTRIDGES - St Michael's Hospice furniture shop, Chineham  
 USED STAMPS - St Michael's Hospice furniture shop, Chineham  
 BEDDING (clean only) - Community Furniture Project, Basingstoke

This guide was sponsored by **Bramley Parish Council** and compiled by **Bramley Green Larder**. It is for guidance and is not exhaustive. It will be posted in 'Files' on the Bramley Community Facebook page and updated as needed. More information on local recycling can be found at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/a-z-waste-and-recycling>.

# Teeth-gritting, award-winning, Monday, Wednesday & Friday nights

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## Basingstoke Gang Show - Meet your local cast!!



Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket for its 27th stunning variety show spectacular with a production of classic to contemporary performances showcasing the very best of local talent in the Scout and Guide associations; you can expect to be delighted by magnificent live music and LOL comedy.

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest running 'family variety show' in our region and showcases an extremely talented cast – **recognise any of the cast living in your area pictured here?**

For Daniel, a Scout, this is his second Gang Show as he made his debut in 2018 as a Cub.

This best-selling amateur production is not to be missed. The 11 performances, many over February half term week 2020, will entertain audiences as you laugh out loud, tap your toes and sing along to the songs that you love.

Come and support your local youngsters... Book your tickets early for your family and friends to experience this feel good family show at The Haymarket.

Show dates: Thursday 13 to Saturday 22 February 2020



Hannah Dewdney, Monty Ward and Charlie Ward

(excluding Sunday 16 February).  
Matinee performances on Saturday 15 and 22 February.

Ticket prices: Adults £20.00, Children £14.00. Last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £21.

**Early Booking Discount** -book by 31st December 2019 to save £2.00 off each ticket by quoting code 'BGS2020' for performances on Thursday 13, Monday 17, Tuesday 18 February 2020.

**Group booking discount** of £1.00 off each ticket for every 10 purchased before 31st January 2020. Discounts not available with online bookings. One discount only, per booking.

Take a look at the Basingstoke Gang Show website [www.basingstokegangshow.com](http://www.basingstokegangshow.com)



Daniel Cox

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## Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

- in aid of Parkinson's UK – Basingstoke Group

The annual concert of BMVC will take place on December 14th. This year the programme features an eclectic selection of songs from our 2019 repertoire with some Christmas numbers thrown in to celebrate the festive season. The choir will be supported by 'TAKE NOTE' - an *a cappella* group formed in 2018 by Carolyn Robson and based in Farnham. We shall also have soloist Hannah Melrose featuring in the programme. Audience participation is also catered for – come and join us to celebrate the festive season.

The concert will take place at the United Reformed Church, London Street on Saturday, December 14th at 7:30PM.

Entrance to the concert is free though there will be a retiring collection in support of our chosen charity, Parkinson's UK – Basingstoke Group. Please come and help us donate a huge amount to charity.

## Presentations at the Bramley Coffee Morning

On yet another busy Coffee Morning at Clift Meadow, the Clift Meadow Trust presented a hamper to Chris, our former caretaker, and a gift to Barney his dog.

We also received a cheque for £100 from the Bramley Show, and a new coffee machine from Councillor Tomblin, to use for our coffee mornings. We have also been given a second hand dishwasher, which will save us a lot of time once we find someone to plumb it in.

Some of the residents of Cherry Blossom Manor often join us for our coffee mornings and in November they kindly donated this spectacular cake, made by their chef. It went down very well!

The coffee mornings will continue at 10am on Wednesday mornings at Clift Meadow. Please join us if you can. Everyone is welcome.

- 1 Chris receives his gift
- 2 Jane, Angela and Wendy with the new coffee machine
- 3 Some of the residents and staff at Cherry Blossom Manor about to enjoy the cake
- 4 Who needs Bake Off when you can get cake like this in Bramley!



## Bramley Scouts

Scouts are celebrating their 110th anniversary this year. To commemorate this anniversary, we have been working towards the Hampshire Scouting 110 badge this term. To earn this badge, the scouts spent two nights at Summer Camp with the Cubs and Beaver Sections. We had a disabilities evening when we learnt the Scout promise in British Sign Language, found out about autism and played games while blind folded. We also had an air activities evening when we learnt the phonetic alphabet and designed the aircraft we would most like to fly in. This also linked into the Air Activities Badge and to complete their badge elements, we visited the wonderful Museum of Berkshire Aviation, where we learnt many interesting facts about the important role the local area has played in the history of aircraft. To complete the anniversary badge this term, we will be finding out about the Duke of Edinburgh Award, designing our ideal scout uniform and making anti bullying posters.

At the beginning of September we had an evening looking at how Parliament works. The Scouts practised their debating skills in the parliamentary way with lots of waving of papers, cheering and shouting. Some very good arguments were put forward by the Scouts on the chosen topics: are mobile phones a force for the good, should we remove all petrol and diesel cars and replace with electric and, of course, should we have school uniform.

Some of the older Scouts spent a day caving in the Mendips. We left Bramley early one Saturday morning so we could be there ready to start at 10am. Once we were kitted out, we walked up into the hills to reach the entrance to the cave. We had a full day exploring a cave system crawling, climbing, squeezing and getting thoroughly muddy.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us continue putting great programmes together for the Scouts. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact [jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk](mailto:jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk). We'd love to hear from you.

Bramley Scouts

## Lunch Club

Once again, we made our way to Avenue Nursery at Lasham. It was a beautiful morning and we saw some lovely autumn colours on our journey.



On arrival, everyone made their way to either Edinburgh Wool or The Works, or they wandered around the garden section full of Christmas goodies, buying presents or treating themselves!

After all our spending we sat down to enjoy our previously ordered meals, interspersed with lively chatter. This was followed by a choice of tea or coffee.

If you would like to join us for lunch on the second Thursday of each month, please contact Christine on telephone number 884065, you will be very welcome.

Freda Clark




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## Bramley WI

This month we had a 'Hands on Evening' where we made Christmas Decorations from salt dough. Vivian from Purple Stitches helped us with this project. We made stars, trees, etc., cut out with cookie cutters. It was the height of industry and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, including some guests who had joined us. Our grateful thanks to Vivian.

Things have been quite quiet in the WI for the last month but are now beginning to get busy. By the time you read this a number of us will have been to the Haymarket to see '9 to 5 The Musical' and at the beginning of December we are going to the Dome at Hatch Warren for Christmas lunch: a few of us went in the summer and were very impressed.

We are also having a Christmas party when Generations are going to sing to us and Judith and Ken will play while we are eating and drinking. On 14 December we are having a stall at Clift Meadow Fayre when we will be selling cakes.

The day time walks have stopped now until after Christmas, due to the weather and all the festivities.

The next meeting is on the 12 December. As it is the day of the election, the Bramley Room will be in use as a polling station, so we will meet in the main hall and we will not start until 8pm.

Jane Matthews



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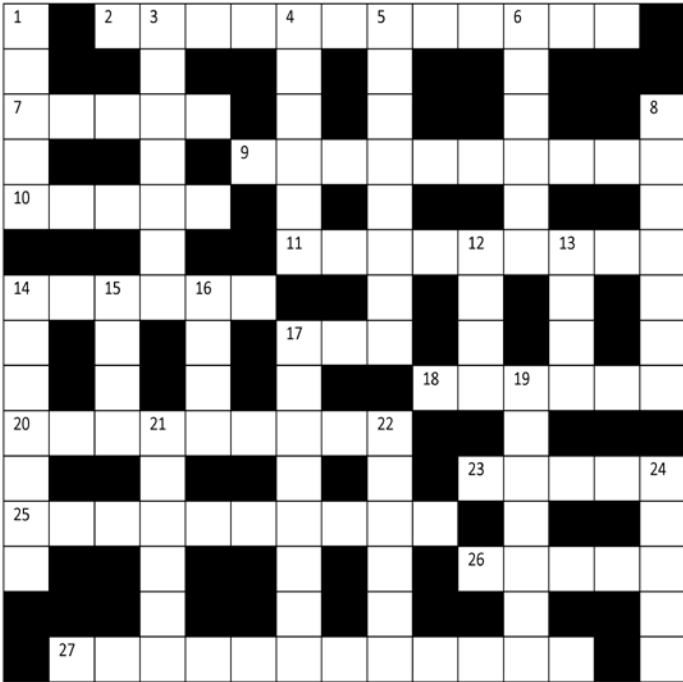
Please contact us on:

07774 140325 Phil Leaver

07879 553210 Dan Leaver

**Cryptic Crossword No: 33**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

- 2 Cast an hour if only to find a countryman. (5,7)
- 7 At no time did first lady stand in empty neckwear. (5)
- 9 I must slant various tonics. (10)
- 10 Warlike nomadic people who surround Master of Arts are mortal. (5)
- 11 Uncommon animal worked at Easter bar. (4,5)
- 14 Portion of meat to allow after slice. (6)
- 17 Body of water or a horse. (3)
- 18 The sound of pursuit is innocent. (6)
- 20 Footwear made of joint before strike. (5,4)
- 23 Begin to consider red eels and mussels turned into lotion. (5)
- 25 Number around a drab mixture is a bit thin. (10)
- 26 Sounds like tool would make a glass bottle. (5)
- 27 Pool exercise treatment using water article and a strike on an unknown quantity. (12)

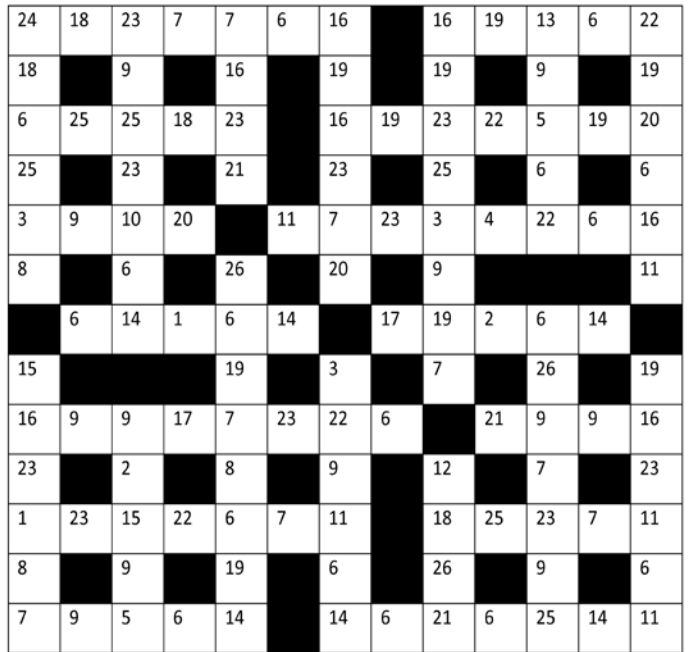
**Down**

- 1 Lump or feeling. (5)
- 3 Single working garment makes it across the board. (7)

- 4 Head collar to stop hesitation ? (6)
- 5 Class rely around somewhat that worked out previously. (8)
- 6 Artist in snack bar found flagon. (6)
- 8 Element I see over the open panoramic estate initially. (7)
- 12 Composer was bachelor to start with. (4)
- 13 Insects or northern sounding relations. (4)
- 14 Greek character against making wine. (7)
- 15 Steakhouse searched to look for wood. (4)
- 16 Pleased to find simplicity itself. (4)
- 17 Bully at top of hill next to defeat. (8)
- 19 Unfair shipment revealed vessel. (7)
- 21 Reel Ed in having gazed unpleasantly. (6)
- 22 Kate surrounded artist for unarmed combat. (6)
- 24 Crushed lemon to produce another fruit. (5)

**CodeWord No: 20**

See page 31 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	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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## Little Apples

As the days get shorter and colder, we hope you all had a fun Halloween and Bonfire Night. Here at Little Apples the children have been exploring colour and shape through firework chalk pictures and made model sparklers with plenty of sparkles! We have also been printing and stamping with paint and tin foil, making some very effective patterns. The children really enjoyed colour mixing with paint and they learned how to make the perfect orange for pumpkin pictures. In our role play area we had a pretend bonfire party, complete with safety tea-lights and a BBQ for hotdogs.



At Little Apples we play outside every day, even if it's damp and chilly. The children love to get wrapped up warm and enjoy running around to get fresh air. They have great fun playing football and having a go on our trikes and scooters. We have an obstacle course to improve balance and co-ordination and different sized slides for climbing. There is also a sensory garden where our Little Apples can explore the texture and smell of some unusual plants. We have frogs that visit our garden and we are hoping that our bug and bee hotel is providing a snug home for some ladybirds and bumblebees this winter.

The children marked Remembrance Day with a period of silence and made some poppies and a beautiful poppy field picture with their thumb prints. Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about winter and polar animals, the science of ice and freezing and also St Andrew's Day, when we make and enjoy Suzie's special shortbread. After that, it will be time to start learning our Christmas songs and practising for our Nativity play which this year is The Grumpy Camel. We also have a Christmas Party with an entertainer and a special visit from Father Christmas to look forward to.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2020.

## News from Butter Daisy

Here at Butter Daisy this month we have undergone an amazing refurbishment, with all of our Suites getting lots of exciting new furniture and resources. The children have been so excited to explore their new environments, with many of them spending a long time constructing, role playing and using their physical skills to use the resources to their full potential. The nursery looks amazing!



The nursery has also had a fantastic time celebrating Halloween this month, with the children in every Suite helping to carve pumpkins. We had one glowing outside on our wall which the Pre-School children carefully drew on and then helped to carve out. Lots of the children got really involved in some of our Halloween activities and were excited about our spooky decorations too!



October also saw the nursery celebrating Diwali, with the children creating their own Rangoli patterns using paint as well as glitter and various other coloured powders. The story of Diwali was told in the Pre-School Suite and the children used their imaginations to take on the roles in the story too.

We had a special visit from the Dogs Trust this month too, where we were taught about dogs and how to look after them. We were also taught about dog safety and what we could do if we saw a dog in public. The children had a great time listening to everything and then even got to design their own collar at the end of the session!

Clare Canning

## Activ8 Youth Club

A big hello from everyone at Activ8 youth club! We have been really busy over the past few weeks having some amazing fun. We have been using the lovely items that nature provides in our Autumn tree collages, our cosy winter robin pictures and some hedgehog and owl paintings. However, the colder weather does not keep us inside and we are out playing football and basketball in all weathers, although we do have some dalmatian look-alikes by the end of the evening with all the mud splatters across faces and legs!!!

Our Halloween party on the 31 October was a huge success. The array of costumes was fantastic, with witches and werewolves, mummies and skeletons, vampires and zombies. We had fun with our games including apple bobbing, eyeball pong, sleeping zombies and musical scary statues! And then lots of frightful dancing with our own DJ and disco! Loads of sweets were won as prizes, but there still seemed to be plenty of room in those tummies for all the yummy sweets on offer in our very popular tuck shop! The best costume for boys was won by Stanley and the girls' prize went to Molly May, but well done to everyone as we all enjoyed the Halloween fun.



Now come and join us in our countdown to Christmas on Thursday evenings, with plenty of Christmassy things to make and bake, as well as some good old-fashioned snowball fights! Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: 4pm until 5.30pm and years 7, 8 and 9 from 5.30pm until 7pm. Hope to see you all soon.

Colette Bibby

## DON'T BE A DNA! CAN'T KEEP IT? CANCEL IT!

A DNA is a patient who Did Not Attend an appointment at the surgery and failed to inform us.

Would it surprise you to learn that more than 15 million general practice appointments are being wasted each year because patients do not turn up and fail to warn their surgeries that they are unable to attend? Last month alone the Clift Surgery had a DNA score of 68 missed appointments.

There are around 307 million sessions scheduled with GPs, nurses, therapists and other practice staff every year and 5% - one in twenty - are missed because there hasn't been enough notice to invite other patients. That works out as around 15.4 million missed slots.

Of these, around 7.2 million are with busy family doctors, which adds up to more than 1.2 million GP hours wasted each year - the equivalent of over 600 GPs working full time.

Each appointment costs an average of £30, putting the total cost to the NHS at more than £216 million pounds, on top of the disruption for staff and fellow patients.

It is hoped that the introduction of the Primary Care Networks will improve access to GPs and other health professionals. These Networks are increasing recruitment of practice staff and making appointments available in the evening and at weekends right across the country.

With the flu season now in full swing, winter pressures on general practice increase and with this in mind we are asking patients more than ever to cancel their appointment in good time if they cannot keep it. Our practice offers SMS reminders to encourage our patients to keep their appointments or cancel them in a timely manner.

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know as soon as you can. It only takes a phone call, we can then offer this appointment to another patient.

Claire Berry, Practice Manager, Clift Surgery

### St. Stephen: Forgotten Martyr?


Waking up on the feast of St. Stephen (Boxing Day) is usually a pleasurable experience; the 1977 Soul lyric, "(Easy) Like Sunday Morning" can appear in the mind. Christmas Day usually involves some kind of stationary position indoors but on St. Stephen's Day we are venturing towards a new calendar year and new resolutions: "I must go out for a run or a walk". The light of the fridge early on St. Stephen's Day reveals the lure of a cold turkey sandwich for breakfast and although your hand automatically moves to your mobile, you have time to think, do I really want to see pictures of people I know and some cases I don't recall from the day before? A cup of tea and the bedclothes invite you back and there is still a possibility of 30 minutes or so before the rest of the human beings in your dwelling wake up.

But what do we really know about St. Stephen? Well, Stephen was the first Christian martyr and was publicly stoned for his faith. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, Stephen made a long speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgement on him. Stephen's martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee, who would later become a follower of Jesus: Paul the Apostle. The Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Church of the East venerate Stephen as a saint. Traditionally in paintings and depictions, St. Stephen is invested with a crown of martyrdom, three stones and the martyr's palm frond. St. Stephen's patronage ranges from altar servers and cabinet makers to horses, Serbia and the relief of headaches?!


The Church in Little London is named after St. Stephen. If you haven't been there why not come along for the carol service on Sunday 15 December at 5pm. Interestingly, there are other places and parishes which carry the name Little London, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Some are even adjacent to other places called Bramley.

St. Stephen's Tower in London is iconic. Most people know it as Big Ben but that is the name of the bell inside, not the tower. Recently the tower has also been given the name the Elizabeth Tower after our current monarch.

Jonathan Large




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**M**aking Light Work.  
At a time when environmental protests are frequently making the news, it's good to have a thoughtful piece on the subject from **John Stubbs**

When John Constable painted his well-known view of a cart, a couple of hundred years back now, he was showing the transport technology of the time: the best way of getting an essential supply of energy to where it was needed. It wasn't stuck in that (presumably flat) ford – the driver would have been soaking the wooden wheels so that the swelling firmed up the joints, while the nags had a drink. The same sort of thing would have been seen around here, and, of course, it makes a nice scene; the embellishment of a billion biscuit tins.

Now, it is just possible that the shot above may never get chosen for a fridge magnet or a box of chocs, but to me it shows a lot of advantages over the old hay-wain. It's the photo-voltaic (PV) panels in Little London, and more of them can be seen along the Aldermaston Road. OK, I guess they aren't things of great beauty. But they can make an immediate and very positive contribution to easing the burden society makes on our sadly damaged natural resources.

Planting trees? Yeh, a very good thing to do, and it will show a benefit in twenty years' time - provided the irrigation, the drainage, the pruning, the weed-clearance, the fertilising, the disease prevention, the tree species choice, the animal damage, the finance, the land maintenance, and one or two further problems are addressed, long-term. Growing bio-oil feedstock, or ethanol from wheat? Same as the previous, without the twenty-year problem, but plus an allowance for pesticides, harvesting, transport, fermentation, processing, waste disposal, and blending.

Wind power can be the cheapest of the renewable energy supplies – but it needs large scale and the right siting to be most effective, and usually that's not where the power demand is. Nuclear fission? Probably no one ever actually said it would be too cheap to meter – and for the steady base-load supply it was effective. But factor in the building and dismantling costs, fuelling, maintenance and



unquantifiable insurance costs with the long-term storage of radioactive waste, it ain't cheap and is far from carbon-neutral. Even hydro-electric generation has been shown to produce more carbon than gas fired, if the wider environmental effects are included. No reasonably sound carbon-reduction methods should be outlawed – but of course there are plusses and minuses for all of them.

The big plus points for solar PV lie in the improving economics (subsidies aside), their passivity, and the independence of the sites from international politics. In many cases the electricity can be used locally, reducing transmission losses and the load on the grid. The carbon output is around one-sixth that of gas-generated electric power. They are quiet, relatively unobtrusive and should generate for a generation. However, though the efficiency of the cells has greatly increased, and the price of the panels is now a tenth what it was fifteen years back, the set-up costs will be high, and a fair number of planning and environmental hurdles have to be met. There are maintenance costs, and reverting to farmland must be possible. The land used may allow some plant growth, but there'll be a lot of shading and obstruction making cultivation or animal husbandry difficult. The

electricity output will be very variable - and energy storage is still expensive, though getting easier.

This is literally catching sunbeams. In the Bramley and Little London of Constable's time the process would have been to grow crops, and most of the village would have been involved in getting sustenance to the table – planting, harvesting, carting, milling, baking, feeding livestock: long hours of hard work with no guarantee of the yield. Either way it's grabbing the sun's energy, but instead of pitchforking hay to the horses, we can run a house or a car, and cut out the middle-animal. The best land can still be used for farming, with less need for heavily fertiliser and pesticide treated industrial crops such as oil-seed rape.

Sending a ginormous tanker to the Middle East and buying millions of barrels of that sticky black stuff, or piping in gas to burn, is bound to be more than a little fraught – and yet it's something that we subsidise: the UK still gives more to fossil fuel industries than to renewables. Fixing your pension on the value of these buried toxins? The sooner we get to leave fossil fuels where they won't harm us, the better. Fewer wars, less climate overheat, less pollution and happier, cooler reindeer.

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**Leave a gift to charity in your Will**



Caroline Wallis

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity.

Recent newspaper reports show that in Britain we are certainly a nation of generous givers with £2.85 billion being left to charity last year.

Among the top beneficiaries are Cancer Research UK, the British Heart Foundation and the RNLI.

Caroline Wallis, who heads the Wills and Probate team at Phillips said: “Legacies in Wills can make an enormous difference in helping charities to continue their good work and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you’ve gone.”

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“An important benefit to consider is that this can reduce the amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance.”

Caroline added: “If you are looking to leave money to a charity you may well consider one or more of our many local charities such as such as Pelican Cancer Foundation, which happens to be Phillips Solicitors’ current chosen charity, or the Ark Cancer Centre Charity and St Michael’s Hospice.”

For help in leaving a charitable legacy, or for any other Wills and Probate issues, please contact Caroline Wallis on 01256 854637 or email her at [caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk)

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

<b>Tuesdays</b>	
<i>Parish Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Slimming World</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9 – 10am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Yoga 7.00pm Beginners 8.15pm Mixed Ability</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis - 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

<i>Pilates 6.30pm &amp; 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>HIIT/Bootcamp 7.45-8.30</i>	School Hall

<b>Thursdays</b>	
<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Lunch Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Yoga for Sleep and Stress 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Body Tone 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Muddy Fingers 10:00 - 10:50am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Activ8 youth club Years 3,4,5 and 6: 4pm - 5.30pm Years 7 8 and 9: 5.30pm - 7pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Zumba 6.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<i>Good for Mums Hiit Fix</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Ladies Boxercise</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall

<b>Sundays</b>	
<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley &amp; 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	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 youth club	Colette Bibby		colette@bdyc.org.uk	
Active Mums Post Natal Exercise	Emma Perkins	07973 389407	emmatraining@hotmail.com www.emmaperkins.com	
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Bramley Out of School Club/Holiday Club	Julie Belam	07711 339306	info@bramleyoutofschoolclub.com www.bramleyoutofschoolclub.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
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
Exercise classes	Caroline Sherlock	07845 217901	caroline@this2thisfitness.co.uk	
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hatha Yoga	Jacqui Morris	07539 432228	jacqui.morris28@gmail.com	
HiiTFix (Postnatal Exercise)	Helen Hill	07766 554599	helen@goodformums.co.uk www.goodformums.co.uk	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Ladies Boxercise	Helen Hill	07766 554599	helen@ladiesboxercise.co.uk www.ladiesboxercise.co.uk	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyfingersgardenclub.co.uk	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
Slimming World	Casey	07950 838937	ww.slimmingworld.co.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Julie Wilson		juliebelam12@gmail.com	See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcoles37@gmail.com	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	
Zumba	Gisella Soulsby	07704 918050	zumbagisella1@gmail.com	
0-5s club	Laura Lamb	07766 560918	lauraslamb@gmail.com	

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 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

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