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# The Bramley Magazine for Bramley and

Little London

#### **March 2020**

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

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

Cover photo: Minchens Lane flood by Rachel Barclay Smith I recently came across some Bramley magazines from 1987 and they proved that some things never change. There were "disturbing reports" about possible development of the MOD land and "strong objection" to the erection of 90 houses on Forge Field and 16 dwellings at the rear of the Six Bells. Parking was a problem, especially in Longbridge Road and Pheabens Field, and the army was thanked for helping clean up the village after the October storms.

In January 1987 the villagers apparently expressed strong views in favour of full barriers at the level crossing, following complaints about the faulty operation of the automatic half barriers. Be careful what you wish for! Still, if Michael Luck's time travelling predictions come true, we won't need to worry about the barriers in five years' time because the crossing will have been shut. Read what else he saw in his time capsule on page 12, as well as some more snippets from 1987 (when age discrimination laws had yet to be introduced.....).

I was planning to put a picture of the Bramley Road Race on the front cover this month but Storm Dennis put paid to that. It was a shame it was cancelled as I was hoping to take advantage of the MOD land being used as a car park and have a sneaky walk around. Perhaps even plant a few replica mustard gas canisters to ward off future development.

Instead I walked down to Minchens Lane to watch the cars navigating the flood near Clift Meadow car park. Some turned back when they saw it, others went through very cautiously, while the driver on the front page really went for it. Not quite as fast as the speeds witnessed by the Bramley Speedwatch team though, as you can read on page 13. At least the ducks enjoyed the floods and some special ducks may be making an appearance soon. Turn to page 17 for a quacking good read.

In 1987 there was a fashion show, a summer fair and rumours of a Bramley Show. And, guess what, thirty-three years later there will be a fashion show, a summer fair and the Bramley Show! Turn to page 8 for your handy guide to the main events going on in Bramley this year.

Best wishes

#### Rachel

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

#### Correction

It has been brought to our attention that there was a mistake in the February 2020 magazine regarding the land for Clift Surgery. John Stubbs understood that the land had been bequeathed to the village, but in fact it was purchased by Dr Judith Hardy and Dr Mary Knowles.

We apologise for this error and are pleased to print the following statement from Dr Mary Knowles:

Dr Judith Hardy and I bought the land for the building of the surgery from Mr William Clift. We were happy with the arrangement and felt we had paid a fair price for the land in this village at the time. The surgery was to be known as Clift Surgery because we appreciated the fact that Mr William Clift was pleased to sell the land needed when it was not easy to find a plot in a convenient place in the village. The Army Camp was going to close and sell land on the open market but there was no guarantee that we would be able to buy the area we wanted when the large acreage there was released for sale.

The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.

**Bertrand Russell** 

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

#### Why not pop up for a visit?

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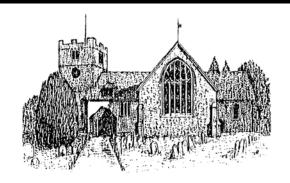
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#### Church diary for March...

| 1st          |       | 1st Sunday of Lent                    |
|--------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
|              | 8:00  | Holy Communion                        |
|              | 9:00  | Sunday@nine                           |
|              | 10:30 | Matins (BCP)                          |
| 8th          |       | 2nd Sunday of Lent                    |
|              | 8:00  | NO Holy Communion (BCP)               |
|              | 9:00  | Sunday@nine                           |
|              | 10:30 | Holy Communion                        |
| 15th         |       | 3rd Sunday of Lent                    |
|              | 8:00  | Holy Communion                        |
|              | 9:00  | Sunday@nine                           |
|              | 10:30 | Morning Worship                       |
| <b>22</b> nd | l     | Mothering Sunday                      |
|              | 8:00  | Holy Communion                        |
|              | 10:30 | Mothering Sunday Service              |
| 29th         |       | 5th Sunday of Lent                    |
|              | 10:00 | Church Family Breakfast – Cross House |
|              | 11:00 | Holy Communion                        |
|              |       |                                       |

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#### ... and into April

| 5th  |       | Palm Sunday   |
|------|-------|---|
|      | 8:00  | Holy Communion  |
|      | 9:00  | Sunday@nine – Cross House                                     |
|      | 10:30 | Matins (BCP)  |
|      | 11:45 | <b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</b>                        |
| 9th  |       | Maundy Thursday   |
|      | 19:00 | <b>Fellowship Supper</b> – Everyone welcome: sign up in porch |
|      | 20:00 | Holy Communion  |
| 10th |       | Good Friday   |
|      | 10:00 | Children's Service  |
|      | 14:00 | An Hour at the Foot of the Cross                              |
| 12th |       | Easter Day  |
|      | 8:00  | Holy Communion  |
|      | 10:30 | Family Communion  |
|      |       |   |

Note: Sunday@nine is always in Cross House: all other services take place in the Church.

#### From the Registers

#### **Funerals**

David Richard Cox of Little London on Wednesday 15 January at Basingstoke Crematorium

#### KINGSCLERE SINGERS

present

#### **Sacred and Secular**

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Silchester, RG7 2HH

Saturday 28th March 2020, 7:30pm

# Ticket Price £10.00 (including Glass of Wine or Soft Drink) EnquiriesReservations

Richard Fletcher (0118) 970 0633
Sandra Speight (0118) 970 0570.
Payment at the door on the night.
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Church Fabric Maintenance Fund.

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#### 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: Thurs, Fri and Sat 9.30am in St Bede's Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX: Mass usually: Mon 12.00, Tues and Wed 9.30 in Holy

**Ghost Church** 

Phone 01256 465214 or email stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for information See www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

#### **Tadley**

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Saturday Mass: 6.00 pm Sunday Mass: 9.15 am Parish priest: **0118 9814572** 



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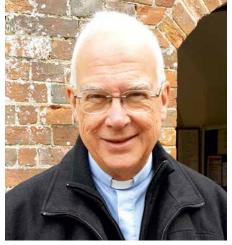
#### ON REFLECTION

e have recently become the property of a 9-year-old Jack Russell terrier named, of course, Jack. He moved in about 3 weeks ago and early on made it pretty clear just who was in charge in our house. As far as he is concerned, the main purpose of a human is to throw tennis balls for him to fetch, and then to stand there waiting until he condescends to drop the ball so that you can throw it again. Saying "Drop it!" has no effect whatsoever. He will drop it when he's ready to do so, and meanwhile, he's going to stand there chewing it like a kid with a wad of bubble-gum.

Jack's previous owner, Mick, ran the scrapyard up on Ash Lane, so Jack is in many ways a yard dog. A few months ago, Mick was taken ill and was ambulanced to hospital. As he was being loaded into the ambulance, he asked his friend Phil to look after Jack while he, Mick, was in hospital, so Phil took him home, which was kind. But Phil was out all day at work, so Jack was left on his own for long periods, and in the end, Phil's daughter, Ellie, took pity on him and fostered him at her house. And at that point, just when everyone thought Mick was coming home and everything would go back to normal, Mick suddenly died.

Ellie couldn't keep Jack longer term, because she has two cats who were complaining bitterly to the RSPCA about their space being taken over by Jack the Ripper. So she posted on the Bramley Facebook page, looking for an owner, and to cut this long story short, a friend of ours spotted it, knew we were looking for a dog, and put us in touch.

Mick originally acquired Jack as a rescue dog from the Dogs' Trust, so he has been neutered and chipped. I always thought that neutering a dog meant that he would be soft and gentle in his ways. Jack has caused me to



Rev'd John Lenton

revise my views radically. I suspect he has killed and eaten a good few rats in his time, judging by the way he eagerly attacks the odd soft toy our grandchildren have left around, shakes it thoroughly to break its neck, and then proceeds to disembowel it methodically.

We really get to see the tough side of his nature when it comes to bedtime. We have always shut dogs in the kitchen, where they have their bed and food and water, and where it's easy to clean up if they're sick or get caught short in the night. Jack went along with that for the first night or two, but after that, he made it plain that he'd rather spend the night on the sofa in my study. He made it very plain indeed, snarling ferociously, barking at me viciously and refusing to budge. I put on a pair of gloves and tried to grab his collar, but he was too quick for me and twisted in my grip, sinking his teeth into my little finger through the glove. The glove prevented it breaking the skin, but it still hurt. Well, I'm bigger than him, so he did end up in the kitchen, and next morning we were back to being friends, but since then, I've learned to be more subtle in getting him into the kitchen at night and leaving him there. His favourite dog biscuits help with this process.

I get plenty of time on the walks I have with Jack every day to reflect on things, and being a bit of a Bible enthusiast, I can begin to see that the relationship that Jack and I have is paralleled quite closely by the relationship that we humans have with God.

At the most basic level, we humans love to have our own way, just like Jack. We expect God to listen carefully and to respond favourably and promptly when we say we want Him to do something for us, and we growl when He doesn't. Just as God provides for our needs day by day, I provide a couple of square meals, plenty of walks and many tennis balls thrown for Jack. And Jack quite literally bites the hand that feeds him, just as we can turn against God when we don't get our own way.

The Bible has a pen portrait of us that captures the idea perfectly: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way... There is no-one who does good, not even one... their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood... There is no fear of God before their eyes."

But because Jack is just a little terrier, I may discipline him, but I do forgive him and don't stop loving him and feeding him or taking him for walks. And God does the same for me, wonderfully; He doesn't throw me out or turn His back on me when I go wrong, although he may well correct me. He welcomes me back time and again. To quote the Bible again, "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." In other words, He does it out of love for people like me who don't deserve it, but need it all the same.

Jack doesn't deserve it either, but I'm going to have to leave it there for now. He wants me to throw tennis balls in the garden.



Jack

What better way to **meet your neighbours** than attend one or two of the many events going on in Bramley this year. Wendy Castle has kindly put together this handy list so why not cut it out and put it on your fridge for future reference? And if you want to do your bit for the community while chatting to your neighbours you could join in the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 4 April.

#### THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2020

Bramley Village will be getting behind this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.

The campaign, which runs from March 20th to April 13th, will see up to 600,000 people taking action to clean up streets, parks and beaches across the country.

If you would like to get involved please meet at The Pavilion, Clift Meadow on Saturday 4 April from 10 am onwards to register and to pick up your hi-viz vest, gloves and litter picker.

Refreshments will be available before, during and after the clean-up. Thank you.

# BRAMLEY EVENTS SCHEDULE 2020

| MAR 20 | 7:30 PM  | FASHION SHOW & NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SHOW | BRAMLEY VILLAGE HALL (7.30-10.00PM) |
|--------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| MAR 21 | 4:30 PM  | LINE DANCING WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER   | BRAMLEY SCHOOL (4.30-8PM)           |
| MAR 27 | 7:00 PM  | MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS EVENING          | PAVILION, CLIFT MEADOW              |
| MAR 28 | 10:00 AM | BRAMLEY GREEN LARDER SPRING MARKET     | CROSS HOUSE (10-1PM)                |
| APR 04 | 10:00 AM | BRAMLEY VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN           | PAVILION, CLIFT MEADOW (10-12)      |
| APR 10 | 12:00 PM | EASTER EGG HUNT                        | PAVILION, CLIFT MEADOW (12-2PM)     |
| MAY 16 | 12:00 PM | CLIFT MEADOW FETE                      | CLIFT MEADOW (12-4PM)               |
| JUN 27 | 10:00 AM | BRAMLEY GREEN LARDER SUMMER MARKET     | CROSS HOUSE                         |
| JUL 04 | 12:00 PM | SCHOOL SUMMER FETE                     | BRAMLEY SCHOOL (12-4PM)             |
| JUL 06 | 0:00 PM  | BRAMLEY SCARECROWS                     | 6 JULY - 31 AUGUST                  |
| JUL 18 | 2:00 PM  | CHERRY BLOSSOM SUMMER FETE             | CHERRY BLOSSOM CARE HOME(2-4)       |
| AUG 23 | 1:30 PM  | THE BRAMLEY SHOW                       | BRAMLEY VILLAGE HALL                |
| SEP 26 | 10:00 AM | BRAMLEY GREEN LARDER HARVEST MARKET    | CROSS HOUSE                         |
| NOV 06 | 7:00 PM  | FIREWORKS AT THE SCHOOL                | BRAMLEY SCHOOL                      |
| NOV 21 | 11:00 PM | MISTLETOE FAYRE                        | BRAMLEY VILLAGE HALL [11-3PM)       |
| DEC 05 | 10:00 AM | BRAMLEY GREEN LARDER XMAS MARKET       | CROSS HOUSE                         |
| DEC 06 | 0:00 PM  | * CMT XMAS WINTER WONDERLAND *         | PAVILION, CLIFT MEADOW (TBC)        |
| DEC 12 | 2:00 PM  | CHERRY BLOSSOM SANTA'S GROTTO          | CHERRY BLOSSOM CARE HOME(2-4)       |
| 0      |          |  |                                     |

FYI
SILCHESTER VILLAGE MARKET
1st SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
SHERFIELD VILLAGE MARKET
3rd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

#### Gareth Jones reports on the official opening of the refurbished and extended **Bramley Village Hall**

The Worshipful the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Councillor Diane Taylor, officially opened the refurbished and extended Village Hall on Tuesday 18 February. The Mayor was joined by Parish, Borough and County Councillors, along with the Trustees and users of the Village Hall, and the former Chairman of the Trustees, Phil Lewis, After cutting a ribbon at the new entrance to the Hall, the Mayor unveiled a plaque commemorating the event and enjoyed a tour of the facility. As part of the official opening, the Mayor presented prizes to pupils from Bramley Church of England Primary School who had created art works reflecting the name of the new room in the hall, The Frith Room. Prizes were presented to Monty Ward and Sid Jenkins for their depictions of the Frith woodlands well done both! Our Bramley WI team provided refreshments and some of our user groups exhibited their activities.

Speaking to guests assembled in the Frith Room, Gareth Jones, Chairman of the Bramley Village Hall Trustees, said: "We are very proud of the successful completion of this project, on time and within budget. We have created a modern, spacious and sustainable facility for our growing community with the generous support of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Local Infrastructure Fund and of Hampshire County Council.

# Bramley Village Hall



The Mayor cuts the ribbon at the new entrance to the Hall



The Mayor unveils a plaque commemorating the event



Sid Jenkins (aged 7) receiving his prize from the Mayor



The Chairman of the Bramley Village Hall Trustees, Gareth Jones, welcomes the Mayor to the Village Hall



Monty Ward (aged 10) receiving his prize from the Mayor

#### Local dancers competing on a World Stage

Amelia, a local dancer from Bramley, has been selected along with 34 other dancers from Basingstoke Academy of Dancing (BAD) to represent Team England at the 2020 Dance World Cup being held in Rome.

Dance World Cup is the largest allgenre dance competition in the world, with over 6,000 competitors from 48 countries competing in the finals. This is a very exciting opportunity for the girls and they are all very busy with rehearsals.

As well as training hard, the girls will be involved in numerous fundraising activities to raise money to go towards all the dancers' additional costs in travelling to this competition and they would really appreciate any local support.

BAD have set up a Go Fund Me Page for anyone wishing to donate to help all these dedicated girls on their way to an opportunity of a lifetime www.Gofundme.com and search for our page called **Help B.A.D compete for Team England in Rome**.

You can also sign up to Easy Fundraising and fundraise whilst doing your online shopping, without costing you a penny! http://www. easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/teambad

The Dance School will be holding fundraising activities at the Studios in Joules Road, Houndmills.

#### 1st March –

**Fundraising Carwash** 

#### 29th March –

Sponsored hair shave and/or chest wax!

**2nd May** – Solo Mia Spring Fashion Show



**Raffle** –If anyone has any Raffle Prizes they could donate we would be most grateful.

If you are interested in more information please contact Debbie Robinson at debbierobinson29@ hotmail.com or 07824 880808.

On behalf of the dancers, thank you for supporting our local girls.

#### **Bramley Parish Council**

A relatively quiet period for the Parish Council, excepting the weather!

Work on the new Clift Meadow playground is due to start in April.

The Safe Route to School project is still progressing. It is hoped that we will be in a position to start work on the Bramley Lane / Sherfield Road junction during the summer holidays thus minimising disruption.

The developers of the Minchens Lane site are being chased up to overcome the flooding issues on the Clift Meadow footpath. They are also being chased to replace the damaged lighting with something more robust and in keeping with the area. The present lighting scheme was never agreed with the Borough or the Trustees of Clift Meadow.

Hampshire Highways are being pressed to maintain the highway drainage, particularly along Sherfield Road, The Street and Bramley Lane. A number of potholes have been filled in recently, and the Parish Council continue to highlight these to Highways.

The village seems to suffer increasing amounts of inconsiderate/illegal parking particularly around the station. If you spot illegal or dangerous parking in the village an email to parking@ basingstoke.gov.uk will sometimes result in a visit from the parking enforcement team, especially if you can attach a photo.

A litter pick is planned for 4 April from the Clift Meadow, full details nearer the date.

Several hundred residents attended the open day at Bramley Village Hall on 15 February concerning the SHELAA call for sites – this is a list of sites put forward by landowners to the Borough Council in response to Government policy. We were very happy to see so many people, especially considering the foul weather. The Parish Council

will be collating the comments received and forwarding them to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Anyone feeling particularly strongly is recommended to contact Basingstoke & Deane planners to express any concerns – more details can be found on the Borough Council website www.basingstoke.gov.uk/lpu, and comments can be sent to local. plan@basingstoke.gov.uk. Residents should be aware that the sites in the SHELAA have yet to be fully assessed by the Borough Council. The various studies on infrastructure shown at the open day are all available on the Parish Council website www.bramleypc.co.uk/ en/infrastructure/850-planning-andreports-2019

Future Parish Council meetings – Planning Committee 11 March, 15 April. Full Council 17 March, 21 April, 19 May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 21 May. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend all public meetings.

Cllr Chris Flooks



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#### A Bake-Off Throwdown Challenge?

Competition is alive and well on television! It is surprising how many programmes each week contain an element of competition. Quizzes and sport are ingrained in TV schedules but now domestic skills are equally popular. Viewers hold their breath when the drying room is opened in the Great Pottery Throwdown, whose portrait will be judged to win the Painting Challenge, or which garment design will catch the eye of the judges in the Sewing Bee?

TV Cookery competitions have been popular for many years – MasterChef, the Great British Bake Off and now Britain's Best Cook. Although we can't taste or smell the dishes, we still like to judge and choose our favourite.

But are you aware that Bramley has its own annual village competition? The Bramley Show, the longest standing tradition in the village, has its own competitions for baking, crafts, floral art, painting, photography and of course the traditional fruit, vegetable and flowers.

Village shows have a long tradition, where local people have the chance to display what they have produced and be rewarded with a certificate or cup. Kirstie Allsopp has done a lot to raise the profile of such competitions in Kirstie's Handmade Treasures, where she entered local shows, having studied various cooking and craft skills.

The Bramley Show has almost 100 classes for everyone to compete in, but this relies on forward thinking, so now is the time to buy seeds, practice those recipes and hone your crafting skills.

It is a show for all the family from 3 years to 100+ so look out for further details or check out the Website www. bramleyshow.org.uk

The Children's Potato competition is revving up and if your child or grandchild would like to enter, the potatoes can be collected from the Village Hall car park on Sunday March 29 between 10 and 11am. If this isn't convenient, email us at thebramleyshow@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Sue Howells

#### **Lunch Club**

Only nine members gathered at Cross House this month, due to a number of people being unwell. We wish them all speedy recoveries.



After tea and coffee had been served, we settled down to brain work! This involved a picture puzzle, trying to guess the names of films, film stars, TV programmes and personalities. This was followed by a short quiz. Most people did well and the joint winners were Jill and Wendy.

Lunch was Judy's special fish pie, with peas and broccoli, followed by profiteroles with chocolate sauce. All homemade and very moreish. After lunch the raffle was drawn and birthday cards given out.

If you would like to join us, please contact Christine on telephone number 884065. You will be very welcome.

Freda Clark

Bramley Creative Writing Group starts in March.
If you would like to join us please mail Sue
sue\_h53@yahoo.co.uk

# Who are the Carers in our community? - Help us care for you.

So many of our patients at The Clift Surgery are providing care for their loved ones on a daily basis. This affects every age group and can be all-consuming in the time it takes, and often at the sacrifice of the carer's own personal health. We are trying to remedy this imbalance by focusing on carers in March and hosting a "Carers Awareness Week" from 23 – 27 March at the surgery.

During this week we hope to encourage as many carers as possible to pop into the surgery to identify themselves as carers to the reception staff, so we can make sure we look after them and their health. We will then be able to offer an annual medical to highlight any health issues early. There will also be the opportunity to link carers in with Kirsty, our surgery-affiliated Red Cross social prescriber, who is there to help improve quality of life and link people to activities and services that might make day-to-day life a little easier. Kirsty will be present all week in the surgery, from 23-27 March, to talk to carers and understand how she can help in all sorts of different ways.

You needn't wait until 23 March to identify yourself to the staff as a carer but do pop in during that week to see what is on offer and, more importantly, to let us know what we can do to help further.

Dr Roisin Ward



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Conversations with a purpose

#### **Bramley 2025**

After last month's look at Bramley's history, I was offered a ride in the Tardis (no, really!) to a time and place of my choice: so naturally I chose Bramley in the year 2025. Here is what I found.

First of all, I can report that Bramley will still be a brilliant place to live. The changes that have happened have all been to the benefit of the village. The village was bigger. Many more houses had been built since 2020. However, standing in the middle of the village I was struck by the fact that there was not as much traffic as we have now. I then looked at the level crossing and... what a surprise, it was not there. Trains still came through the village, but instead of diesels belching fumes as they do now, they were electric. There was a wall where the level crossing had been and a pedestrian tunnel underneath. Seeing my bemusement, an old chap walking past said, 'Much better now they've opened the bypass. All around the village to the north side. They had to build it as part of the new housing, together with the new school and the new medical centre'.

I looked down at my phone, where a new app had appeared. 'Where to?' it asked me in a voice too perfect to be human. I was thirsty (time travel causes dehydration, as is well known) and I wanted to see more of the surroundings so I asked to be taken to the Four Horseshoes in Sherfield. 'Your travel pod will arrive in 43 seconds,' it said. 48 seconds later a nearly silent driverless vehicle with a few people already on board drew up. I stepped on board. 'Sherfield and Tesco Chineham only' said another too-perfect voice'. My phone told me I had a 5 second credit due to the late arrival of the travel pod.

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I was dropped off in Sherfield and the pod continued on its way. Having consumed a nice pint (some things do not change) I decided to come back to Bramley. 'Return by pod?' asked the app. I declined, saying I would walk, and the app told me how to get back via the Millennium Path and Cycle Way. So, it finally got built, I thought to myself. From the highest point on the path I looked across the new housing on the edge of Bramley. There was plenty of greenery and the houses were not just identikit boxes. Beyond them the new bypass carried traffic that had no business in Bramley and that used to pass through the middle, annoying all the villagers. I could also see how all the roads in the village connected to it, making the middle around the bakery and the pub so much more peaceful.

The Tardis outside the bakery awaited so I slipped inside and soon I was back in 2020. The wind blew as I trudged towards the village hall and the planning exhibition.

Michael Luck

#### More from the Bramley magazine 1987

#### February - Bramley Primary School

The school is in need of two lunchtime Supervisory Assistants (Dinner Ladies). The job entails supervising the children between 12 noon and 1pm each weekday, indoors and outside. Pay is approximately £2.00 per hour, plus a free lunch. Any person below the age of 65 years who would be interested should contact me at the school.

Mr G. Vince, Headmaster

#### **March - Bramley Monday Centre**

Two new members, Mrs Simms and Mrs Harrison, have joined the centre, bringing the total number of members to 14. At the last meeting a Microwave demonstration was given by Jean Chapman, and enjoyed by all.

#### **April - Keep Bramley Tidy**

The Parish Council have agreed that the village should not be entered for the Hampshire Best Kept Village Competition in 1987. It is hoped, however, that there will be a general effort during the coming months to tidy up the village. Everyone can help by keeping property frontages tidy.

#### May - Gifts to the Parish Church

Mr A.J Hanmore (who retired from his village garage business last year) has provided a set of storage units for the Brocas Aisle. This has enabled us to store properly our altar requisites, clergy and server robes, service books, Shell Club and other materials.



# Bramley Community Speedwatch: working for a Safer Neighbourhood



The Bramley Speedwatch Group is once again deploying the Speed Indication Device (SID) at various locations in the village, to inform drivers of their speed while driving through the 30mph limit.

Many residents thanked us for the deployments that were held during the latter part of 2019 and commented that something was needed to curb the excessive speeding. With that in mind we

looked back at 2018 to see what had changed. We noted that between 2018 and 2019 there was a 60% increase in the number of manned deployments, with a 95% increase in the time spent on these deployments. The number of sites that can safely have manned deployments has also increased by 66%, which has resulted in a 20% increase in speeding reports to the police.

In addition to this, following the last article in the December issue of the Bramley Magazine, four new members have stepped forward to join the team. That said, we still need more people to help out with deployments. We now have a schedule for the whole of 2020 and if you would like to be involved, please get in touch.

As part of the deployments late in 2019, the SID spent a little time in Bramley Lane near to Bramley Primary School.

Given that this is only a short distance from the junction with the C32 by the rail crossing, we were stunned to see a speed of **52mph** so close to the school. I am sure there are parents who will be able to tell of the near misses by the school, with vehicles speeding or not paying attention on such a vital section of highway.

Bramley Speedwatch Group is talking to Hampshire Constabulary about new technologies which may be able to assist in bringing down the level of speeding and we are looking to see if we can find the funding to purchase additional Speed Indicators for deployment across the village. These devices cost in the region of £3k - £9k per device along with ongoing insurance, so it is something that does need careful planning and proper funding. If you know of any organisation or company in the local area who would be interested in sponsoring or helping to sponsor additional devices, do please get in touch so that we can discuss any appropriate help.

Speedwatch is also undertaking discussions with the Parish Council to help maintain the signage. Work has already taken place to remove unnecessary road signs, cones and clutter as well as cleaning the signs to make them clearer and easier to see and pruning back any trees and undergrowth.

Over time Speedwatch is also looking to work with our Parish, Borough and County Councillors and with our Member of Parliament, to improve the signage at the entry points into the village, and indeed throughout the village, with a view to making Bramley a safer and nicer place to live.

**Bramley Speedwatch Group** 

Email: cswbramley@gmail.com

#### **Bramley Knitting Group**

On 28 January, 14 knitters met at Chris' house for our usual knit and natter. The latest project to be undertaken is bunting for the Bramley Show.



Freda reported that she was about to send off four sacks of knitting to Knit for Peace, comprising large and small blankets, hats (baby, child and adult sized), scarves, and cardigans and jumpers for babies and children. This was Freda's last despatch and Jean has agreed to undertake this duty in the future.

**Judith Harris** 













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#### 1st Bramley Brownies

It's been all change at 1st Bramley Brownies during this spring term, with five girls leaving us after celebrating their tenth birthdays and flying up to Guides. All five girls have been a joy to have in our unit and we wish them all the best as they continue their Guiding journey. As the older girls move on, we have enrolled six new Brownies. These girls joined us before Christmas and spent time learning about being a Brownie before making their promise with us. We welcome these girls and are excited to watch them grow during their time with us.

Our spring term is a varied one. We are looking at the Brownie values, which encompass being caring, fun, challenging, empowering, inspiring and inclusive. Through games and activities, we're developing the girls' understanding of these values, hoping they take them into their daily lives. On World Thinking Day we will spend time talking about the world around us and recent news that affects us all. The girls will also have a fun trip to Atmosphere, a trampoline park, where they will bounce to their heart's content and have oodles of fun.

At the beginning of February, we held a 'Race Night' at Bramley Primary School. A special thank you to Becky Kirby for helping us organise the event and to Martin Turvey who did a superb job running the night for us with his colleague and partner-in-arms. The turnout was good and we all enjoyed placing bets on each race and cheering our horses on. There were some healthy wins, including the final race in which the horses were auctioned off and the 'owner' won half the total pot. In this case it was £50, won by the youngest attendee of the evening: a great win! During the evening there was a raffle with prizes donated by Bramley Out of School Club, My Red Border and several personal donations. We thank you all and appreciate all the donations received. We had 'Guess the Name of the Teddy', which was Oscar, and 'Guess the number of Sweets in the Jar', won by someone





who was the closest with nine over. A BIG thank you to the sponsors of the evening, SilverVeil and Bramley Out of School Club. With their donations and all the proceeds of the evening we raised over £500. We are blown away and truly grateful. All funds raised are used within the Brownie unit and help immensely.

Going forward to the lighter evenings we will be taking the girls out and about, looking at road safety. Watch out for us and keep to 30mph when driving through the village please! We are also planning a sleepover in March, a very exciting time for all the Brownies, especially the younger ones.

Cuckoo, Eagle, Flamingo & Goldfinch

#### Investigating The Maya Bramley Primary School

On Thursday 6 February, the year 4 children had a fantastic day out at the British Museum in London.

The buzz as we walked around the exhibitions was wonderful! There was so much chatter as the children shared facts they knew linked to what they were looking at, followed by bright eyes and excited gasps as they moved on to a new and amazing artefact.



We have to admit that the gasps of wonder were replaced with gasps of horror when we made our way through the Egyptian Mummy section, but the children loved reliving their learning from year 3.

The children spent part of the afternoon examining the Roman artefacts, specifically the discoveries which have been made in Britain. One of my favourite conversations was discussing with the children that they were looking at the actual sandals that the Roman soldier would have worn, not 'model' ones.

They all demonstrated their fantastic knowledge of the Maya during our taught lesson in the museum's lecture hall. Hands shot up for every question, not only sharing facts but also thoughtful insights into the life the Maya may have led.

We are incredibly proud of the learning, attitudes and behaviour shown throughout the day. A wonderful experience topped off with a 'bus tour' of London on our way home.



#### SPECIAL FEATURE

#### **Storm Dennis**

Storm Dennis delivered some great weather for ducks as you can see from these photos taken in Bramley on Sunday 16 February. With the level crossing closed, drivers had to brave these floods in Minchens Lane and Cufaude Lane.















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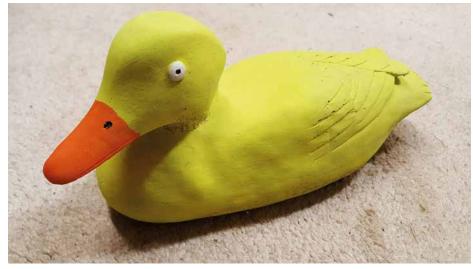


To book call 01256 885012 online TranquilBeauty.co.uk 4 Granary Court Stratfield Saye RG7 2DL ome of you may have noticed a yellow duck hiding around Bramley. We caught up with 'Ducky' to find out what was going on.

This is a story all about how my life got started in Bramley. For a few years I've been considering putting in an appearance but as the more observant amongst you will have noticed, like Dolly the sheep, I'm a clone. Anyone who knows a thing or two about cloning will realise you can't just wing it - you need a great starting point and method; great ducks don't grow on trees, you know. Early in 2019, while some of the non-avians of Bramley were contemplating an entry to the scarecrow festival, a great duck was found: to protect the innocent - let's call him or her Ducky McDuckFace. What followed was countless hours of research and development into duck cloning. Mould methods, supports, fill materials, mixing ratios, drying times, extract techniques, surface finishes, colour choices and quacks were all thoroughly investigated before finally the first Bramley duck emerged.

A little bird told me that people on Facebook had been asking what the duck was about, so here I am to set the record straight. Was it fame, fortune, an attempted viral marketing campaign, am I just plain quackers? It's a little bit of the latter and a big chunk of 'sounds like a bit of a giggle'. Why





ducks and not say, badgers? It's simple really, ducks are awesome, big enough to be spotted but small enough to be hidden, we can flap into flowerbeds or waddle under benches. Light enough to be carried in small gaggles and delivered around the village under cover of darkness. As for the colour - if it's good enough for Bananaman, it's good enough for me!

It might be a little cold and damp out of the nest but I love a little rain and it's making me think about summer 2020. I had been expecting to winter with my chums and re-appear once all that distasteful Christmas enthusiasm for duck had worn off. However, I find myself a little lonely, with my brothers and sisters having flown the coop. I'm not worried, though: I'll soon have some friends visiting and preparing for summer in Bramley. I'm intrigued to see what everyone will get up to this year and if any of last year's gang will waddle out of hiding to play.

If you've got fun ideas or want to get in touch, find me on Facebook or drop me an e-mail

bramley.duck@gmail.com http://facebook.com/bramleyduck

#### **Ducky facts:**

- An original set of 12 individually numbered ducks were placed in the village.
- Most of the original 12 all have glowin-the-dark eyes!
- Spotting and posting about us on Facebook was entirely planned; re-hiding us and roaming about the village was not – but it's lovely that people enjoyed it.
- A chronic shortage of Ducks resulted in a special clone plus two ducklings being specially created for the Bramley Show event.

All Ducks are certified 100% GDPR compliant.



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#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

erving Hampshire's Residents: County Council sets out £2.1 billion budget spending plans for Hampshire's public services in 2020/21

Hampshire County Council aims to prioritise care for vulnerable children and adults and at the same time boost Hampshire's infrastructure, roads and climate change mitigation.

County Council Leader, Councillor Keith Mans said: "This year's budget plans follow on from our meticulous financial planning over the autumn. These aim to deliver the first of a two-year strategy to address an anticipated shortfall of a further £80 million in the County Council's revenue budget by April 2021 – the expenditure needed to run the County Council and deliver local services to the people of Hampshire.

"Securing savings early, reinvesting in more efficient ways of working and using reserves prudently has served us well to date. This approach has enabled the County Council to remain in a strong financial position, and continue to deliver high performing services to residents - in the face of relentless pressure on our budgets.

"Our careful financial stewardship of public money also means that this year, some further one-off investment is possible into areas which include tackling climate change (up to £2 million) and maintaining Hampshire's 5,500 miles of roads. An extra £2 million each year is being proposed for fixing potholes, together with another £3 million for 2020/21. This is on top of the £10 million we spend annually on Operation Resilience - our long-term strategy to ensure Hampshire's road network is more resilient to the impact of heavy traffic and worsening winters.

"Social care pressures also continue to top our list of priorities. We anticipate that the number of people aged over 75 in Hampshire will increase by almost a third over the next few years - that's an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The number of children in care has also increased by almost a third in recent years. We must make sure our budget for the coming financial year takes this into account. However, nothing short of a major Government rethink on the future of social care funding nationally will address the longer-term financial strain in this area."

The County Council's Cabinet will be asked to agree a total 3.99% increase in Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020 – of which 2% is specifically for adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,286.28 for a Band D property – an increase of just over £49 per year or 95p a week.

Councillor Mans added: "The proposed council tax precept for 2020/21 would generate an additional £25 million

for delivering County Council services in 2020/21 and would mean that Hampshire is still likely to remain the 2nd lowest council tax of counties in the country."

Investment in Hampshire's infrastructure will provide a huge boost for the local economy through jobs and construction. Schemes include:

- £94.8 million for new and extended school buildings, ensuring there is a school place for every child in Hampshire, with 19,100 new school places by September 2023
- £115.8 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire
- £45.8 million for integrated transport schemes including over £10 million specifically for walking and cycling improvements
- £107.7 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE Calleva Division Hampshire County Council Fb.com/tellrhydian



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## 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE 75)

A special programme of events marking VE 75 will take place over the Early May Bank Holiday 2020 in Central London. It has been designed to be of particular interest to all from the Second World War generation and is expected to be reflected in communities across the nation.

The Royal British Legion is particularly pleased to announce that we plan to host 750 veterans from across the UK, each accompanied by a nominated companion, to attend the VE 75 events programme in Central London over the period 8-9 May 2020. Our invitation includes a fully funded plan for transport, meals and accommodation; veterans will travel to London courtesy of the National Rail Group on Thursday 7 May 2020 and return home on Sunday 10 May 2020.

#### Eligibility

We are inviting applications from all over the UK from everyone who contributed to victory in Europe 75 years ago and in particular, the following categories:

- Service personnel who served under the Crown: this
  includes Dominion and Empire (now Commonwealth)
  forces, as well as foreign forces under British command
  such as the Polish Army of the West and the French
  Resistance.
- Service must have been in the European theatre between 1939 and 1945: this will include the Mediterranean, North African, and Middle East theatres.
- The spouses of service personnel who served in the above theatres.
- · People who were child evacuees during the war.
- Those who served on the Home Front, for example as Land Girls, Bevin Boys, Home Guard, Women's Timber Corps, and the like, either as civilians in reserved occupations or with the Armed Forces.
- · Men and women who served in the emergency services.

#### Logistics

Participants will travel to London via train from their local station. If you think you may find it difficult to get to your local station, the Legion will do their utmost to provide the appropriate support. When in London, the entire veteran group will be accommodated at the Hard Rock Hotel, Marble Arch, and will be transported around the various event programme sites via coach.

All hotel rooms can accommodate wheelchairs and walking aids. If you or your companion are unable to walk unaided, please let us know on the booking form and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. In support of your stay in London, the Legion will provide an on-site and highly experienced care capability. It is vital that you let us know in advance about any medical provisions we should make in order to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

**What to do:** If you are eligible and are interested or you know someone who is, please contact the Bramley Branch Secretary, Bryan Jenkins, at email: bramley.secretary@rbl.community or phone 01256 881938.



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATES: 20/21/22/23 August 2020

Bramley & District Royal British Legion are planning a tour to the Normandy beaches for those who would like to take part. We will go on the overnight Brittany Ferry pm 20th and return by 10pm 23rd.

Full details in next month's magazine, declarations of interest to: rhydian@battlefieldtours.co

#### **BRAMLEY WI**

This month we had a visit from Brian, who makes candles professionally. He had made up some kits from beeswax and he taught us how to make them. They were very successful and we all took home three candles. He also brought some of his own candles which we could purchase. We ended the evening with refreshments and the usual raffle. It was lovely to see some new members who joined us with a couple of guests.

We managed to get a walk in this month (it was actually dry!!) and we enjoyed a nice lunch afterwards.

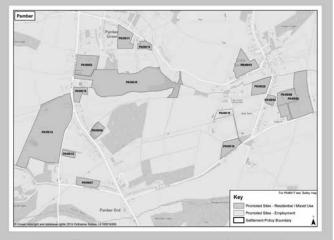
Our next meeting is the Fashion Show on 20 March. Tickets are on sale so if anyone would like one please contact Eileen on 881125.

Jane Matthews



4th April 10:30am to 2:30pm St Stephens Village Hall Little London

Pamber Parish Council invite residents of Pamber and surrounding Parishes to view and discuss Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment [SHELAA] for Pamber Parish. Your views will be collated and forwarded to B&DBC as part of their consultation process.



This map shows sites put forward by landowners for POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT.

Contact the Parish Clerk for more information: Phone: 0794 263 7210 | Email: clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk

#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

#### **Our Plan for this Parliament**

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

2019 was quite a year. For me, it is a year to remember – and to forget – because never before had I seen politics and Parliament in such a mess. That said, I believed real leadership would get us through the mess. I stood firm as I believed there was a better deal to secure from Europe. And I believed that you would back me.

We can now move forward, together. We can unite our country. And we can unleash Britain's potential. So, what is 'Our Plan' for North East Hampshire in this Parliament?

While I hope many of you will have seen my posts over the last year (fb.com/ranil.uk), I thought it might be useful to restate the priorities that I am now able to continue working on, on your behalf. And it's 'Our' Plan for a reason; I would love to work together with people across North East Hampshire, so I've highlighted how you can join me in this endeavour.

First – a superb education for all: striving to secure even more support for our local schools. I'm delighted we're levelling up funding for every pupil in every school. At the same time, we need to plan now for an outstanding new school – and your feedback is vital. Why not take a look at: ranil.uk/school?

Second – revitalising and regenerating our retail centres: backing bold brownfield regeneration to make major



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greenfield development wholly unnecessary. I've written more on this in my 'Constituency Conservation Charter', which you can read and sign, to tell our local councils and councillors how you feel, at: ranil.uk/charter.

Third – faster, longer, better trains: because the reliability and capacity of South Western Railway is simply not good enough. Great Western Railway's performance has been transformed in recent years, so getting the GWR Managing Director to take over SWR holds promise – and I will push him to improve our services.

Next – better roads across our area: fighting to boost investment in fixing our roads locally – part of which is my 'Pothole Busting' team.

Hampshire County Council will fix the potholes you report – at: bit.ly/roadrepairs – but do send me your HCC reference number and phone number too and I'll chase if they don't. Would you like to join the team? Drop me a line: email@ranil. uk – with you on board, we'll be an even stronger team.

Importantly – local services that keep us greener, cleaner and safer: including more police patrols to take back control of our streets. 20,000 new officers is great – and my petition to get Hampshire our fair share is at: ranil.uk/policing, so please make sure you sign in and send it to your friends and neighbours too.

Finally – £33.9bn extra for our NHS and new seed funding for a new North Hampshire Hospital. Great news. And, locally, I want to facilitate sharing best practice, between our GPs and our councils. For example, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council built and leases a surgery – giving residents and GPs a modern, fit-for-purpose building, which is a good investment for local taxpayers too. We need more of this.

These are the areas that matter to local people and where I will focus my work for you and your family. It's about helping you live a better life. That's what keeps me going. So, let's work together. Let's put the difficulties of the last few years behind us. Let's unite for the common good of all in North East Hampshire and across the country.

As ever, if you have thoughts or ideas, whether on the above or something else, I want to hear from you. Do drop me an email to: **email@ranil.uk** or simply follow me on Facebook: **fb.com/ranil.uk** 

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#### **Charlie Osler**

Our articles about street names in the February magazine prompted a lot of interest. Christine Lucas, who has lived in Bramley for 67 years, found this photograph she had taken of Charlie Osler outside St James Church. She thinks it was taken in the early 1960's. One of the roads off Strawberry Fields is named after him.



#### **Basingstoke Choral Society**

Saturday 28th March 2020 Fairfield Halls, Croydon at 7.30 pm

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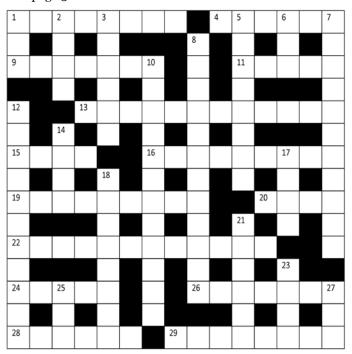
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07879 553210 Dan Leaver

#### CROSSWORD/CODEWORD

#### **Cryptic Crossword No: 35**

See page 31 for the answers.



#### Across

- Bag a rugby gathering and terminate employment. (8)
- 4 Bath with messaging service could lead to muscular problems. (6)
- 9 See, a rum way of finding the size of something. (7)
- 11 Religious sect in a mishmash of others. (5)
- 13 Farming term sometimes used to describe a cricket shot. (12)
- 15 Sharp flan. (4)
- 16 CID ration mixture to provide a pointer. (9)
- 19 Liquid holed mint for game. (9)
- 20 A city to soak in? (4)
- 22 Public vacations to rely on. (4,8)
- 24 Sore ? Painful certainly inside. (5)
- 26 Metal you test to rate it under minimum standards somewhere initially. (7)
- 28 Most coy sty she could workout. (6)
- 29 Denim at a glance brought to life. (8)

#### Down

- 1 Strange description for a drink. (3)
- 2 Classic lamborghini contains shell. (4)
- 3 Smug Ed failed to make the mark. (6)

- 5 Rehearsal for public relations performance on frozen water.
  (8)
- 6 Walter skipped inside looking for some way to travel over snow. (3)
- 7 Intellectual aboard vessel for award. (11)
- 8 American creature over time gives that sense of déjà vu. (9,3)
- Lie and lie for fix to find the stuff of dreams for immortality. (6,2,4)
- 12 Car test won around colours for song by Sundance Head. (6,5)
- 14 Small loose particles or courage. (4)
- 17 Orchestra made efforts to find vehicle. (4)
- 18 Char rods and mix for tree places. (8)
- 21 The art of Banksy stems from within for structure. (6)
- 23 Vast sum from coinage factory. (4)
- 25 Colour of you initially shows you to be shy. (3)
- 27 Made no point and became angry. (3)

#### CodeWord No: 22

See page 31 for the answers.

| 8  | 7  | 20 | 8  | 22 |    | 21 | 5  | 4              | 4  | 8  | 16 | 21 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| 15 |    | 24 |    | 5  |    | 8  |    | 16             |    | 7  |    | 25 |
| 9  | 1  | 6  | 24 | 23 | 24 | 22 |    | 25             | 1  | 2  | 24 | 6  |
| 25 |    | 3  |    | 8  |    | 22 |    | 1              |    | 5  |    | 26 |
| 2  | 8  | 25 | 19 |    | 2  | 5  | 16 | 6              | 26 | 22 | 24 | 2  |
| 8  |    | 7  |    | 4  |    | 17 |    | 26             |    |    |    | 11 |
|    | 10 | 8  | 17 | 8  | 22 |    | 12 | 8              | 4  | 16 | 25 |    |
| 8  |    |    |    | 8  |    | 6  |    | 11             |    | 25 |    | 25 |
| 10 | 9  | 1  | 6  | 2  | 24 | 5  | 1  |                | 25 | 19 | 24 | 13 |
| 8  |    | 21 |    | 16 |    | 1  |    | 22             |    | 20 |    | 23 |
| 6  | 8  | 22 | 22 | 5  |    | 18 | 5  | 5              | 2  | 25 | 14 | 8  |
| 2  |    | 5  |    | 5  |    | 8  |    | 25             |    | 14 |    | 1  |
| 11 | 8  | 1  | 25 | 2  | 5  | 16 |    | 18             | 22 | 8  | 8  | 2  |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |                |    |    |    |    |
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | °C | 7  | 8  | 9              | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22<br><b>L</b> | 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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#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

#### **Little Apples**

This half term has been another busy one filled with fun. We have celebrated Valentine's Day



and the children have thought about people who are special to them. They have made some beautifully decorated cupcakes and lovely craft as well as playing in the Valentine's Restaurant in our role play area.

As part of Bird Watch week, we made a camouflaged bird hide and high-calorie bird feeders. The children took these home and we have had reports of grateful birds visiting them around the village. We watched the birds from our Little Apples garden and saw our very own robin too. Counting the birds introduces numbers and maths with a fun context.





Whilst learning about making healthy choices, the children made vegetarian pizzas, mixing and proving the dough before adding a range of colourful vegetables. The smell of them cooking made the grown-ups very hungry all day.

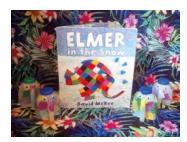
We are looking forward to next half term and some signs of Spring, then learning about Easter. Little Apples are currently nominated for a Tesco Bags of help award, which we hope to use to upgrade our role-play provision, with a play fuel pump and new playhouse. We also hope to replace some of our furniture in which we store our toys, to allow the children to self-select activities. As we pack away all our toys and equipment every evening, before setting up again next day, this needs to be very robust. You can use your tokens to vote for us in local Tesco stores until the end of March.

In line with Government policies for Early Years Education, Little Apples accepts all children from two years old, whether they receive funding or not. If you would like to register a child or pop up for a visit, please contact Jo on 07598 588 460 or manager@littleapples.org

# Another busy time at Butter Daisy...

Our Baby Suite have been exploring farm animals this month. They used the small world farm animals and role play to explore the

sounds and animal names alongside stories. They extended this theme using animal puppets and dressing up to embed body part recognition alongside continuing to encourage their use of sounds in play. They have been singing 'Old Macdonald had a farm' and the Babies have been copying the actions and joining in with the singing. The Babies have also been painting with animals, dipping them in paint and using them to make different footprints, observing the marks they have made.



The Toddlers decided to explore the colourful character of Elmer. The children were creative, using tissue paper to create their own model of Elmer using milk bottles, before extending this by creating their own Elmer pictures.

They explored the colours by investigating a coloured sensory tray made from foam shapes, rainbow streamers and different coloured elephants. The children also enjoyed making elephants using sticky backed plastic and tissue paper. The children scrunched the coloured paper and stuck it onto the plastic creating a beautiful collage effect.

The Pre-School Suite have been looking at the 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' story! They created a sensory walk and took their shoes and socks off to feel the different textures beneath their feet, retelling the story as they went. They then created their own stories as their characters moved through the different obstacles such as sticky mud and a stumble trip forest made from sticks, leaves and broccoli florets!

If you are interested in coming to visit the Butter team please call on 01256 882515 or visit our website for more information www.mydaisynursery.com











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# John Stubbs tells us in Willow: A Tree for All Reasons

This may look like just another flowery thing on a bush, but to a lot of our very important insects, it's salvation on a twig. If you've just dug your way out of a winter hidey-hole, after catching a glimpse of spring sunshine, you're going to need something to fill the gap of perhaps a hundred missed breakfasts. A hungry bumble bee has a tight schedule for getting down to business - no workers or other helpers yet, she has to find a home, gather pollen in which to lay her eggs, and pack them up in a wax basket. It must be quite a headache: she needs protein and sugars for the get-go, not a lot of flowers that haven't yet bothered to open up their buffets. Her survival, and that of her eggs, depend on finding something like these willow catkins open and primed to deliver: and that's just what catkins can do. They're usually one of the first good sources of pollen, sometimes in January, often February and in top gear by March – lasting through April. Without them, wild bees, honey bees and many other valuable pollinators could not thrive.

And this not terribly impressive-looking shrub is not a one-trick-pony of a plant, either. The classic weeping willow, famous for having wind in it, is the show-off celebrity of the species, but the hard work is done by other varieties: trees, bushes and shrubs. These can fill hedgerows, building sites and scrubland even to the extent of being considered a weed in some places, but they support a wider range of wildlife than most plants, as well as having a range of traditional uses and special properties. In a village such as Bramley, willow would have been grown for coppicing – that is, allowing a few years' growth and then cutting the shoots right back. This gave pliable wands for basket making, stiffer material for hurdles and wattle and daub walling, as well as poles for fencing and supporting crops.

Willow grows well in damp places, hence it's planted so that the dense network of roots can help keep a stream or river bank in place. The wood was also used for charcoal, and its natural tough springiness is ideal for tool handles, the soles of clogs and pattens, and of course, cricket bat blades. A more recent plan is to grow willow as a crop to be harvested as biomass – the high rate of growth means good yields, and when dried it can be burned to power electrical generation. This is perhaps a speculative environmental benefit, though, when account is taken of land and water use, planting, cutting, drying and transport energy losses. However, a bed



And while we are on the subject of Beautiful Bramley, this is a photo taken by *George Aitchison* last March. Will we have snow again this year?

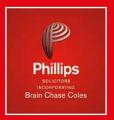


of willow can be very effectively used for purifying water, removing nitrates and phosphates from, for instance, the effluent of chemical waste-water treatment plants. The two processes combined, where the land area is available, look more promising.

Willow, then, is a pretty magical sort of plant. Egyptian scribes, some 3,500 years ago, wrote about using willow to treat fever. It had all sorts of associations in ancient classical themes: Orpheus carried willow branches round in the underworld, as you do, and Asclepius (Apollo's medic son) chose it for his brand of fertility treatment. Much was made of water-spirits and nymphs favouring the plant as a symbol of growth and regeneration. What a load of nonsense. Apart, that is, for one particular connection.

Come the late 18th Century, Edward Stone, a chaplain living in Chipping Norton, showed that an extract of willow bark did in fact reliably relieve the ague, and he reported its success to The Royal Society. Then during the early part of the 19th C. experimenters in France and Italy isolated the active ingredient, salicylic acid. This led to much cheaper production, and demand grew despite its unpleasant taste and adverse side effects. Towards the beginning of the 20th C. the German dyestuff company Bayer came up with a less nasty derivative which became the first massmarket commercial drug, and it still outsells all other such medicines. They named it Aspirin.





A good time to make a Will



Lucy Watson

One of the best times to think about writing a Will is when you buy your first property.

Unless you have a 100% mortgage you will have some equity in the property and therefore something to leave.

If you are buying a property jointly, you will also need to make some form of provision if you die. This is because should one of the joint property owners die, his or her share in the property will not automatically pass to the surviving owner.

When drawing up a Will, it is a good idea to list all of your assets so you can think whether there are any items you would like to pass on to particular family members and friends.

Bear in mind that the value of your home can increase your estate to over the threshold for Inheritance Tax, which is currently £325,000.

If the total value of your estate is less than this amount there will be no tax to pay.

For those who already have a Will, it is worth reviewing it every five years or so to reflect any life changes and major events such as having children, getting married or divorced.

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

We will ensure that all the wording is legally sound and that there are no loopholes that could endanger your estate.

Once your Will is written it will be permanent unless you decide to change it or make a new one.

For more information contact Lucy Watson, head of our Wills and Probate team by calling 01256 460830 or email lucy.watson@phillips-law.co.uk

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

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

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

| Trail Runners 7.30pm    | Clift Meadow car park |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| HIIT/Bootcamp 7.45-8.30 | School Hall           |

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

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

| Saturdays              |              |  |  |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Good for Mums Hiit Fix | Cross House  |  |  |
| Ladies Boxercise       | Cross House  |  |  |
| Petite Dance           | Village Hall |  |  |

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

Do you have a listing on this page? If so, please can you check that the details are correct and let me have the timings if they are missing. Any corrections or additions can be emailed to editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

THANK YOU

#### **Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations**

| Organisation                               | Name                            | Tel No                        | Email   | Remarks  |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Parish Council                             | Maxta Thomas                    | 07810 692486                  | www.bramleypc.co.uk   | Not for bookings                                   |
|  |                                 |                               | parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk                                       |  |
| 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<br>Exercise         | Emma Perkins                    | 07973 389407                  | emmatraining@hotmail.com<br>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<br>Club/Holiday Club | Julie Belam                     | 07711 339306                  | info@bramleyoutofschoolclub.com<br>www.bramleyoutofschoolclub.com |  |
| Bramley United FC                          | Mick Walsh                      | 07802 912615/<br>01256 881241 | michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk                                   |  |
| Bramley Volunteer Drivers                  | w · · · · · · ·                 | 07787 166924                  | Visit us on Facebook  |  |
| Brownies                                   | Katie Slater and<br>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<br>(Postnatal Exercise)            | Helen Hill                      | 07766 554599                  | helen@goodformums.co.uk<br>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<br>www.ladiesboxercise.co.uk          |  |
| Little Apples                              | Jo Whatley & Sian<br>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<br>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<br>& Friendship          | Julie Wilson                    |                               | juliebelam12@gmail.com  | See Facebook:<br>Walking 4 Fitness<br>& Friendship |
| WI   | Pat Cole                        | 881715                        | gpcoles37@gmail.com   |  |
| Yoga                                       | Mark Golding                    | 07969 890722                  | goldingyoga@gmail.com<br>goldingyoga.com                          |  |
| Zumba                                      | Gisella Soulsby                 | 07704 918050                  | zumbagisella1@gmail.com   |  |
| o-5s club                                  | Laura Lamb                      | 07766 560918                  | lauraslamb@gmail.com  |  |

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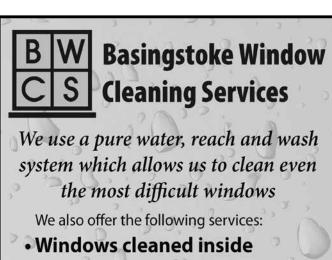
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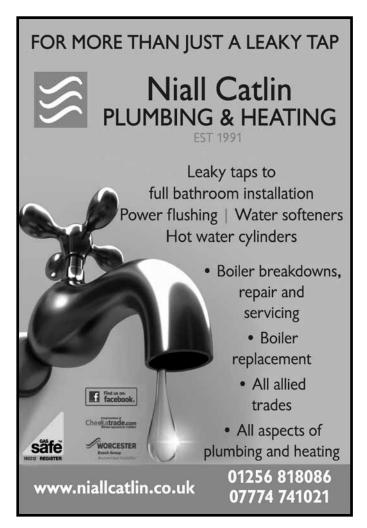
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#### **Cryptic Crossword No: 35 Solution**

| MAD                | ∠Շ  |                     |           |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| COX                | 55  |                     |           |
| TNIM               | 23  | VAIMATED            | 56        |
| SKSLEW             | 12  | SHKESL              | 82        |
| OKCHYKDS           | 81  | YTTRIUM             | 56        |
| TRAM               | Zτ  | ПСЕК                | 54        |
| GRIT               | 14  | BYNKHOLIDAYS        | 22        |
| <b>WOLOMNBLUES</b> | 12  | HTAB                | 50        |
| ELIXIROFLIFE       | 10  | MATERPOLO           | 61        |
| GKONNDHOGDYK       | 8   | INDICATOR           | 91        |
| SCHOLARSHIP        | Z   | TAAT                | 91        |
| SKI                | 9   | <b>VERICULTURAL</b> | 13        |
| PRACTICE           | 9   | HSIWA               | 11        |
| SWIDGE             | 3   | WEYSURE             | 6         |
| CLAM               | 2   | SMSAAS              | $\forall$ |
| KNW                | Ι   | RUCKSACK            | Ţ         |
| u                  | Dow | SS                  | Acros     |

#### **CodeWord No: 22 Solution**

| Τ | 3 | 3 | ٦ | Н |   | Я       | 0 | Т | A | N | 3 | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N |   | 9 |   | A |   | Э       |   | 0 |   | 0 |   | Τ |
| 3 | 9 | A | Т | 0 | 0 | Н       |   | 0 | ٦ | ٦ | 3 | Э |
| ٨ |   | Ъ |   | ٦ |   | Z       |   | В |   | Х |   | Ξ |
| О | _ | M | A |   | Z | 0       | Ι | Τ | Э | N | n | ſ |
| A |   | A |   | S |   | $\circ$ |   | 3 |   |   |   | П |
|   | Þ | Я | В | 3 | Z |         | ٦ | 3 | M | 3 | ſ |   |
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#### PLAY CROQUET!

Croquet: six hoops, four balls, two mallets and a patch of grass. Sounds easy enough?

However, croquet is a game of skill and strategy, angles, tactics, guile. A bit like snooker on grass. It is enjoyable at all levels and you don't need to be Olympic-fit to play it.

Since the merger with Thorneycroft Bowls Club last year there is now an excellent facility in Basingstoke with a top class lawn and a cosy clubhouse.

If you would like to give it a try, there are 2 free open days on Saturday 18 April and Saturday 9 May, where you can just turn up any time between 10am and 3pm and have a go. Equipment will be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. There is no charge.

If you are involved in any type of social or work group we can arrange a fun afternoon for between 4 and 12 players for which a modest per-person fee will be charged. If you are interested please contact Barbara Cummins: barbara130400@hotmail.com

Please see our website for more information:

www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk

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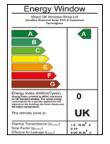
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