

February 2021

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Clift Meadow Update**
- **Celebrations at Cherry Blossom**
- **Virtual Flower Club**

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**February 2021**

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

Material for the March 2021 issue to be  
sent (preferably by email) to the editor no  
later than 14 February please.

Cover photo:  
Deer by George Aitchison

So, here we are again – lockdown part 3. At least there seems to be welcome light at the end of the tunnel this time, with vaccines being rolled out at a rapid rate. If you are still waiting for yours, there is an update from Clift Surgery on page 13. This is one of the few times I wish I were older. When I checked in December, I was 23,842,125th in the queue to get a vaccine. The queue is moving faster than anticipated now, but I imagine it will still be some time before I get that all-important jab.

Even when most of us have had a vaccine, I wonder whether we will want to go back to exactly how we were this time last year. We will certainly want to socialise again, go to pubs and cinemas and hug our family and friends, but will we want to commute to the office five days a week, get up to do the school run in the wet and cold, or cut down on all those snacks so that we can fit into clothes that don't have an elasticated waist?

Some things have certainly changed for the better during the pandemic. In April last year our trains were more reliable than Germany's Deutsche Bahn, presumably because they were virtually empty, and in the first four months of the pandemic, one million people gave up smoking. Crime dropped too: robberies were down by 43% and residential burglaries by a third. We also read more – 9.14 million books were sold in the second week of December. I guess some of them may have been unwanted Christmas presents, but at least one of them came my way and has been read cover to cover. Our feet have also benefitted. Five years ago, Kurt Geiger's bestselling shoe was a stiletto with a 4-inch heel. Today, it is a pair of chunky white trainers. One headline writer had a field day with that one: *High heels laid low by lockdown run on trainers.*

We may be in lockdown but there is still a lot going on in the village. This month we have updates from Clift Surgery, Clift Meadow, Bramley School, the Parish Council and Little Apples, as well as ideas for future community events, news of a garden in memory of Oliver Warner and information about a survey in the churchyard. There is still lots of help available too. There is news of our new Voluntary Action representative on page 8, and if you need a hand with lockdown learning or would like a pandemic penfriend, there's information on pages 13 and 17. If you still remember the days before email, when the post arrived twice a day and you weren't bombarded with messages day and night, then I'm sure Michael Luck's article on page 12 will bring a smile to your face and amazement to anyone under 40.

I hope there is something here to interest you as you count down the days until your next haircut!

Best wishes

**Rachel**

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

Please note the revised submission date for the March issue of the magazine ONLY. Please let me have your articles by 14 February at the latest. Thank you.

Remember, today is the tomorrow  
you worried about yesterday.

**Dale Carnegie**

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All the events described here are obviously subject to change at short notice, if Government Covid-19 guidelines and rules should change. Please do check our website, [www.stjamesbramley.com](http://www.stjamesbramley.com), for any last minute changes.

We hope to be able to re-start our in-person 9.00am services in March.

**Church diary for February...**

<b>7th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>14th</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>17th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>21st</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b>
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>28th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom

**... and into March**

<b>7th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Matins (BCP) - St James Church
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>14th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Holy Communion – St James Church
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom
<b>21st</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Morning Worship – St James Church
10:30	St James Virtual Service on Zoom

**Notes: Once we eventually resume in-person Church Services, you will need to book in with Steve Day, the Parish Administrator. This is to ensure the numbers do not go over our capacity restrictions due to social distancing. To attend the Zoom services for the first time, please contact Steve in order to be added to our email distribution list, which will provide you with the Zoom connection details. Steve can be contacted on 07341 552732 or by email on [Crosshousebramley@gmail.com](mailto:Crosshousebramley@gmail.com).**

**Church opening**

The church is now open for a limited number of days and hours for people to be able to come in for private prayer. It will still be essential that anyone who uses it observes all the Government’s social distancing requirements. Because this is something of a moving target, as the guidelines change quite frequently, anyone wanting to do this should check the church website ([www.stjamesbramley.com](http://www.stjamesbramley.com)) and Facebook for days and times when it will be open.

**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

Joyce GREETHAM  
 Basingstoke Crematorium  
 11 December, 2020

Andrew John MONGER  
 St James Church, Bramley  
 13 January, 2021

**Bramley Lane and Sherfield Road: temporary road closures.**

Between February and August, Hampshire County Council will undertake highway improvements to the junction opposite the Bakery, and BT will carry out utility works. I expect BT will require the closure of Bramley Lane at certain times, with a local diversion route in place. We are awaiting BT’s traffic management proposals so I cannot yet confirm if BT will require a full closure of Sherfield Road, although I am hopeful they will not.

As for the main works to the junction, the plan is to close Bramley Lane during various phases (again with local diversion in place). This will allow the contractor to complete the work faster and thereby minimise

overall disruption. It will also mean that traffic flow on Sherfield Road across the railway line can be managed more efficiently and safely under temporary traffic signal control. The closure of Sherfield Road will only be required if no alternative way can be found to undertake the works safely or if the benefits of completing parts of the work quickly under a carefully timed full closure are sufficient to outweigh the wider disruption caused.

Please be assured that road closure durations will be minimised, particularly any on Sherfield Road.

Cllr Rhyddian Vaughan, MBE





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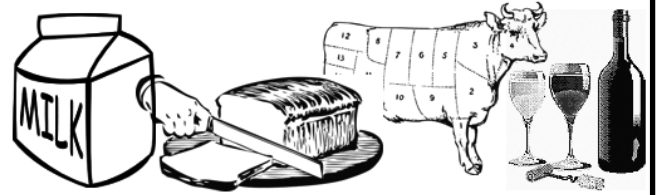
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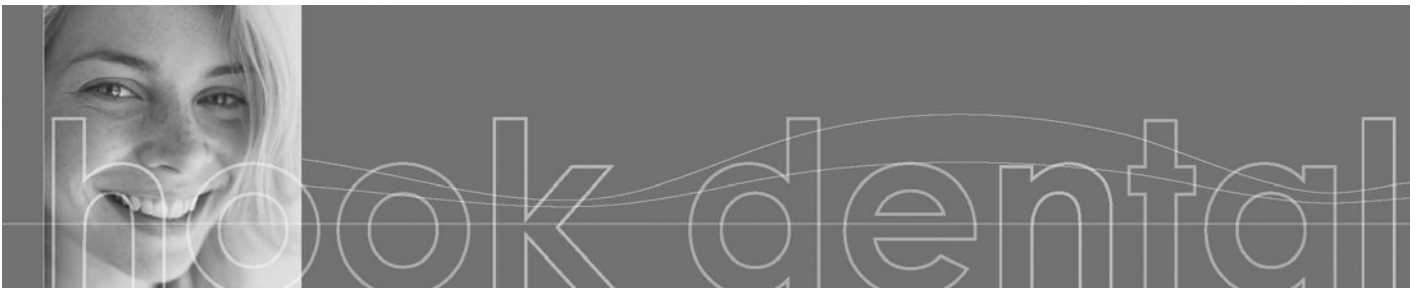
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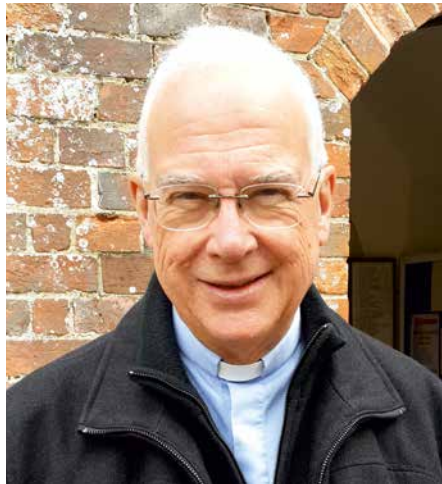


Over these last months, one of the hardest things we've had to learn to cope with is the daily death-toll that we see and hear reported relentlessly on the news. As I write this, in the middle of January, today's number of deaths has hit 1,610, the highest number since the pandemic began, bringing the total to just over 90,000 since we started keeping these grim statistics. I fully expect that by the time you read this, the total number of deaths from Covid-19 will be over 100,000, as the experts tell us that we have yet to reach the peak of deaths, given the lag between infections, hospitalisations, intensive care and deaths.

Our society doesn't like to talk about death. It's a subject which we'd rather avoid mentioning, if possible. We don't even like to use the word very much; we talk about someone "passing" or "passing away" rather than about them dying. We resort to humour in order to banish its bleakness: as Woody Allen said, "I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

People planning a funeral service with me sometimes ask for a poem by Henry Scott Holland to be read, which begins with the line, "Death is nothing at all." I go along with their choice, of course, both because they want it, and because its words might bring comfort to them in their grief, as the poem continues, "I have only slipped away to the next room."

The problem is, of course, that although it's a nice idea and they are comforting words, it simply isn't true.



Rev'd John Lenton

For someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, death most certainly isn't nothing at all. The dead person hasn't slipped away into the next room – they've gone away and left us and they aren't coming back. Yes, perhaps for the one who has died, it's a release from suffering and struggle; most accounts of near-death experiences describe how the dying person feels a sense of great peace and tranquillity. Maybe for them death is nothing at all. But for the people left behind, it's not.

Jesus certainly didn't think that death was nothing at all. The Bible tells us that He wept in grief and anger at the graveside of His friend Lazarus. But He didn't stop there; He then showed His astonishing power to overcome death, first by bringing Lazarus back to life, and a few days later, being raised to life Himself after having been put to death on a cross. For Him, death was a vicious enemy that had to be conquered, and He took it on and overcame it.

A great friend of ours, Ian Barclay, is at present in the last few weeks of his life, as cancer and heart disease increasingly take control of his body. He's the author of a number of books, and last summer he finished his final book, a short autobiography, which he dedicated to his grandchildren. The very last chapter in the book is headed,

"DEATH – the awfully big adventure". In it, he says: "It may sound rather depressing to open a Bible and trace the meaning of words such as death and dying. But the reverse is true. Not only is it revealing, but it is also quite fascinating to see writers struggle with the limitations of human language to describe something that will take them, and us, beyond the grave."

Ian goes on in his book to describe how one of those Bible writers, the Apostle John, tells how Jesus was speaking to His closest friends the night before He died, and used the words, "I will come back and take you to be with me... You know the way to the place where I am going." Those disciples must obviously have looked at each other in puzzlement, and in the end, old Doubting Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" And Jesus replied, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."

Ian Barclay comments: "This remark refutes the illogical idea that all roads lead to heaven. Roads, after all, go in two directions – both to and from the place you have in mind. So once you have chosen the right road, you must also choose the right direction. Jesus said that He is 'the way'; that is, the right road. He went on to say that He is 'the truth'; that is, the right direction down the right road. He then added that He is 'the life', suggesting that he can give us the motive power to go down the right road in the right direction. We can hardly ask for more information than that."<sup>1</sup> And indeed, Thomas had no further questions.

Death really seems to be stalking our world in this pandemic. But the good news is that Jesus has left us with clear instructions about the way to truth and life. We don't need to be anxious or worried about it; we just need to follow where He, Jesus, leads.

<sup>1</sup> Barclay, Ian, *A Few Grains of Truth*, p. 154

If you're vulnerable, struggling, isolating, or want to help those who are, **Georgina Evans**, the new Bramley Rep for **Basingstoke Voluntary Action**, explains what to do.

**Help during lockdown**

Hi everyone, I'm Georgina and I've lived in Bramley for 16 years. Our children attend the lovely Bramley Primary School. Our village has grown since we've been here – but so has the sense of community, which has been a good thing in these difficult times.

There are some terrific schemes already in place:

**Bramley Primary School** is accepting food donations for pupils and families of students in need.

**Sherfield Shop** offers delivery accounts for those who can't leave home (advert on page 6)

**Basingstoke Voluntary Action (BVA)** supports shielding & vulnerable residents, who the Government have identified as being most at risk. If this



**Georgina and her family**

applies to you, if you are isolating or are finding lockdown difficult and do not already have a network in place, please contact me:

georginanorris@hotmail.co.uk or 07717 475155.

BVA is also looking for volunteers to help with the vaccination programme at the Hampshire Centre Court Hotel. The BVA is taking over from the Rotary

Club – which has done an amazing job – co-ordinating volunteers. We particularly need car parking marshals and reception assistants. Please use this link online to find out more:

<https://www.bvaction.org.uk/vaccination-programme-volunteering/>

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered in our community, helping others to stay indoors and to protect us and the NHS.

**WHERE TO FIND HELP**

Hants Coronavirus Support Line  
0333 370 4000

<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help>

National Citizens Advice Helpline:  
0808 2082138

(freephone - Monday to Friday - 10am to 5pm)

Citizens Advice Basingstoke:  
0300 330 9064

Citizens Advice Tadley:  
0118 981 7567

**While we were able to welcome Georgina to her new role last month, we also had to say a sad farewell to some other neighbours**

The St James Church family, and I'm sure many other people in Bramley, were sorry to have to say goodbye to Alison and George Aitchison and their children, Catherine and Finlay, who moved to Cheshire in January. George featured in Meet the Neighbours a few months ago and you will be familiar with his beautiful photos taken on his walks around Bramley, with his dog Sorcha. Alison played a massive role at St James Church for many years, leading services, organising the children's work, serving on the PCC, and much more. However, many of you will have got to know her when she organised the Iron Mum challenge, which inspired a whole group of women to get fit through cycling and running. I'm not sure how many of them kept it up, but Alison certainly did. As I write this she has run at least 2km on 962 consecutive days, having started on 1 June 2018. She will go for her 1000th consecutive run on 24

February and I'm sure by then she will have sussed out all the good running routes around her new home. Alison also entertained us with her Lines for Lockdown. You may have seen the whiteboard outside her house, on which she wrote a different poem each day to inspire us.

Here are two of George's photos. You will find others on pages 18 and 19.

The family leave a big hole in our community and we wish them all the best for their new life in Cheshire.







**Meadow Talk**

These tough times have decimated the finances and short-term plans for so many, including Clift Meadow. Revenue received through the many varied organisations that utilise the Pavilion & Brocas Hall, as well as from outdoor sports, has collapsed.

Clift Meadow should be an asset to all in Bramley and it is so heart-warming to see the increasing number of good, good people who are now collecting the discarded litter. It is also good that permitting dog fouling is becoming more of a

rarity, especially as there are so many children and families enjoying the Meadow through all seasons.

Efforts in recent months have seen hedge reduction, in places back towards levels of the mid '90s, as well as the building of the Parish Council funded Child's Play Park, which really should be for those under 11, not a 'cool' place for teenagers to be drinking and smoking substances: the assistance of our overstretched PCSOs is appreciated.

It has been a delight to see Loddon Sports Youth Football on Sunday mornings (when permitted) and from early May there will be Youth Cricket in collaboration with Old Basing; contact details are in the 'What's On' section on page 29. The free-to-play tennis courts have never been more busy than these last few months and the expertise and efforts of Tom Mason (MasonsTWM) in keeping us arboreally tidy, is really appreciated.

Your Parish Council is updating on the Persimmon path challenges, which really should improve appearances, and grants are being applied for so we can purchase more benches and bins. The idea of wild flower areas, as well as donated memorial trees, are also under discussion.

When the daffodils start pushing through and tender shoots appear in the Millennium Garden, tended by WI volunteers these last 22 years, and the Muddy Fingers' Spring planting comes into bud, we will know that the seasons really are changing.

Clift Meadow Trust

*And a big thank you to everyone who has helped tidy up the path running through Clift Meadow. It looks so neat! Ed*



Peter, collecting rubbish in Bramley

**Cleaning up Bramley**

A big thank you to Peter and to all other anonymous good citizens who regularly opt to collect the rubbish on a voluntary basis because they can't STAND to see our village and countryside littered with so much non-bio-degradable rubbish!

(Apparently there is a very active cleaner in Cufaude Lane, judging by the full bag left by the public rubbish bin near the church this week).

Peter regularly walks his dog along Silchester Road and on this particular day the dog stayed at home whilst Peter had the rubbish bag in one hand and a borrowed collecting tool in the other.

His wish is that we all take responsibility for the cleanliness of our area.

Let's support Peter and all those other voluntary cleaners who make a small but valuable contribution to our community. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed!!!

Sarah Marianos

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## Showing Support for our Community

It is great to be back and I hope you are all doing OK. It is a quieter time in the garden, with so much rain, mud and cold weather so we are redirecting our energies into other areas for the next couple of months.

In spite of the difficulties we faced in 2020, we actually managed to achieve more than we have ever done before. We ran two online shows, the best Scarecrow Festival yet, two very popular creative writing competitions, the Window Wanderland and a Christmas fairy hunt. Looking forward, we are already planning the Scarecrow Festival, the August show (real or online), another children's hunt, more writing competitions and possible plant sales.

The Knitted Map of Bramley is complete and waiting to be shown off in all its woolly gorgeousness! I know lots of you are looking forward to seeing it but the current restrictions mean we can't launch it just yet. Patience required all round!

The Bramley Show is lucky to have an established website, which has allowed us to add lots of information and ideas to help the community. We are also assisting with the communication between the Clift Surgery Patient Participation Group and patients of Clift Surgery by reposting notices from the surgery, as well as adding ideas for helping people to find new things to do and signposting websites that offer support. Please take a look. There may be something for you.

Of course, like so many organisations The Bramley Show did not receive any income in 2020 and the kindness of some residents has borne any costs. With the uncertainty 2021 is offering we have set up a rolling GoFundMe page,

<http://uk.gofundme.com/f/support-the-bramley-show>. Any donation would be very welcome, so we can continue to bring the community together.

Website: [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk)

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

Sue Howell – Chair.

## BRAMLEY WI

We managed to have a Zoom Christmas party in December, which started with a chat and a drink as some members had not seen each other since March. We then proceeded to have a quiz, which was good fun, and afterwards the committee did a sketch which included Christmas stories, poems and a demonstration of how to make an alcohol-free mulled wine. We ended the evening with a free raffle for everyone, with committee members distributing the prizes in the following days.

During November and December, a number of us knitted some fairies for the Bramley Show project, which were displayed around the village for the children in December. The WI and friends were also very happy to make a contribution of Christmas goodies to Bramley School families.

Our next meeting is on Zoom, when we will have a speaker.

Keep safe.

Jane Matthews

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**Bramley Parish Council**

The Parish Council hopes you all made the best of our restricted Christmas celebrations and that you are all keeping safe and well. We all hope for a better new year. The vaccination programme is a light at the end of a long tunnel, but we must all stay home and minimise contact with others in order to keep the pressure off our stretched NHS and all other key workers.

There are Covid help lines and published updates and contacts to be found on the **new Parish Council web site** [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council continues to help with donations to support the school Food Bank as it continues into the New Year.

**Draining and Sewage**

A site meeting was held with Thames Water in early December and a tour of the drainage and sewage issues that exist within Bramley was made. The conclusion and explanation offered by Thames is that there is a capacity issue with sewage in the village which, after heavy rain, potentially sees surface water finding its way into the system and the pumping station cannot cope. They are currently measuring the system actual levels and have a computer model in progress. The Parish Council has summarised these points and informed the Borough Council planning team (along with many other submissions outlining Bramley's issues – see PC web site) so that sewage capacity can be a material consideration when determining any future Bramley housing expansion.

**Clift Meadow Path**

The Parish Council, with support from the Borough Council, has been meeting with Persimmon Homes to finalise a solution to the flooding and lighting along the Clift Meadow path. We are pleased to be able to report that a new lighting scheme will be provided in the spring and the design of the works to alleviate the flooding, that the Parish Council require, has been given to Persimmon to deliver. In the meantime, please take care and watch out for icy patches during the cold weather.

**Speeding**

The Community Speedwatch team (with the support of the Parish Council) has been working with Hampshire Highways over a number of years to look at ways of reducing speeding traffic within our village. The team has been monitoring speeds within the village for the last two years. The data gathered by the team has indicated that many vehicles continue to be travelling in excess of the 30mph speed limit throughout the village. The team is now researching whether or not further traffic calming measures should be considered and if so, what would they be? A survey is included with the magazine this month, and the purpose is to gather your thoughts on vehicle speeds in Bramley. The Speedwatch team would be most grateful for a few minutes of your time so that we can hear your thoughts. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the Village Hall or at Cross House by the Church, and it is also available on line at [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)

**Planning and Development**

Because the new Local Plan is being developed by the Borough Council, the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan requires updating. Are there any residents who could spare the time

to help with this very important initiative? Please contact the Clerk for more details on the new email: - [Clerk@Bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@Bramley-pc.gov.uk) or 07810 692486

We were disappointed that the Planning Inspector recently allowed the development on the land to the south of Silchester Road; he was not sympathetic to the impacts that the development would have on the conservation area and local listed buildings.

Another application for an 80-hectare Solar Park and Battery storage installation off Minchen's Lane has now been submitted to the Borough Council ref 20/03403/FUL and can be found on the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) for comment.

**Tipping**

Sadly, we are continuing to see the tipping of garden waste materials into local ditches and behind domestic fencing. Please can we request that this stops as the clear-up will inevitably be at the Parish Council's expense - which comes from your council tax and reduces any money available for the Parish Council to spend on other, more beneficial, community needs.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 February at 7:30pm via Zoom. Details on the Parish council website.

Cllr Chris Tomblin

**News from the Village Hall**

In the wake of the Government announcement of a new 'Lockdown' from 5 January, the Village Hall is now closed. With the exception of the Little Apples Pre-School, bookings for use of the Village Hall cannot be accepted until the Government announces a lifting of the current restrictions. The Village Hall Trustees would like to thank all those who have used the hall prior to this lockdown for observing the Covid-19 rules and helping to keep our facility and its users safe during this challenging period. And now for some good news.....

**The Car Park Project**

The architects and design engineers working on our project to install a new Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS), to replace the drains from the Village Hall and re-surface the car park have now completed their re-design. This work was required by the Borough Council as part of the planning consent and will help to drive down costs. We will start the tender competition in the next few weeks to select a contractor to deliver the project. We have specified that the work will need to take place in July and August, traditionally a quieter period for the hall, as the excavations in the car park will mean that the building will not be accessible for 5 or 6 weeks. I'll let you know when a contractor has been appointed.

Gareth Jones

Chairman, Bramley Village Hall Trust



## How Did We Ever Manage?

A young person recently asked me how we managed in the 'old days' because we didn't have the internet, mobile phones, instantaneous communication and all the facilities of modern life. It was in connection with work: the implication was that we could not have been very productive because we could not communicate with one another.

I went back to 1975 in my mind and thought about my first 'proper' job. I joined the Ministry of Defence in the summer of that year. I come from a family of small-business people, and my Uncle Eric's comment on my new job was: 'So you've got yourself a pen-pushing job then?' In one sense this was true, although pencils were involved as well. I wrote software for large mainframe computers, which involved writing the program code on a sheet, sending it to a department where it would be typed in and stored on tape, after which I would be allowed one test run per night until I got it right. I did not have access to a keyboard to type my own software source code until a few years later in a different job.

There was no email in those days. Quick messages could be hand written on a memo pad, with carbon paper to keep copies which would be filed. The top copy was sent off and the reply would be filed back with the retained copy. Files were always on paper, kept in folders in the registry and managed by a group of ladies (always ladies). So different these days.

Letters, for more formal communications, were scribbled out by us and typed by ladies (again) and sent back for signature by the sender. They were then popped into an envelope and posted.

I remember when email began to be prevalent (at least in IT) during the 1980s. It seemed like the answer to everything, but that was until it got into the hands of criminals. No-one ever thought of the problems that could be caused by the ability to send an email with a nasty payload that could take over the recipient's computer and delete information, or steal it. Nowadays there is a whole industry devoted to defending against these threats. Let no-one say that computers destroy jobs: they just move the requirement for people and they create a different industry.

The Internet began to connect every company's computer in the 1990s, and on top of it the World Wide Web gave the ability to navigate across the Internet to wherever you wanted to go. How did we do things like ordering tickets for plays or concerts before that? In 1970 I was a 16-year-old newly awakened to the joys of going to football matches. Although a Crystal Palace fan, my local club, I wanted to go to Wembley and I saw an advert for tickets to the League Cup

Final which turned out to be between Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion. I used my pocket money to buy a Postal Order (like a cheque for people with no bank account) and sent off for two tickets which I duly received. Nowadays I receive emails telling me that a ticket sale window for a Test Match at the Oval will open on a certain date, and if I do not sit at the computer and start trying to log in at exactly 09.00, I will not stand any chance of getting them. It is no easier and more stressful.

I am sure that in Shakespeare's time, people going to the Globe Theatre would just walk down and pay on the door. Life was stress free in those days, apart from the occasional plague: oh wait....

Michael Luck



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## Your pandemic pen pal

During this awful time we find ourselves in yet again, I wanted to do something more. As a mum of two, having our newest addition, George, in the first lockdown was an experience I'll never forget. It was isolating, daunting, and a whole rollercoaster of emotions I never expected to come with the joy of having a newborn.

Passing the days with lots of colouring and painting with our eldest Lillie, we would often send our creations to grandparents, which got me thinking. There must be people out there feeling the same as me, the same as my grandparents, the same as my children. I'm lucky enough to have strong family support around me, but some aren't as fortunate and this gave me an idea: a pandemic pen pal for new mums, the elderly or anyone feeling a little bit isolated and in need of a chat or a friend. So, if you're in need of someone to talk to, if you are a new mum wanting to reach out to other mums who have had a baby in lockdown or a grandparent missing your grandchildren and family, we would love to help by replying to emails or letters or sending drawings and paintings from the children. Just email me and I'm happy to be your pandemic pen pal.

Eloise xx

Eloise.kirby@yahoo.com



Eloise with children, Lillie and George

## Clift Surgery

The COVID vaccination programme is now well underway and we are delighted that some of our patients have already been vaccinated. Some of our staff are involved in this central local effort and we are hugely proud to be a part of this programme to protect so many people so quickly.

Naturally many people are keen to be vaccinated as soon as possible and in time the vaccine will be made available to everyone. You can imagine the sheer scale of the vaccination programme and so, at present, priority groups are being targeted first: those aged 80 or over, nursing home residents and staff and frontline healthcare staff.

I hope that you will be reassured when I say that we will be in touch with everyone who is eligible for the vaccination as soon as we are able to offer it. This will take some time, it's a marathon not a sprint and we therefore rely heavily on your patience and understanding as we work our way through. Sadly there are no stocks that are kept in reserve and we cannot add in extra appointments.

Please help us to help you. Our request is **NOT TO CONTACT THE SURGERY** - you will be contacted when it is your turn. While you wait for your invitation we ask you to do all you can to keep safe by washing your hands, covering your face and giving other people space.

### Clift Surgery update

We understand that there are rumours that a vaccination site will be opened at Clift Meadow.

**THIS IS NOT DEFINITE:** it is only a possibility at present.

If you are called to Hampshire Court for vaccination **PLEASE ATTEND.**

If you have genuine difficulty getting there, contact Bramley Volunteer Drivers on 07787 166924

NB: This information is correct as of 14 January. By the time you read this, arrangements may have changed. Please refer to the Surgery website (<https://www.cliftsurgery.co.uk/>) for the latest guidance, which will also be posted on local Facebook groups and the Bramley Show website

We are still offering the flu vaccine so if you are in an at-risk or eligible group and have yet to have your vaccine then please do contact us to book an appointment. We would encourage you to book your flu vaccine as soon as possible as the COVID vaccination cannot be given within two weeks of having received the flu vaccine.

Claire Berry – Practice Manager – Clift Surgery

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## Bramley & Romans Floral Society

The Floral Society held its first Zoom meeting on Thursday 5 November. Our demonstrator was Stephanie Cornell and she called her demonstration 'Remember, Remember'. Here are some of her arrangements.

We also held a virtual raffle for those present on Zoom, and in December we included all the members.

Stephanie Cornell has now joined several other demonstrators from the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) to give Zoom demonstrations. She also organises the numbers attending and sends them links to participate. Stephanie was asked to write about her role as a flower demonstrator for the Bramley magazine and here's what she had to say:

*What an honour, but I have to say there were very few demonstrations going on until Zoom raised its head. Now, instead of just presenting my floral designs to flower clubs in local areas I can go further afield without the drawback of the dreaded winter night-time drive home in the dark.*

*It does seem a bit strange talking to myself, but seeing the pleasure of those watching makes it all worth it. I am still able to visit the flower wholesaler but time will tell what impact Brexit will have, as most of the flowers come through Holland.*

*I am asked which is my favourite Club. Well, that is easy to answer: Bramley and Romans, my local club where I am not only a member but currently their resident Zoom presenter. You could not wish to meet a nicer group, and there's the added benefit of tea and cake when we can all meet up again. If anyone out there has a couple of hours spare on the first Thursday of the month we would be delighted to welcome you either to a Zoom meeting or,*



'FIREWORKS'



'REMEMBRANCE'



'AUTUMN'

*hopefully, to attend Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall where we meet at 1.30pm*

Here are some of Stephanie's arrangements from her Christmas Zoom demonstration.



We at Bramley & Romans are really proud of one of our own members' achievements and look forward to more Zoom demonstrations.

Eileen Gulston

## Bramley Church of England Primary School are crowdfunding to raise £30,000 for a garden in memory of Oliver Warner.

It has been over a year since our special friend Oliver Warner passed away. Oliver's courage throughout his journey inspired the community and brought about a fundraising effort and togetherness which will be synonymous with his smile and bravery.

As a school, we continue to be inspired by Oliver and his legacy. As part of this we want to create Oliver's Garden, a

place for the children across the school to learn or play in. Oliver's Garden will be designed to reflect Oliver's interests and life. He loved to be outside, whether it be playing, learning or in Forest School. He also enjoyed stories, adventures and being creative, and we mustn't forget his love of Star Wars!

We are reaching out to the community to help us to reach this target. If you would like to donate, you can do so here

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bramley-school-olivers-garden>

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## Did you know.....?

In the 1980s red kites were persecuted to near extinction. Following one of the most successful rewilding programmes in history, there are now an estimated 10,000 birds across the country (many in the skies above Bramley and Little London).





**C**herry Blossom Manor care home in Bramley have been celebrating this month. Not only were its staff among the first to receive the **Covid vaccine**, but it also celebrated **ten years** of serving the local community.



**LOCAL CARE HOME CELEBRATES 10 YEARS**

Staff, residents and virtual guests commemorated this special occasion with pizza, treats and a firework display.

Cherry Blossom has built up an excellent reputation within Bramley and regularly holds events and activities for its residents and surrounding neighbours. The building was purposely constructed in 2010 and officially opened on the 12 January 2011 by Sir John Madejski OBE DL.

A member of the local community posted on their Facebook page “Thank You! The display was amazing and the first time my nearly 2-year-old has seen fireworks! You definitely brightened up a dreary day!”

General Manager Gigi Despojo said: “It is important to recognise the hard work of our staff here at Cherry Blossom, especially with the year we have had as a country. For the past ten years, we have provided a caring home for our residents as well as the best possible environment for our staff. Today not only enables us to celebrate their hard work, but it’s also an opportunity to thank the residents, their relatives and friends who have made Cherry Blossom such a loving home.”

**STAFF AT LOCAL CARE HOME AMONG FIRST TO RECEIVE VACCINE**

Staff at Cherry Blossom Manor were delighted to be invited to have the Covid-19 vaccination. This has lifted everyone’s spirits after what was a very challenging year.

General Manager, Gigi Despojo, said: “We’ve had a year like no other and the vaccine feels like the light at the end of the tunnel. Our teams have been magnificent in how they have risen to every challenge during this pandemic and we are proud to play our part in this next phase to ensure the most vulnerable are protected.”



Angela MacQuillin, staff member at Cherry Blossom Manor, said: “I am so pleased to be given the vaccine. It will help to keep our residents safe, and is the first step in getting things back to normal and having a buzz of visitors in the home once again.”

We are welcoming new residents into our homes to ensure that we are there



for those who need care and support and we have very clear protocols that must be met, including a transition period into our home to help keep everyone safe. Please do give us a call on 01256 886436 if you are looking for care or need any further help.

Gigi Despojo, General Manager at Cherry Blossom  
[cherryblossom@barchester.com](mailto:cherryblossom@barchester.com)



**Bramley Church of England Primary School: A new year, a new lockdown**

After a fun-filled festive end to 2020, we find ourselves starting 2021 in a familiar situation. Our school gates remain open, but only to a few. The spring term is off and running but in a different way than we planned. It's another lockdown but this one has a very different feel to it.

After the Prime Minister's announcement at 8pm on Monday 4 January, it was full steam ahead writing letters to parents and emails to staff trying to implement provision for those pupils eligible to attend school as well as those accessing remote learning. I feel that it is important to share just how amazing the staff team have been here at Bramley. From the Office team to the teachers, and the learning support staff to the Site Manager, everyone has worked tirelessly to ensure that the education and care we provide for our children continues to be effective, enabling them to make progress and feel part of the school.

My highlight of the week is delivering the whole school collective worships on Monday mornings. It really is a privilege to 'Zoom' into the living rooms across Bramley and beyond. It is wonderful to see so many faces and smiles. The benefits of Zoom stretch beyond the assemblies. On a daily basis, teachers take great pleasure in hosting a class 'briefing' with the children not attending school. These also have been well attended and great fun. The teachers enjoy sharing their experiences with colleagues and enjoy thinking up various challenges for the children.

**Parents: we have such respect for you as you juggle home-schooling. Here is something practical to help.**

**Stories:** Do your children like them?

**When:** Every Tuesday 1:30-1:50pm during school lockdown.

**What:** Interactive Bible stories

**Who:** Keith and Linda Dilliway, and maybe other DBS checked team members, on [zoomingotb@gmail.com](mailto:zoomingotb@gmail.com)

**How:** Via Zoom Meeting ID: 849 6783 5538 Passcode: 480379

**People say:** *"a highlight of lockdown schooling"* Ms. Rogers Y6 teacher Bramley School, July 2020; *"Really enjoyed today's Open the Book zoom."* Jane Aspray, December 2020. *"Get that King Herod to do an audio book for me please."* Steph Wield, December 2020. (King Herod aka Rev'd John Lenton.)

**More info:** We have been in Bramley school for nearly five years and nearly 20% of primary schools use these Open the Book bible stories.

**Your child:** Ask them if they enjoy them. We are confident they will proclaim, "yes."

*"You're the open the book man," the sisters yelled, as they saw me outside the local shop. Returning their smile, I asked if they liked it. 'We love it,' they enthusiastically responded. We have seen their eager faces and actions on screen since Easter and they especially like doing actions and joining in.*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers of our pupils. We are fortunate to have such a supportive group who are doing an amazing job delivering remote learning. We appreciate that every family has different challenges and that our approach may not be the perfect solution for them all; however, engagement levels have been excellent and the quality of work the children are uploading has been high.

I liken the task of delivering remote learning to being at the golf driving range in the dark. We're hitting golf balls with limited idea of where they end up. It has been the skill and hard work of the teachers and the willingness of the parents and pupils to support and engage, which has meant that our pupils will continue to learn and grow.

As always, if anyone needs any help or support, please let us know.



Take care  
Mr Moore

**Let's lockdown learning!!**

Stuck for home schooling ideas and finding it a challenge to support your child with learning at home? Well @letslockdownlearning is here to help you survive home schooling in lockdown with resources, ideas and inspiration from specialist teachers! Find us on Instagram for a wealth of learning activities suitable for all ages, from Early Years to KS4. Our weekly timetable of ideas and resources features a different curriculum focus each day with accompanying free resources on our Google Drive. We are also available for message support whenever you need us and we are hosting weekly Q&A sessions with teachers from across the key stages to answer all your home-schooling questions!

We were so excited to launch this on the day of the announcement of the new lockdown and have loved helping families already, ranging from our "positivtree" initiative to our weekly "rose, bud, thorn" reflections. We wanted to help and support as many families and children in as many ways as we could and have even posted activities out to families who didn't have the time or resources of their own. If we can help you, or you're just stuck for ideas, let us know!

Find us at Instagram @letslockdownlearning or email us [letslockdownlearning@gmail.com](mailto:letslockdownlearning@gmail.com)



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## Slow-worms in the Churchyard

Wildlife habitats in churchyards provide a thriving ecosystem for many different species, including reptiles. Slow-worms are the most common reptile found.

The slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, looks like a small snake but it is actually a legless lizard. Lizards have an eyelid, which snakes do not have, and can, therefore, blink, which snakes cannot. Like other lizards it can shed its tail as a defence mechanism to avoid predation. The tail will grow back but it is never as long as the original tail. Therefore, if it is necessary to pick up a slow-worm, to move it out of danger, hold it nearer to the head end or gently scoop it up with both hands. They do have teeth but they do not bite people and are completely harmless.

Slow-worms are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is illegal to deliberately kill, injure or buy or sell slow-worms.



A male slow-worm with few markings and no dark flanks or line down the back



A female slow-worm with dark flanks and a line down her back

## Survey in Churchyard

While you have been out on your walks you may have noticed some corrugated squares in the church yard. These are part of a reptile survey being run by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group. It is expected that we shall mostly find slow worms.

There are 10 of them, their positions have been recorded using GPS, so please don't move them.

They will be checked in the warmer weather, on a regular basis, by members of the group, but if anyone would like to help them, regularly or occasionally, please contact Sheila Dyason, sheiladyason2007@yahoo.co.uk



## PILATES



### Clift Meadow Pavilion

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<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>11am-12pm</b>	<b>Mixed Group</b>
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>7-8pm</b>	<b>Ladies Only</b>
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>8-9pm</b>	<b>Mixed Group</b>
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b>7-8pm</b>	<b>Men Only</b>
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b>1.30-2.30pm</b>	<b>Mixed Group</b>

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**M**any of you will know that the MOD land in Bramley used to be the home of The Central Ammunition Depot, but did you know that it had its own church?

The Depot was served by the **Garrison Church of St. Barbara** (known locally as St. Barbara's Chapel). It was de-consecrated in the late 1970s and the register of baptisms (1956 to 1975) is now held by the National Archives, Kew. However, the stained-glass



window and panelling were moved to Bramley Church and can now be found in the Bell Tower. I am grateful to **George Aitchison** for sharing these photographs with me.

St. Barbara was the patron saint of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The Spanish word santabarbara signifies the powder magazine of a ship or fortress. It was customary to have a statue of St. Barbara at the magazine to protect the ship or fortress from suddenly exploding.



**Carol Service**

Over 100 people congregated at Clift Meadow on Sunday 20 December 2020 to sing carols and listen to Christmas readings. It was a glorious day and a real treat to be able to sing together, even if we were all in our socially-distanced family bubbles. Afterwards we enjoyed mince pies, kindly donated by the Bramley Bakery, and delicious mulled wine. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.



## Solar Farm Threat To Our Countryside

In October 2020, we wrote an article in the Silchester parish magazine concerning the proposals for a 200-acre solar farm by Enso Energy on the land of Silchester's Church Lane Farm and Bramley's Vyne Lodge Farm. These six large fields around the Bramley Frith cover most of the gap between Bramley and Silchester affecting residents of both villages, encroaching on the local area's biodiversity, archaeological heritage, breath-taking views and much-loved pathways.

For most of us who don't know an acre from an acorn, 200 acres is a lot of acres. It is about the size of 140 football pitches, which is 50 times the size of Bramley's Clift Meadow playing fields. Two Silchester Roman walled towns could fit in it!

If planning permission is granted by the twelve members of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Development Control Committee, it would become the fifth largest solar farm in England and the largest in England on agricultural land.

Of course, given climate challenges facing our planet we certainly need to increase the sustainability of our energy production in Hampshire and across the UK. However, this should be done in an appropriate manner: not on agricultural land, over half of which is designated as good quality or better, nor on prime open greenbelt, and not on top of internationally recognised Roman heritage remains. There must be more appropriate sites such as disused quarries, the roofs of buildings and poor-quality land? If built, the site would be in commission for around 30 years. It would then be deemed a brownfield site, opening the door to more new housing in the community on formerly agricultural land.

Around 50 concerned Silchester and Bramley residents submitted comments on the initial pre-screening submission. Numerous concerns were raised including the harmful visual impact hundreds of solar panels and deer fencing will have on local cherished footpaths such as The Silchester Trail and Brenda Parker Way, to concerns that water-run off may lead to more flooding. A formal planning application has now been submitted to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and it is very important that if you have concerns you submit your views so they can be taken into account. The application number is 20/03403/FUL and the application can be seen at [tinyurl.com/bramleysolar](https://tinyurl.com/bramleysolar)

In opposition of the current proposal a local residents' group has been formed to hear the views from others in the community and to coordinate a response to BDBC Planning. Through both the Village magazines for Silchester and Bramley, and our own website we plan to disseminate

information and will also produce a template letter of comment for you to use to get your personal opinion across to the planning team.

Given short timescales (consultation closes in February) we recommend to those of you interested that you take the time to familiarise yourselves with the proposed project by visiting our website or emailing [solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com) to subscribe to our updates and ask any questions you may have.

The Solar Farm Residents' Group  
[www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk](http://www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk)



Proposed Solar farm showing footpaths.

### Temporary closure of Cufaude Lane

Hampshire County Council will be undertaking ecological mitigation works on Cufaude Lane, Bramley, from just south of the entrance to Cufaude Manor for a length of approximately 500 metres to the south.

This is to enable tunnels to be built under the carriageway to protect the annual toad migration and follows the excellent work done over the years by Andrew Cleave and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight amphibian and reptile group to protect these amphibians.

The works are programmed to start on 25 January 2021 (weather permitting) and are expected to last for up to 3 weeks, during which time the road will be closed to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Access for pedestrians and cyclists will be made available, providing conditions on site at the time can allow them to pass through safely.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE  
Member for Calleva Division  
Hampshire County Council  
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**Hampshire County Council Update**

**Cllr Rhydian Vaughan,  
Calleva Division.**



**National Lockdown**

Updated National, HCC Guidance and details of key services are available via the links below. **Household Waste Recycling Centres and Country Parks remain open but residents are urged to stay local.**

[www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/general-advice](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/general-advice)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus#impacted-services>

**Police and Crime**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has launched his annual survey to ask residents their views on the policing precept of the council tax and if they would agree to an increase to support policing across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Following the announcement that Police and Crime Commissioners would have the flexibility to increase the policing precept by up to £15 a year for a Band D property for 2021/22, wider consultation is now being undertaken and residents are being encouraged to give their view. The survey can be accessed through the Commissioner’s website for your view on the policing precept of the council tax 2021-2022 - ([hampshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://hampshire-pcc.gov.uk)).

The Chief Constable and her team have made a compelling operational case for investment in policing through an increase in the council tax. An increase of up to 7.1% (29p per week based on a Band D property) would enable the force to build on what has been achieved during the last year, take the fight to criminals and start to reduce crime. An increase would enable:

- the early recruitment of 50 new police officers
- targeted operational policing to take drugs and weapons off our streets
- an increase in further prevention work, including diverting young people away from crime
- an investment in forensic capability to enable officers to get evidence to bring more offenders to justice
- continued investment in police officer wellbeing to improve productivity even further.

The public survey will be supported with online focus groups to explore residents’ views around policing priorities and levels of any increase in more depth.

**Local Transport Plan for Hampshire**

Hampshire County Council is asking for your views on the vision, desired outcomes and guiding principles behind a NEW Hampshire Local Transport Plan.

Since 2001, Hampshire’s Local Transport Plan has set the objectives, policies and strategy for transport across the County, helping people to maintain their quality of life and go about their daily business. Seven years have now passed since the Plan was last updated, and there is a need to review outcomes and design principles in the changed context of new technologies, the pandemic and increased focus on active lifestyles and the challenges of climate change.

**You are invited to influence** the early development of the new Local Transport Plan by sharing your views on the emerging:

- **Vision:** What will our transport system look like in 2050?
- **Outcomes:** What are we trying to achieve in terms of climate change, economy, the environment, and society?
- **Guiding Principles:** How will we change the way in which we plan and deliver transport?

To view more information and leave your feedback, visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

**Ash dieback**

The link below gives some helpful guidance on the responsibilities and options for landowners dealing with ash die back disease.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/en/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/ash-dieback-disease>

**RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P.**

**NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE**

None of us wanted to be here. This new strain of COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across all parts of the country though and – following scientific advice – HM Government took the difficult decision that it is safer to close down schools until it is under control.

My wife and I – like many of you – are juggling home schooling my two daughters whilst keeping up our usual work schedules – so I wholeheartedly understand the challenges this decision presents parents with.

Throughout the pandemic, children’s education has been a key priority for me. As part of the government’s commitment that no child is left behind, I am pleased to confirm that a million laptops and tablets will be delivered to schools across the country, for those who need them. To date, over 560,000 devices have been delivered to councils in England, with our students here in Hampshire benefitting from well over 1,500 devices. This – backed up by the distribution of over 54,000 4G Wi-Fi routers and updated remote education requirements for schools – means children should now be benefitting from hours of high-quality remote learning every day.

This crisis is unprecedented, as is the vaccination programme we are seeing rolled out across the United Kingdom. It is the largest our country has ever seen and the Prime Minister’s announcement that 15 million people – the over-70s, healthcare workers and those required to shield – should have been offered a vaccination by mid-February shows the vast scale to which our NHS is working. So far, we have vaccinated more people in Britain than in any other European country.

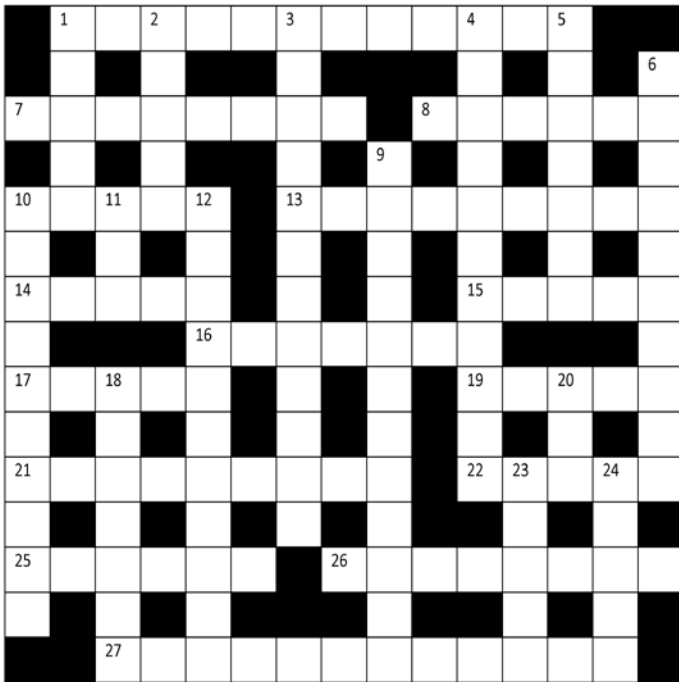
We are beating this deadly virus back and we will get there before long. We have all sacrificed so much so far – but the day is darkest before the dawn.

As ever, if I can help you, please drop me a line to: [email@ranil.uk](mailto:email@ranil.uk)



**Cryptic Crossword No: 45**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

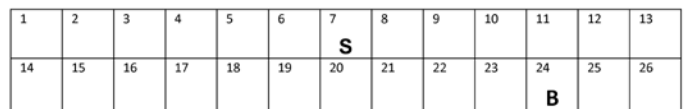
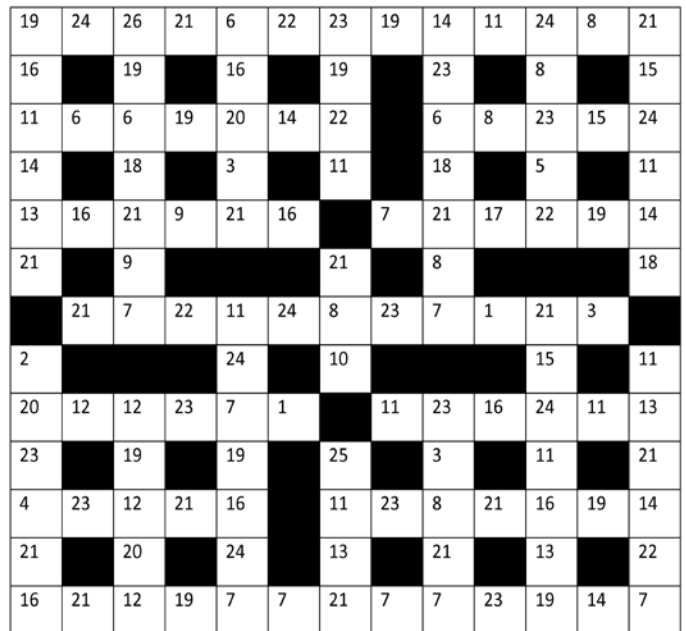
- 1 Leather workers contain fit millennial showing behaviour at dinner. (5,7)
- 7 Appropriate mixed diet you finally included for talent. (8)
- 8 To and fro licence within to romp. (6)
- 10 Get runs, maybe twenty. (5)
- 13 Newcomer I'm reflecting to give an award. (9)
- 14 Can a rebel in blue initially hide a language. (5)
- 15 Pele might conceal a resin. (5)
- 16 Lead Ray to be prepared. (7)
- 17 Within September ash. (5)
- 19 Inside a thin green object. (5)
- 21 Save crumb to arrange a plant. (9)
- 22 I taunt you to find relative. (5)
- 25 Nest in form for game. (6)
- 26 Police branch in ten arrangements to discover happening. (8)
- 27 Quit so no card can be used for Cortes, say. (12)

**Down**

- 1 Look into picking a subject. (5)
- 2 I find brie really good for finding heath. (5)
- 3 Place of manufacture sounds like Joan of Arc (4,2,6)
- 4 Ate large rye to produce beverage. (4,4,3)
- 5 Reclaim wild thing around fifty. (7)
- 6 Fiercely clever about feline and shortened hinge. (10)
- 9 Slap me in cement for gunnery positions, perhaps. (12)
- 10 Choice not declared openly. (6,4)
- 11 Alternative means to row. (3)
- 12 Look to break moat in boarding. (11)
- 18 Poetic style by Ron in charge. (7)
- 20 Particle I own now to begin with. (3)
- 23 Disentangled and German identity helped. (5)
- 24 Two fivers for a singer, perhaps. (5)

**CodeWord No: 31**

See page 31 for the answers.



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

Welcome to Spring Term 2021. We hope you all had a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Lockdown and the COVID-19 precautions meant Christmas at Little Apples was very different to normal years, but the children enjoyed a lovely party and a socially distanced entertainer, Crazy M, who brought her rabbit to see us all and had everyone dancing.

This term started with the return to full lockdown and schools closing to most pupils. At the time of writing, Little Apples remains open to all families, with enhanced precautions and an extensive cleaning regime. At the moment, none of the other groups who usually use the Village Hall are meeting.

This half term at Little Apples, we will be thinking about the cold and keeping warm and healthy. This helps with the children's learning and understanding in Physical Development. We will be doing exercises and activities which build core strength and motor skills. These are essential for sitting still and learning. We have been exploring ice and concepts such as "melting" and "frozen" as well as the characteristics



of cold weather animals. This is early science and provides the children with valuable vocabulary and the chance for interactive learning.



We have also introduced the option to have a Little Apples lunch instead of bringing a packed lunch. This is in response to concerns from the staff and

parents about the amount of salt, sugar and processed fat included in some packed lunch items. These items obviously offer convenience when putting a lunch together on a busy morning or on an emergency visit to the local shop but are not providing the children with a healthy and balanced diet when consumed every day. Our healthy lunch includes a child-sized portion of protein and wholemeal carbs, as well as several portions of fruit and vegetables.

If you are interested in finding out more about Little Apples or registering a child, please contact us on 07598 588460 or [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org). Little Apples accepts children from two years old and our website is [www.littleapples.org](http://www.littleapples.org)



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**P**robus Club member, **Chris Perkins MVO**, a retired RAF Squadron Leader, gave an insight into a **humanitarian mission** carried out in South America in November 1985.

An 18,000ft high volcano, the Nevado del Riuz, had erupted three nights previously, melting the ice cap and sending down a wave of mud and boulders to engulf the town of Armero in Columbia. The British Government had been requested to provide search and rescue assistance and humanitarian aid. The information was sketchy and our task was to augment helicopter crews flying down from a squadron detachment in the Central American country of Belize.



Nevado del Ruiz

Central America in those days was a boiling pot of revolutionary activities and the mission was frustrated by various delays. In Bogota there had been an attack by the M19 guerrillas which resulted in rigid military control. Helicopters travelling down from Belize had been refused diplomatic transit clearance by the Nicaraguan Sandinista regime and would not arrive for another 36 hours.

Arriving over Armero, we were stunned by what we saw. A town the size of Hook had all but disappeared under a covering of mud. 23,000 people had been killed or missing, swept away in the mud flow. Human and animal remains were abundant and smaller helicopters were darting about with rescue parties collecting those alive and moving them to aid posts. We made our first approach into one of these for offload, using the rising smoke from a burning mound as a signal of the wind direction. I don't think I will ever forget the smell on opening the door to land. With temperatures in the upper 30 degrees, typhoid had broken out and before effective fumigation arrived, the Columbian Army were initially burning corpses using petrol.



Working from dawn to dusk, our two helicopters transported 76,000lbs of supplies. The ever-present dust and layers of volcanic ash covered everything and made approaches to the confined landing sites in mountain villages extremely hazardous. Ample muscle was essential to aid the offload of supplies and prevent unwanted passengers climbing on board to escape the area. On one heavily loaded sortie, a reporter from the BBC was enlisted to give a hand. With camera and mike capturing both picture and sound, he unwittingly recorded an interesting arrival at the 7500 ft Villahermosa football pitch in 40-degree temperatures. This was shortly aired back home, embarrassingly with no 'bleeps'.

Once back in Belize our detachment business carried on as normal supporting the British Army and Belize Defence Force in a deterrent role against possible invasion from Guatemala. The flying logbook always proves to be invaluable against fast-fading memories and I see that there's a note on an entry for the 23 December. It involved a re-supply sortie to a remote army post on the Guatemala border. During the flight back to base we clandestinely paused on a pine-covered ridge to source Christmas trees in aid of seasonal festivities.

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



Trying to free a boy called Omayra Sanchez



If dry January drove you **Hopping Mad** and you've got some catching up to do, this month's article by **John Stubbs** may give you a few tips on brewing your own.

I guess there's a whole lot of things much valued by a Bramley villager around hundred years back, that most of us now wouldn't recognise as any use at all. Acorns might have fetched a shilling a bushel. Hazelnuts, sweet chestnuts, wild fruit perhaps – they would have been sources of winter food, in the days when a shop might carry a few dozen items, rather than the 40 thousand odd that we now expect in a supermarket. But this one's neither nut nor fruit – it's a flower: why would anyone be at all interested, when there's a household to run and no tap water, no fridge and no Waitbury's?

But, of course, it's no ordinary flower – and strictly it's more a sort of non-woody cone than a bloom. The reason hops would have been so familiar was that water quality, without mains-supply treatment, would have been just a bit dodgy. Different wells, dry spells, changes in run-off from farm and field would have been a constant problem, quite apart from what might happen if puss really did fall in. Though locals would acquire, one way or another, some tolerance of their normal mixture, plain Adam's Ale would not have been the drink of choice. In 1871 at least three in Bramley died of typhoid – typically a water-borne disease.

By present-day standards, each farm would have been very self-sufficient – a trip to the market would have been quite an event, and not for stocking up with drinks. Brewing was routine: ale was the norm, 'small ale' with an alcohol content of around 1% would have been served to all at mealtime, children included. The low strength exempted it from excise duty, and it offered some antibacterial action without much chance of inebriation. The brewing process, however, carried out in the wash-house outside, or round the back of the kitchen would have been very much rule-of-thumb and local custom. Little would have been available to help measuring the temperatures, the strength of the ingredients or the amounts used: natural yeasts would vary, and storage must have been problematic. Boiling the water would have been beneficial but, all in all, the results would have been a bit random and liable to all sorts of variables, particularly in the mix of herbs sometimes used to flavour and stabilise the ale – referred to by continental brewers as the 'gruit'.

As far as I know, there's never actually been a hops war – but for a moderately common climbing plant, they do seem to generate rather more than their fair share of dissent amongst brewers. The thing is that up until around the mid-18thC, while hops may have been used, other herbs formed the greater part of any additions to the essential water, grain malt, and yeast used in brewing. They included flavourings, bittering agents and preservatives – all useful and fairly well understood for their part in making a good ale. With the increasing influence of the larger German brewers, the sale of gruit over there became very profitable. Obviously a good wheeze, licensing the confidential recipes was adopted on the continent as an ecclesiastical monopoly affording a steady stream of income, until folk found alternatives. To preserve the monopoly, hopped beers were then prohibited, until Protestant Reformers (so 'tis said) entered the fray,

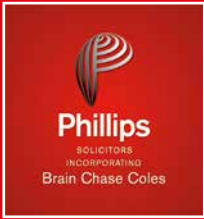


promoting hops as less exciting than for instance bog-myrtle and wormwood, and gruit ales fell out of fashion.

The change spread to England, and ale made using hops came to be England's traditional beer: so hops were then taxed, of course. Hops performed most of the required functions of bitterness to counter the excess sweetness of the fermented grain, giving a flowery, scented flavour, and a bactericidal effect to reduce spoilage. Critics accused hops of leading to brewer's droop and a soporific effect: the outcome on these divisions is yet undecided.

Both barley for the malt and hops for the beer would have been grown in the parish. Though in demand and a native plant, hops would not have been an easy crop: to be commercial it needs correct irrigation, proper supporting trelliswork and careful, labour-intensive harvesting. The cones then have to be precisely dried and stored for use throughout the year; Bramley boasted several hop kilns, until falling prices made them unprofitable, around the beginning of the 19th C. I found the bine in the photograph quite a bit further along the hedgerow from where the hopgardens used to be. I suppose, though, it's just possible the plant had survived from stock planted back then, growing year in, year out, quite untended, unused and unnoticed.





**Are you thinking of divorce?**



**Hayley Eachus**

It goes without saying that 2020 was a very difficult year for most of us.

Indeed, the pressures of being forced to spend time together because of lockdowns and social distancing measures, job worries, financial strains and the inability to access support from family and friends have contributed to a very tough year with many people re-evaluating their lives and relationships.

Sadly, for many the coronavirus pandemic has proved to be the catalyst for couples to go their separate ways and file for divorce with perhaps Christmas arguments being the last straw.

If you are thinking about separating from your partner your first port of call should be to get some legal advice from one of our Family Law solicitors. They are on hand to offer you support and get you through the divorce process.

At Phillips, we know only too well that it can be a deeply emotional, upsetting and difficult time.

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Our solicitors will listen to your concerns and discuss your options, letting you know what your rights are, as well as those of your former partner.

We can also assist you through family mediation if you prefer, through Haymarket Family Mediation which is part of Phillips.

For many people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties about children or finances than going to court. It empowers separating couples to make their own decisions together.

Our objective is to help you as quickly and effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family.

Whatever the issue you face this New Year, we can help you and your family find a way forward.

To find out more about our Divorce or Separation legal services please call Hayley Eachus on 01256 854633, email [hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk) or visit [www.phillips-law.co.uk/family](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk/family) During these difficult times our Town Gate office in Basingstoke is temporarily closed to visitors unless by prior appointment when meeting in person is essential.

However, thanks to our lawyers being able to work remotely, Phillips remains fully open for business and can discuss your legal matters by telephone and video, such as by using Zoom.



**LATEST LOCKDOWN.** Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of another lockdown? Why not join one of our Zoom lectures. We are the Basingstoke branch of The Arts Society and we have moved our programme of monthly lectures on to Zoom during lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from Arts Society registered lecturers on a wide range of topics. We are inviting anyone who is interested to join us at these lectures which are live on Wednesdays at 10.45 am. Lectures last for one hour and there is an opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

At Christmas we watched video clips from a Royal Ballet production of The Nutcracker whilst a member of their orchestra treated us to a unique glimpse of how things worked backstage.

On February 17th we will be learning about **Fakes and Forgeries: The Art of Deception** from a former specialist police detective. Or if you prefer to learn about a topic in more detail we have a Study Day on February 24th from Peter Medhurst entitled **Paintings inspired by Music and Music inspired by Painting** who will discuss and analyse a range of magnificent paintings as well as giving us a live recital. Lectures cost £5 and Study Days cost £15 for non-members

For more information on these and future lectures and to register for either of these events visit; [theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk](http://theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk)

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<b>Mondays</b>	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>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>	Primary School Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 6.30pm &amp; 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga with Sam 6.45pm &amp; 8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

<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>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pregnancy yoga 6.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Activ8 youth club Years 3,4,5 and 6: 4pm - 5.30pm Years 7 8 and 9: 5.30pm - 7pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Petite Dance 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>	Cross House
<i>Muddy Fingers 10:00 - 10:50am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Pilates 11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall

<b>Sundays</b>	
<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley</i>	

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

### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramleypc.co.uk parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@gmail.com	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Colette Bibby		colette@bdyc.org.uk	
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	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	John Huntingdon		john.huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/loddonsports/">https://sites.google.com/site/loddonsports/</a>	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hatha Yoga	Jacqui Morris	07539 432228	jacqui.morris28@gmail.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyfingersgardenclub.co.uk	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
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		
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
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	
o-5s club	Olivia Shepherd	07976 131638	Omshep@outlook.com	



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**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

**Cryptic Crossword No: 45 Solution**

24	TENOR	27	CONQUISTADOR
23	UNDIR	26	INCIDENT
20	ION	25	TENNIS
18	BYRONIC	22	AUNTY
12	EMBARRATION	21	VERBASCUM
11	OR	19	THING
10	SECRETVOTE	17	EMBER
9	EMPLACEMENTS	16	ALREADY
6	SCATHINGLY	15	ELEMI
5	SALVAGE	14	CARIB
4	EARTGRETTEA	13	IMMIGRANT
3	MADEINFRANCE	10	SCORE
2	BRIER	8	FROLIC
1	TOPIC	7	APITUDE
		1	TABLEMANNERS

Across

Down

**CodeWord No: 31 Solution**

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

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