

May 2025

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Meet our MP**
- **New kitchen for Cross House**
- **Goodbye Selworthy**

**Flower Festival – St James' Church
Bramley: 8, 9 and 10 May
10.30am – 4.30pm**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

May 2025

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

Editorial

We all love a good moan occasionally, especially on the Bramley Community Facebook page! I sometimes moan about the rival Community Ad magazine, complaining that the only truly local articles are often repeats of items from this magazine, published a month late! The many planning applications in our area can lead to frustration and the preparation work for the Stocks Farm development has already begun, as you can see on page 16. Roadworks and road closures are another cause of frustration, so do read Rhydian Vaughan's article on page 21 explaining how Hampshire County Council get involved. Seeing our verges blighted with litter also annoys me, so it was heartening to see young and old come together to tidy up our village last month. As you will see on page 10, some interesting items were found during the litter pick – it looks as if people don't just throw rubbish out of car windows but leave bits of their vehicles behind too!

But enough of this negativity! It's May, one of my favourite months of the year: the days are getting longer, we have the whole of summer in front of us and there are two bank holidays to enjoy. If you are thinking of going away for a long weekend then take a look at the magazine first as there are lots of things going on in the village you won't want to miss. Early in the month we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the day victory in Europe was declared after 5½ years of war. St James' Church will be holding a specially themed flower festival, while Sherfield is holding a VE Day Supper. 8 May 1945 was probably the only time the late Queen was able to escape the confines of the royal family and mingle incognito with ordinary people. She called it 'one of the most memorable nights of my life.' She and her sister were given permission by their father, King George VI, to join the crowds celebrating in London, although he insisted they were accompanied by a group of 16 highly trustworthy members of the royal household. Apparently they went out of one of the back doors of Buckingham Palace and joined the crowds in the Mall. They walked down Whitehall and even joined in a conga outside the Ritz!

Rev. Anderson is looking forward to summer too and I am hoping his optimism about warmer days is well-founded as we will need good weather for the Beating the Bounds walk on bank holiday Monday, the Bramley fete on 17 May and the outdoor Songs of Praise on the 18th. There is more information about all these events on pages 7, 8, 9 and 13. Our MP, Alex Brewer, will be at the fete and you can learn a bit more about her in the Meet the Neighbours feature on pages 8 and 9.

There's lots to read so I hope you enjoy this issue.

Rachel

Joint Editor

Addition to the editorial team

I am delighted to say that my co-editor, Georgie, is pregnant and expecting her first baby in September. She will be editing the next magazine but will then be taking a break to spend time with her precious new arrival. We are therefore looking for an additional person to join the magazine editorial team. Please contact us on editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk if you are interested in finding out more. This is a voluntary role

"I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, and all of us were swept along by tides of happiness and relief."

Queen Elizabeth II remembering VE Day, 1945

Cover Photo: Sunrise over Bramley by Jan Nice

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

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Benefice Services

Church diary for May...

4th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
11th	4th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
18th	5th Sunday of Easter
10.30	Songs of Praise Open Air Service – Clift Meadow
25th	6th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

...and into June

1st	7th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
8th	Day of Pentecost - Whit Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
15th	Trinity Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James

Church diary for May...

4th	3rd Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.00	Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
11th	4th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
18th	5th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
25th	6th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard's, Sherfield

...and into June

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8th	Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield
15th	Trinity Sunday
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
11.00	Songs of Praise Open Air Service – Sherfield Village Green

From the Registers

Baptism

Jordan Smith 13th April 2025 St James' Church

New deliverers wanted!

We are still looking for new deliverers for some of the streets off Campbell Road. There are 115 homes but we are looking to split the round between two or three deliverers. We also need a new deliverer for the area around St James' Church. If you can help or would like more information, please email Rachel and Georgie on editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk Thank you

General Practice Community Cancer Aware Day

Tuesday 20th May 2025
(11:00-15:00)



Whitewater Loddon Primary Care Network

Representing our three partner practices; Whitewater Health (Hook & Hartley Wintney), Chineham Medical Practice and Clift Surgery, we are delighted to invite our patients to our Community Cancer Aware Day, to talk to our healthcare professionals, GPs and support services:

Speak to our advisors

- ✓ Victoria's Promise
- ✓ Princess Royal Trust for Carers
- ✓ North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group
- ✓ 5K Your Way
- ✓ Basingstoke Sports Centre Cancer Rehab
- ✓ Ark Cancer Centre Charity
- ✓ Heartburn Cancer UK
- ✓ Hartley Wintney Volunteer Care Group
- ✓ Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group
- ✓ The Pink Place
- ✓ Local GPs
- ✓ Basingstoke Aquadrome Cancer Rehab
- ✓ Hook Surgery Patient Participation Group

Snacks and refreshments can be purchased onsite at Hartletts Café

ALL WELCOME!!

**Drop in
throughout the day!**

Speak to our advisors

Listen to our talks

**11:00-11:45
"Minimising Risk
& Early Signs"**

**12:00-12:45
"Experiencing Cancer"**



**14:00-14:45
"Your Cancer Questions"**

Hook Community Centre Ravenscroft, Hook RG27 9NN

Limited parking available
If possible, please arrive on foot, by
public transport (15-minute walk
from Hook railway station),
or car share

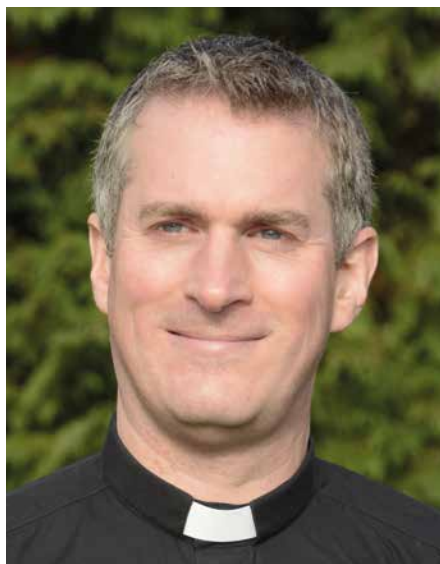
"Healthcare Connecting with the Wider Community to Empower Patients & Practices"

Summer is coming

We've had our first BBQ of the season. It was on the second weekend of April and the sun had been shining enough to get the BBQ out, clean it up and make a visit to The Shop in Sherfield to get some burgers - and very nice they were too!

The days are getting longer, the sun feels warmer and we look forward to the summer events in our village: the Fete, the Church Flower Festival and several other village events too. Cricket is played, gardens are enjoyed, BBQs are lit and pub gardens are sat in. Summer is often a time to relax with friends and family enjoying the sun and the company. What a joy it is to see people gather together in the village, to enjoy and celebrate life together.

When communities come together at these events, when families are reunited for a holiday or a visit, this place we call home, feels more like home. It's where friends and family are, and have been for many years, decades and even generations. It's where we belong. Weddings of members of village families are celebrated at our church - people like to know they belong somewhere. Even when younger generations have moved away they return because they feel they belong to this community, they have roots here. We welcome



Rev'd Mark Anderson

new families moving into the parish, whose children are being baptised in the church. These are times when families are saying publicly that they identify with a community, making it their home: we hope for many years and perhaps several generations to come.

Where we consider to be our home originates from where we feel we belong. It's important to our own wellbeing and our sense of who we are - our identity. In a world full of uncertainty, where events can quickly and easily overtake us, our

sense of place is even more important. Despite the ever-changing nature of modern life, the uncertainty of our nation and the world, our home should be a place where we can find stability and peace. We belong to the community of a village which has been (for many centuries) and is and will continue to be. The village church of St James is a physical reminder of this tradition over the centuries and even millennia. We can say: this little piece of God's green earth is ours. And yet we are only custodians for future generations, stewards of this small and beautiful area of land, which God has given to us to care for and look after while we are here. We all need to do our part in keeping this community going, serving the common good, for the sake of others. You are always welcome to sit in the church (open during the day) or the churchyard, where many people have found a sense of peace and tranquility.

Over the summer months, as we sit in our gardens, as we travel around the village, as we go on holiday and then return home, let's be thankful to God, to previous generations and to this present community for all that is stable and beautiful and good about where we live: a place which feels like home.

Rev'd Mark Anderson
Vicar, St James Bramley

St James' Church, Bramley

Flower Festival

**Celebrating the 80th
Anniversary of VE Day**

To be held on

8th, 9th and 10th May 2025

10.30am – 4.30pm



Tea and Home Made Cakes

In Cross House

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Sales Table including Handicrafts,

Cakes and Preserves

Raffle



This Bank Holiday Monday (5th May), come and undertake the tradition of beating our parish boundaries. A cross-country group walk around Sherfield-on-Loddon, Bramley, Hartley Wespall and Stratfield Saye.

Starting with breakfast (09:00–09:30) at St Leonards church (on A33 between Sherfield village and Sherfield Park), we will depart at 10:00 for a 12 mile route finishing with a BBQ at St James, Bramley at about 16:00.

All are welcome, for all or just part of it, and at the events at either end. We should be at The Wellington Arms (on the A33), the halfway point, at around 12:30.

The route uses scenic rural footpaths and quiet roads. It aims to avoid overly soft ground, but please consider your abilities and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Dogs are welcome but leads are needed.

Please share any queries and your intention to attend with admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk, or in the comments of related social media posts.

Bramley & Little Loddon are pleased to welcome **Alex Brewer MP** to our Summer Fete this month, so **Meet the Neighbours** thought we should get to know her.



Alex Brewer

So Alex, what is it that motivated you to stand for Parliament, and why for North-East Hampshire?

I've always been interested in politics. But believe it or not, my first thoughts of standing for Parliament were in a court room.

I was supporting victims of domestic abuse and helping them navigate services that seemed to be broken – from housing to health, it was so hard for them to get what they needed at a time when they needed it most. It occurred to me that I might be able to help improve those systems.

This desire to improve life for local people is also why I wanted to represent North East Hampshire, specifically. This area has been my home for a decade and my family and I have our lives embedded here. So, it made sense to want to represent this area.

What do you like most about the area?

There's such a strong sense of community here that we very quickly got settled and fell in love with the area. Our children are in local schools, and we got to know other families quickly. We caught the area's infectious community spirit, getting involved in community work as a means of giving back. But the physical place is also so beautiful with so many options for a Sunday walk in the country, and a pub or cafe to stop at along the way. Really, what's not to like?

Understanding that your party is not currently in Government, what do you most hope/intend to influence in your first term?

There are so many ways to have an impact as an MP, but I am first and foremost here for you – the constituents of North East Hampshire. Whether that's progressing casework or listening to the needs of business and community groups, it's local people who elected me.

Issues that affect all of us, such as the rebuilding of our hospital or the protection of our chalk stream rivers are things I am campaigning on – both of which I have asked the Prime Minister about directly. My aim is to use my voice to champion local issues.

I am also on the Women and Equalities Select Committee. This is a cross-party group of MPs, and we meet weekly to hear expert and witness testimony on a range of topics. The reports from this evidence-gathering go to the Government with recommendations, so this is a good way to have influence. Most recently, the Government agreed to introduce miscarriage bereavement leave to employment rights legislation, recognising that this is a time to grieve, not an illness.



Meeting constituents is essential work for an MP in our system of government

Bramley Fete Clift Meadow 12 – 4pm Saturday 17th May

Climbing Wall, Childrens Tent, Dog Show, Live Music, Tombola, Craft Stalls, Homemade Produce, Art, Local Clubs and Charities
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Would you please tell us something about your background prior to becoming our MP?

I grew up in Devon but left to go on my first gap year to Germany before attending Durham University. After graduating, I spent a year teaching English in Japan and then moved to London and started a career in Corporate Communications. I still had itchy feet though, and moved to Australia for what I thought might be a third gap year. But it turned into a much longer trip when I secured a job working with technology companies, which I loved.

But the draw of home was too much, and in 2014 I moved back to the UK with my husband and our two young children. I made a deliberate move into the charity sector for work, and we haven't looked back since.

How did you find life outside the UK – Japan, Germany and Australia must be quite different experiences?

I have been privileged to live and work in four countries on three continents. Moving overseas is daunting, but I learned so much along the way. I just wish I could remember more of the languages!

One thing I have learned is that no matter where you go, the vast majority of people want the same thing – to live a healthy life in peace; to work, have fun, and spend time with people they love. Our differences tend to be largely superficial and that is extremely reassuring.



Addressing the House of Commons



What advice would you give to any budding young politicians amongst our readership?

100% of MPs stood for Parliament. It seems obvious, but you really do have to put yourself out there, and it can take a long time. Anyone can be an MP, and it's very important that Parliament reflects the communities it serves.

But that's not the only way to use your political skills. There are thousands of people who work for and with MPs, you can stand for your local Council or have an entirely different job and volunteer your time instead. It's also very important to get experience outside of politics, so don't worry if life doesn't seem to be taking you straight there.

No matter what your career choices, politics affects everything. How much tax you pay, what happens to that money, your education, your healthcare, your housing, your local parks, even when the bins are collected. So, no matter whether or not you're political, please do make sure you vote.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

Yes! I'm really looking forward to attending your Summer Fete, and hope to speak to as many of you as possible – if you see me, please don't hesitate to come and say hello.

The Bramley Litter Pick held on Saturday 12 April was a community success as Jan Wright reports.

Thank you to everyone who made the Bramley Litter Pick Event a huge success.



Litter pickers and hi-vis jackets at the ready

Over 15 bags of rubbish were collected, with a few oddments that included a hub cap and fire extinguisher.

The young people from all sections in the Scout Group were out in force, fully uniformed and in hi-vis doing their bit for the community. With the added incentive of some badges and free juice, they showed how volunteering can be both meaningful and fun.



Time to find that litter

At the risk of sounding like an Oscar acceptance speech, Bramley Scout Group would like to thank the following people because, without their help, the day wouldn't have gone ahead:

- Bramley Greener Homes, Wilder Bramley and The Bramley Show for joining the litter pick and making it a rich and varied community event;
- The lovely ladies of the Village Community Café who once again gave up their time to serve refreshments to all those who attended;
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who lent us good quality litter pickers and collected the rubbish on the day;
- Clift Meadow Trustees who allowed us to use the Pavilion as a base with no cost;
- Dave Pugh who sponsored the refreshments on the day;
- And finally, the biggest thank you of all goes to all of you in the village who not only took part in the litter pick on the Saturday, but who go around regularly picking up rubbish that has been discarded, the unsung heroes who do so much to keep our village clean.



Over 15 bags of rubbish were collected

Bramley thrives on its volunteers, from us in the Scout Group, to people who pick up litter, volunteer drivers who help transport people to their destinations, the organisers of activities like The Bramley Show, the Bramley Fete and the school fireworks, Clift Meadow Trustees, the Wednesday morning Community Café, the Parish Council, and so many more.

And truthfully, volunteering isn't just about giving — it feels good too! While your appreciation means the world, sometimes what we need most is a helping hand. So, if you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time. Please consider supporting one of Bramley's many volunteer organisations — you'll be joining wonderful teams of people who care deeply about our village.



Wilder Bramley and Bramley Greener Homes were also present

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Cllr Chris Flooks brings us this month's update from **Bramley** **Parish Council**

We do not need reminding that there are lots of ongoing building works in and around the village, although we will probably never meet the expectations of our rapidly expanding population. At least the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy from developers to spend, with certain constraints, on infrastructure projects around the parish.

Firstly some good news: Redrow have agreed to move the houses on their development at Stocks Farm some 5-10 metres away from The Street. More was not possible due to constraints of hedges, trees etc. Thanks to Councillor Malcolm Bell for his persistence on this matter. We still have major concerns about surface water and foul drainage on the site and are awaiting a response from the Lead Flood Authority. Planning officers at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council are also being kept informed.

In the same area, Bramley Parish Council is receiving reports of excess noise from the battery farm on Minchens Lane, although this seems to have improved recently. Any further reports should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.

uk who will collate them and pass them to the relevant authority.

The road works on Minchens Lane are progressing and are expected to last until mid May. HCC Highways are improving passing places, and general maintenance is ongoing. It seems that Bramley has been diversion central recently and we continue to press for more co-ordination of road works or at least more information on such. Upcoming roadworks that we are made aware of are posted weekly on the Bramley PC Facebook page - www.facebook.com/BramleyPC, and it is always worth keeping an eye on <https://one.network/public>

The improvements to Grays Meadow allotments have made a huge difference to the area. Work is still awaited on the pathways, which will take place later in the year. Thanks to Councillor Sue Howell.

The footpath across Clift Meadow has seen the completion of the first phase of improvement. This was funded by developer contributions via Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. There are plans to further improve the pathway leading down to the Bramley Inn, but this is a large project and will take some time to come to fruition.

Work on the Parish Green at Longbridge Road is ongoing. Much of the undergrowth has now been cleared, and the paths have been temporarily

improved. Care was taken not to disturb nesting birds throughout the work. The cleared areas have now been seeded with grass seed, and now it is a waiting game for the seed to get established.

To our readers in Vyne Park, please could we ask for any feedback on this magazine and its contents – just contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.

Upcoming meetings – the next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 May 2025, with the Annual Meeting and full council meeting on Tuesday 20 May 2025. Both are to be held in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall. More details will be on the Bramley Parish Council website in due course – www.bramley-pc.gov

Contacts

Bramley Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Maxta Thomas,
email clerk@bramley-pc.gov,
phone 07810 692486

Bramley PC website – www.bramley-pc.gov

Bramley PC Facebook page

– www.facebook.com/BramleyPC

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

– website www.basingstoke.gov, phone
01256 844844

Good for planning issues, reporting fly tipping issues, issues with local playgrounds.

Hampshire County Council

– website www.hants.gov

Good for reporting highways and footpaths issues (including potholes), broken street lights, parking issues, and flooding issues.

Bramley SpeedWatch

If you would like to become a member of the SpeedWatch Group and help make Bramley roads safer, please contact Bramley SpeedWatch on bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com. Without your support the scheme will be unable to function. Full training will be provided by Hampshire Police.

Don't forget to pop in and see us at the Bramley Fete. Have a go on the Great Bramley Run and see how fast you can run; the top speed last year was 16 mph. Do you think that you can do better? It's free and there will be some giveaways for the runners.

Have a think: Was it you that was recorded 13 times by the camera travelling over 35mph during March?

Camera Data (January - March):

Month/Year	Verified Speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest Hour	Illegal Vehicles
Jan 2025	593	5	1pm	21
Feb 2025	963	9	12pm	32
March 2025	1931	13	6pm	37

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

Four manned deployments were undertaken during March and 44 vehicles (8%) were reported to the Police from the 522 vehicles checked. Top speed recorded was 46mph

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email: bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com, speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk, or visit: www.hampshire.police.uk.

Keep Safe and Watch Your Speed
**Graham White, Bramley
SpeedWatch Co-ordinator**

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (March):

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph	Average speed
Farriers	31	West	51%	6	31
The Street by Churchlands	31	East	46%	12	30

Little Apples

At Little Apples, we were all so thrilled to see the wonderful weather before we broke up for the Easter holidays. Whilst we spend a lot of time outside whatever the weather, the recent sunshine has really shown off our beautiful garden at its best.

The children have had a wonderful time developing their gross motor skills on our obstacle course and engaging in a beanbag throwing activity which combines physical development and number recognition.

In our mud kitchen, the children have had the opportunity to explore a range of media for pretend cooking and sensory play, including rice in a variety of colours, oats and cous cous. It's fascinating to see the wonderful concoctions they come up with, sometimes the more disgusting the better!

The wonderful weather has really brought spring to Little Apples and the children loved hunting for the signs of spring. Birds, bugs and butterflies are regular visitors, especially as our vertical spring flower garden offers so many wonderful colours to encourage pollinators. We have also set up more bug hotels and natural habitats around the garden to develop this further. It helps the children's understanding of the world and teaches them about the need to protect our environment. A spring flower meadow has also been planted with the children's help, and we are monitoring the progress of that with excitement.

Add to this list of teaching and learning some traditional activities of hopscotch, construction toys, trikes and dancing and our garden really does come to life as a wonderful space for the children.

Finally, at the end of term, our Little Apples loved the excitement of hunting for Easter eggs around the garden, before re-hiding them and finding them all over again!

If you're interested in finding out more about Little Apples, especially if you would like to register a child for next academic year, please do get in touch. Contact Jo on 07598 588460 or manager@littleapples.org if you would like to have a visit or a chat.

Are you receiving your magazine?

If you or someone you know is not receiving the Bramley magazine (or you are receiving more than one) please email editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk. We have had a few changes of deliverers recently and want to make sure all the delivery rounds are correct. Thank you.



Royal British Legion

We are looking forward to the remembrance and celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May.



Everyone in Bramley and Little London is warmly invited to join us for a VE80 Community Supper in Sherfield Village Hall at 6.30pm on Friday 9 May. The meal is FREE but you are invited to make a donation when you have enjoyed it! We have a raffle with really good prizes and also an auction for some exciting items. We will also listen to Churchill's speech announcing the end of WW2 in Europe.

Some members will be attending the Colonel's Review of Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade on 7 June. This is the final rehearsal for the King's Birthday Parade which is the following Saturday, 14 June.

There is still time to book for our trip to the Somme battlefields in early September.

If you would like to join this short visit, full details can be found by contacting our Branch Chairman, Rhyddian Vaughan MBE, who is a registered Battlefield Guide, on 07774 681516.

John Morley

Branch Vice Chairman
Bramley.ViceChair@rbl.community

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Bramley WI

As part of the Millennium celebrations, Clift Meadow Trust donated an area of land that could be designed and planted as a garden for the local villagers to enjoy.

It was quite a challenge for the original volunteers (Maureen Cole, the late Phyl Davis and the late Pat Jones) creating a new garden from scratch.

The task eventually proved too much for the original team of volunteers and Bramley WI took over management of the garden in 2005 as part of the Community Volunteering initiative.



Amazingly, it's now been twenty years in which time the space has been transformed into the beautiful garden you see today.

During this time we were grateful to receive grants from The Parish Council and Clift Meadow Trust that enabled us to purchase a number of new shrubs and perennials.

In addition to this, a number of Bramley WI members have donated plants from their own gardens.

We are very thankful for all the support we have received over the years that has enhanced the development of the garden to the colourful border you now see.

WI volunteers receive such a boost when people walk by and say how beautiful the garden is. They also try and answer questions on the names and care of plants.

Our aim is to continue to provide a colorful, welcoming garden to all those that pass by, including dog walkers, children and maybe those in need of a lift, following a visit to the local Doctors surgery.

Our WI volunteers meet at the garden each Wednesday morning from March to October from 10am for an hour or so, unless it's raining. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you have the time and feel able to help, we would love to see you.



As it is our 20th Anniversary year, please make an extra effort to come along and enjoy our garden.

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Stocks Farm Development

So, that's the end of Selworthy! One day there's a large, detached house on The Street and the next day it's a pile of rubble. The house has been demolished so that a new road can be built to access the new development of 140 houses. Here are a few photos of demolition day.



Selworthy



A pile of rubble



A new view.....for a while



The JCB arrives



During demolition
(with thanks to
Chris Marsh)

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Pupil Voice

At Bramley School, we have three aims which sit beneath our school values of Compassion, Friendship and Respect. Our aim is for every child who leaves our school to go into the world being confidently me, wanting to make a difference and to show kindness to all.

Throughout their time in school, pupils have the opportunity to develop their confidence and their 'voice' by taking on a leading role.

In September, we elected our Eco student council across the school. Children needed to prepare a short speech for their classmates who then voted for the best people to represent their class. Our Eco council team meet regularly with Miss Porter to discuss key actions for the school. They have recently completed a survey within classes to assess how environmentally friendly we are as a school. They will now feedback within their meetings to develop ideas on how we could adapt how we work as a school to support our local environment. They have also visited local sites such as Ewhurst Park to work with their rangers and learn more about bio-diversity.

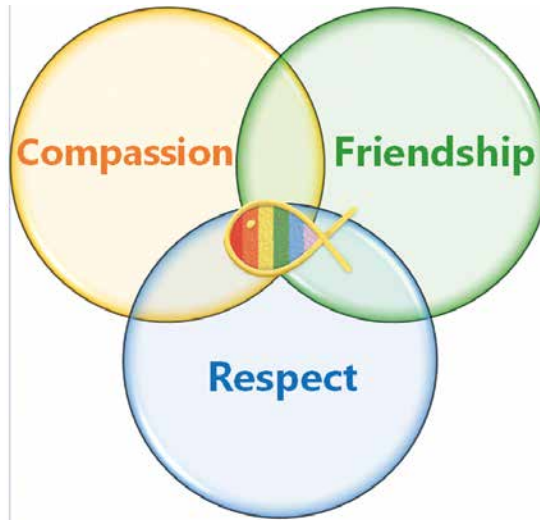
As a higher accolade, our Year 6 children have the opportunity to campaign and be elected as House Captains. These children are the beacons of our school values of Compassion, Friendship & Respect. We call upon our House Captains for many extra duties throughout the year, however their biggest job is to be a role model to their peers and younger children. The 'competition' is high for these roles as we have so many children who embody our values throughout their time at Bramley.



Our EARA representatives are selected from children in Year 5 and 6. Equality and Rights Advocates attend termly meetings with the Hampshire lead to help them continue to develop our school as a place where everyone feels represented, valued and respected. They lead school assemblies and work with Miss Thomson to discuss how inclusive we

are as a school and share ideas on how we can support those who need it. The key message of EARA is that it is Equity, not Equality that is important – giving those who need something different what they need to thrive.

Play Leaders are newer roles within Bramley. For some of our younger children, having fun at lunchtime can be tricky: it's a very long time for some, they can lose their friends on the playground or they may struggle with sharing equipment. Our play leaders took part in district training earlier in the year to be able to lead younger children in a variety of games and to help encourage even the most shy to take part and have fun. Wearing their red vests also helps children who are



***Being confidently me**

***Showing kindness to all**


***Making a difference**

in need of a friend to spot them and know they can join in.

We also have the roles of JRSOs – Junior Road Safety Officers. Again, this group of children are able to attend county training to support them in understanding what can make our roads and our journeys potentially dangerous and how we can help others to stay safe. They work as a team to understand difficulties within our local area and lead assemblies on how children (and their families) can stay safe. Initiatives like the Be Bright, Be Seen poster competitions are led by our JRSOs.

Finally, we have our Librarians – they are the font of knowledge when it comes to the organisation in the library and working the online systems. They are also diligent in making sure the books are restocked and the library is ready for each class.

One of our key aspirations is for the children to have a positive impact on the world – we hope that our promotion of 'pupil voice' and enabling children to take leading roles in aspects of school life will develop their confidence as they grow.



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Cross House cooks up a dream of a new kitchen, by Grahame Mellor

WOW!! AND WOW!! A big thank you to Dave Knights for overseeing an amazing transformation of Cross House kitchen, with relatively little inconvenience to us all.

As you can see, our new kitchen is finished to a high standard with plenty of attention to detail. Everything was stripped out and new cupboards, drawers, worktops and sinks were installed. We have two new ovens, a new hob and smart flooring. Dave Knights and Hampshire Kitchens worked very hard to give us a lovely kitchen to be really proud of, and we are very grateful to everyone involved. Now we just have to remember what's in all the new drawers!



Busy serving coffee after the 10.30 service.



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.....and after

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There was lots going on during Lent and Easter at St James' Church, Bramley.

We started with the now traditional pancake race, where the Rev Mark Anderson tried to keep order as around 35 children raced up and down the path outside Cross House. Some pancakes even stayed in the frying pan! We had a simple community supper of bread and soup on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday Cross House was packed with at least 40 children plus parents and carers who had fun making Easter crafts, creating an Easter garden and listening to the wonderful story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Nearly 120 people came to church on Easter Sunday; it was lovely to see the church so full and to admire the beautiful flower arrangements.

Here are a few photos of our activities.



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Utility works on the highway

We seem to be besieged by roadworks of late and this has resulted in a lot of irritation and quite a number of questions about why and how Hampshire County Council allow utility companies, other public bodies and development companies to work on the roads.

So, I hope it's helpful to share this Q&A which helps explain the process for granting permission and what control Highways have over these type of roadworks:

Q: What is the HCC Highway's role?

A: The Highways team is responsible for the coordination of all works and events on the public highway in order to minimise traffic disruption. The Streetworks team also monitors utility companies' activities on the public highway and checks active work sites and reinstatements for compliance with National specifications.

Q: Can utility companies legally work on the public highway?

A: Yes, they have legal duties and rights to install and maintain apparatus on the public highway. However, they have to comply with National Specifications and obtain a permit from the County Council for planned works.

Legislation gives them legal rights to install cabinets and masts (up to 15m high) on the public highway without planning permission.

Q: Can HCC stop a utility company from working on the public highway?

A: No, except under very specific circumstances, for example where a utility company wants to install new apparatus on a highly important and strategic road that has been specifically designated, by law, as a protected street.

Q: What conditions can be placed on works on the public highway?

A: The County Council can place conditions on any permit application. Conditions are used to try to minimise traffic disruption. The conditions available as part of the permit scheme are not 'free form' and are restricted to controls over works timing, works area, traffic management type and stakeholder engagement. Conditions have to be reasonable and be able to be met by the works promoter.

Q: Who decides what type of traffic management (TM) to use?

A: The works promoter is entirely responsible for selecting the most appropriate type of traffic management. They are the experts in the works they are undertaking and what the risks are. In selecting the TM type, they must consider the risks to the workforce, passing traffic (including pedestrians) and relevant legislation and Codes of Practice.

Q: Who decides what diversion routes to use when road closures are needed?

A: The works promoter is entirely responsible for selecting an appropriate diversion route. Best practice is to ensure that the diversion route uses similar roads to those closed. Unfortunately, the existing networks don't always permit this. Diversion routes are not enforceable.

Q: Who is responsible for the information provided on the permit?

A: The works promoter is ALWAYS responsible for the information they supply. The County Council must assume that it is correct when assessing the permit and determining what conditions to apply.

Q: Does granting a permit mean that the County Council approves of the works/installation?

A: No, the permit relates ONLY to the works and its impact on traffic. Approval for installing apparatus is given either by a utility company's legal rights or via the local Planning Authority.

Q: I've seen a utility leave a blacktop reinstatement in a flagstone surface. Is this allowed?

A: Yes, utility companies are allowed to use a temporary reinstatement in order to re-open a road quickly or to give them time to source specialist materials. Normally temporary reinstatements are allowed for up to 6 months, before the utility company has to reinstate the original surface.

Q: How long is a utility company responsible for its reinstatement?

A: Legislation states that a utility company is liable for any 'reasonable' repairs for two years.

Q: How much notice does the County get for works?

A: Legislation requires all works promoters to submit permit applications between 3 working days and 3 months ahead of works starting.

For 'Immediate works' (relating to safety or loss of service) there is no advance warning. Works are started and the County Council is alerted within 2 working hours.

Q: Can penalties be applied for non-compliance?

A: Yes. There are a range of penalties open to the County Council where works promoters do not comply with permit conditions.

Q: How well do utility companies comply with specifications and permit conditions?

A: Very well. In 2022 over 95% of site signage and 96% of reinstatements complied with the National specifications. 97% of utility sites comply with permit conditions. 99% of utility sites were completed on time, or early.

Q: How can I see what works are planned in the County?

A: The County Council handles all permits via a National IT system. This system automatically publishes all permits on the <https://one.network> website

Q: How many utility works are undertaken on the County's road network?

A: In the 2021/2022 financial year we processed 52,000 permit applications/changes from utility companies which resulted in 36,000 works being undertaken. The last couple of years have seen even higher numbers processed.

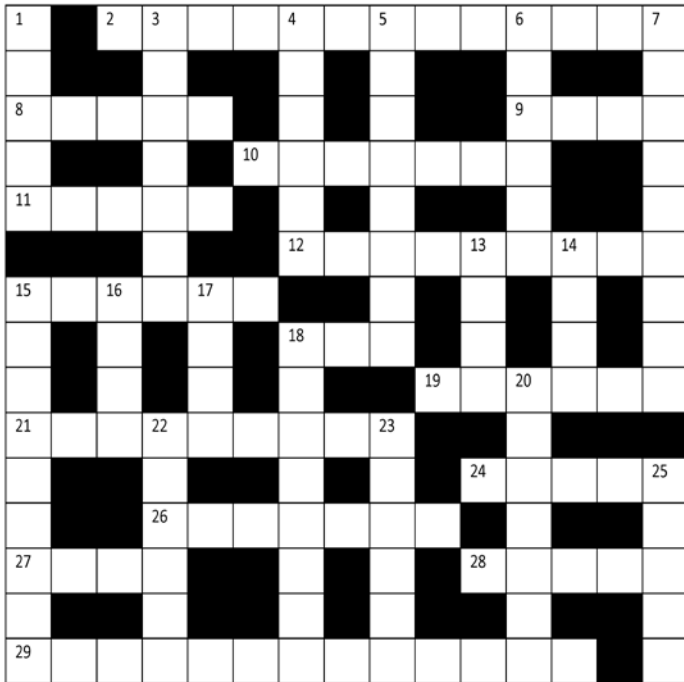
Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Calleva Division, Hampshire County Council
Fb.com/tellrhydian



Cryptic Crossword No: 88

See page 27 for the answers.



Across

- 2 A main hill cave develops into a certain personality trait. (13)
- 8 Follows ice or precedes crackers. (5)
- 9 A certain way to find a tree. (4)
- 10 Delayed lamb elated at concealment. (7)
- 11 It takes years and years to produce this type of beach. (5)
- 12 Dimension or state of intellect. (9)
- 15 NY cage arranged for office. (6)
- 18 Annoy horse. (3)
- 19 A don is a handsome chap altogether. (6)
- 21 Footwear favoured by Torvil perhaps. (9)
- 24 Mates get heated up over kettle emission. (5)
- 26 Standing on one leg, ally conceals to do it lawfully. (7)
- 27 Precedes match and follows oral. (4)
- 28 A bid everyone disguised to live with. (5)
- 29 Over the top for nut cracking perhaps. (13)

Down

- 1 Groups of wolves or what someone does with luggage. (5)
- 3 Leave or desert. (7)

- 4 Create something new by breathing in? (6)
- 5 Emptying or quitting. (8)
- 6 Guide to fix no deal. (4,2)
- 7 Beautiful hunter turned into flower. (9)
- 13 Type who are thoughtful? (4)
- 14 It is not odd to be at the same level. (4)
- 15 Save act, it turns and starts. (9)
- 16 Ledger book put to one side. (4)
- 17 The act or the person producing meals. (4)
- 18 Ant hutch changed into a bird. (8)
- 20 Month sounds like it should be the eighth of the year, but it isn't. (7)
- 22 Seasoned, when altered, lasted. (6)
- 23 Arranged models rarely. (6)
- 25 Most everyone eager to start one gathers. (5)

CodeWord No: 74

See page 27 for the answers.

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

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

Each number represents a unique letter from the alphabet and all 26 letters are used. Two letters are given to make a start.

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Butter Daisy

With the beautiful sunshine we have taken opportunities to get out and about this month. Clift Meadow and the train station are just two of the local landmarks that we like to visit when learning about the community we belong to. Some of our nursery children and educators live outside of



the village, and we have been learning lots about Bramley from those who live here.

On 'National Walking Day' Pre-School focussed on the importance of these walks, such as the positive impacts on our whole bodies. Meanwhile, our Babies and Toddlers had fun testing out different textures under their feet. This led beautifully into 'World Health Day' where we continued to learn about the importance of taking care of our bodies. Babies practiced some Baby Yoga, Toddlers learned about healthy eating (in addition to this month's theme of apples for 'Taste Education'), and Pre-Schoolers were visited by the lovely Suzanne from 'Hampshire Healthy Heroes', who excitingly revisited the importance of tooth brushing and other healthy practices.

April is also a time when we nationally celebrate our siblings and pets,

and while not everyone has one of these, it is a great opportunity to learn about cultural and social similarities and differences, and how everyone's family is unique and special. Then from bunnies as pets to the Easter Bunny. The children have celebrated Easter, alongside age and stage appropriate discussions about the Easter story too.

Finally, the children have also been observing and monitoring the seeds that they planted last month. We have seen some peculiar maths happening; in some cases two shoots have sprouted where only one seed was planted. How interesting!

If you would like to hear more about Butter Daisy Nursery, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01256 882515 or email butter@mydaisynursery.com



Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Our demonstrator on 3rd April was Kathryn Goddard. She is an Area Demonstrator from Surrey. Since retiring as a florist, she continues her love of flowers by running workshops and demonstrating her floral art in clubs in Surrey and Hampshire. She passed her NAFAS test in 2010 and has been to Bramley several times since then and has become a regular favourite. Her demonstration 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', a song from The Wizard of Oz, was a reference to songs from some of her favourite films, which included 'Breakfast at Tiffany's', 'Summer Holiday' and 'The Sound of Music'.

Audrey Hepburn's iconic image as Holly Golightly was the inspiration for Kathryn's representation of the song 'Moon River', which included white roses and lilies interspersed with gypsophila, arranged in an asymmetrical design in a shapely black vase, complete with pearls. 'Raindrops on Roses' was a stunning arrangement of pink flowers: lisianthus, roses, gerberas, cymbidium orchids. Unusually, the carnations were used in profile with full length stems to define the outline of the design. There were even raindrops - diamanté



pins inserted into the centre of the roses. 'We're all going on a Summer Holiday' was a very cheerful orange arrangement perfectly representing sunny and happy holidays, with flip flops fitted into the container to complete the idea! Kathryn finished the afternoon with a cool blue pedestal arrangement portraying the song 'Let it Go' from 'Frozen'. Eucalyptus and pale blue and white English stocks



provided the frame for white lilies and carnations. Quite a chilly contrast to a hot summer holiday.

It was all very enjoyable and few of us could resist humming or singing along with some of the songs featured throughout the afternoon.

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1:30 pm. The cost for visitors is £7, and they are always made very welcome by our friendly committee. For more information you can visit our Facebook page or contact Dusty on 01256 881420 or via email: TayMab1@aol.com

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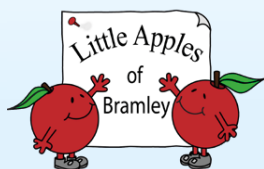
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Jeepers, Creepers - This month John Stubbs tells us about a common bird we rarely notice.

This little chap is a treecreeper, clinging hard up against the bark of a lime tree, and will probably be the commonest bird round here that you've never noticed. And despite the rather unkind name, I reckon it's an endearing little bird: perhaps the demotic 'tree-mouse' is more appropriate. Really not at all creepy, it spends its time darting up tree trunks, pecking and probing the bark for all sorts of grubs, spiders, ants, earwigs, and the like. Perhaps something of a one-trick-pony, as that's its main occupation: none of this scouting for freebies at bird tables, or ransacking our fruit trees. Hop onto the base of a tree, then spiral upwards using outsize claws, braced by a set of stiff tail-feathers. The long, curved beak pushed into crevices and loose bark, taking any tidbits on the way. Reach the top, and you have the choice of winging it down to the base and starting again, or perhaps if feeling adventurous, moving to the base of a neighbouring tree to start again. Very economical of flying effort, if a little restricted in scope for exploring the countryside.

This specimen I saw from our front room window, and it made a couple of corkscrew ascents while I watched and took half a dozen shots. Looking at the results, I could hardly spy the bird in five of them; only when I'd caught it in profile on the side of the tree could it be made out against the bark, the mottled brown of its back otherwise blending perfectly. And that white underside, which might be thought to make it more conspicuous, seems to break up the outline, so it's much less birdlike, more like part of a branch. It reminds me of the 'dazzle' paintwork schemes used on ships during WWI, when random bands and stripes were used to confuse observers: if they're looking for the outline of a ship, it's not what they're expecting, so the target is less likely to be spotted.

This one, then, likes to keep a low profile, literally. Quite tiny, about the size of a wren, not exceptionally shy, just blending in with the woods and trees, keeping out of the way, and normally solitary for a lot of the year. It's a distinctly different character from other species such as the bullfinch, the pied wagtail and the jay, which all have similar numbers around Bramley: in the UK there could be some 250,000 pairs of treecreepers nesting, but you just don't clock them out and about. Even its call is muted, often pretty much lost in the background soundscape, unlike that of the wren which can pack quite a bunch of decibels for its size.

Of the same family as the treecreeper, and with some of the same habits, is the more familiar nuthatch. This is a larger bird, though, around double their average weight, and much more colourful: really rather stylish with a slate grey back and a dashing black eyestripe. This could be a similar strategy to that of the treecreeper, breaking up the apparent birdish shape as it roots in the tree bark for insects. It's a bit more flexible in habit, and will happily run both up and down a trunk, as its claws can grip either way up, and it lacks the stiff supporting tail feathers of the treecreeper, really looking a bit more like a woodpecker. The nuthatch is more vocal, and of course keener on nuts and seeds in the winter, even storing nuts in crevices, to be hacked out when needed. Insects and such, as available, vary the diet in summertime, and they won't scorn the odd trip to the bird table.

Over the past twenty years, the number of nuthatches has pretty much doubled – a welcome statistic among the generally falling numbers of songbirds in the UK. While their trend-line shows a steady rise, that of the treecreeper is distinctly a roller-coaster, up and down some 20% in five-year periods. There'll be lots of different reasons for this: as a small



chap they're bound to be more affected by severe weather, and a poor crop of caterpillars coming down the trees to pupate will make it hard for them. Increasing use of insecticides, sometimes drifting from fruit-tree spray, will both kill their food sources and accumulate in the birds' bodies.

Much is made in some property developers' brochures of proposals that any mature trees destroyed will be replaced by nice new ones, somewhere more convenient to them. Fat lot of good to this sort of animal: what they need is mature, older and ancient trees – big and full of crevices, cracks and lots of live bugs.

FESTIVAL of TRANSPORT 2025

May 11th 11.00 - 4.00pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP ON THE DAY

Have fun volunteering with us
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To be one of the team of almost 100 that help at the Festival of Transport - just for a couple of hours, half a day or all day - please get in touch with Paul Temple on tempaul45@gmail.com. You'll love it!



Wilder Bramley

We were thrilled to welcome Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) to Bramley recently to deliver training for us and other local wildlife groups on Community Green Mapping. Put simply, this means using a combination of online mapping tools and local walks to map out habitats that exist for nature - such as parks, streams, fields, hedgerows - with the aim of identifying opportunities to enhance and/or create more spaces for nature in our community. Examples include creating a "green corridor" or "stepping stones" through planting or improving management of habitats so wildlife can pass through and between spaces more easily. Once Bramley is mapped, we will be able to use this as a basis for future projects and priorities to help our wildlife. If you are interested in helping to map an area of Bramley, even if it is just your own street or an area which you feel could be improved to help nature, please get in touch.

Wilder Bramley have also teamed up with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) to survey an area of their land near Bramley Green for reptiles, amphibians, bats and butterflies over the summer. The resulting data will be used by the Council to improve and enhance nature in line with their Biodiversity Strategy goals. So if you see reptile mats dotted around (numbered squares lying on the ground), **please do not disturb them**. It will likely scare away any reptiles underneath, who may never return, and it will also impact our data. If you are interested in helping with surveys, please get in touch. Full training is given on survey methods and recording. Remember, you can also report wildlife sightings on our "Spotted in Bramley" page on our website or through apps such as iRecord.



HIWWT trained us in green mapping Bramley.



Putting the theory into practice around the village.



Some of our members supported the Community Litter Pick. We added several bags of litter to the total and the Scouts deserve a big Well Done for organising it! Litter poses a significant threat to our wildlife. Small animals can become entangled in balloon strings and trapped in six pack rings, causing cuts and injuries. Voles often become trapped in drinks cans, attracted by the sugar, and microplastics can get into our streams and rivers. Animals often eat litter mistaking it for food and they can die a painful death.

Up to 6 dead voles have been found in one drinks can.

Upcoming events

Bramley Fete, 17 May. Come and see us at our stall. There are some great competition prizes, including a pond kit!

Green Week Dawn Chorus Walk and Breakfast, 14 June. Peter Hutchins (Basingstoke RSPB) will lead us at this glorious time of the year for birdsong, followed by a hearty breakfast at the Barn for those who can stay on. Meet 5 am, Clift Meadow car park.

Mondays

<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pregnancy Yoga with Sam 6pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Yoga with Sam 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Classical Pilates, 6.45-7.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Tuesdays

<i>Parish Council Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's Church
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Body Control Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley 0-5s 10am – 11.30 am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Scouts 7-8.30pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis – 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

Wednesdays

<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1st Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1st Bramley Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am and 12.30 – 1.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Community Cafe
<i>Squirrels 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Thursdays

<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday 1.30 - 4.00pm</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Dance Vibes - adult fitness class 5.30-6.15pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays

<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall

Saturdays

<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow
<i>HIPP Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate 11.00-12.00pm</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Live Country Music with Dance 8pm 1st and 3rd Saturday each month</i>	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.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Bookings Team	01256 260270	bookings@cliftmeadow.org.uk	Bookings
Cross House	Anne Smith	01256 880327	admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley 0-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985		
Bramley and Romans Floral Society	Stephanie Cornell	07808 078188	s.cornell@aplin.plus.com	
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Jane Kettridge		jk.cmcc@btconnect.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.walsh59@outlook.com	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Classical Pilates	Naomi Baker		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	John Huntingdon		John.Huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com https://www.loddonsportsfc.com	
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		No children please
Dance Vibes	Louise		misslouise74@gmail.com	
Friendship Walks			info@bramleyvillagehub.com	
Guides	Viv Salem		firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Kerry Frost		kerry.frost@southernhealth.nhs	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Body Control Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Rainbows	Lizzie Ayres	07917 773563	bramleyrainbows@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	Judy Foyle	881821	stevefoyle@hotmail.co.uk	
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	07818 280041	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	



Probus learns about HMS Broadsword and the Falklands War, 1982

For speaker Charlie Threlfall, as a short-term Royal Navy officer, the prospect of a goodwill tour of ten countries had great appeal. Aged 19 in early April 1982, he was on *HMS Broadsword* at anchor in Gibraltar. They were readying for a series of social events and cocktail parties across the world as they planned to show off their three year old warship. Launched in 1979 as a Type 22 Guided Missile Frigate with a displacement of 4,500 tons and a crew of 235, *HMS Broadsword* was the epitome of the latest thinking in naval warfare. It had no traditional gun batteries but an assortment of guided missiles that could lock on a target without fail.

That very week, on 2 April 1982, Sub Lieutenant Charlie Threlfall's life changed forever. The Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic were invaded by Argentinian forces. On 5 April *HMS Broadsword* left Gibraltar heading for Ascension Island about halfway to the Malvinas, as the Argentinians invaded this British protectorate.

There, a group of twenty war ships and supply vessels were assembled, painting out any identification marks to confuse any attacking forces. Southbound, they sailed in close convoy using no radar and no lights at night so that they could not be located by the enemy. The crew went on Defence Watches of six hours on, six hours off. They were lucky to get four hours sleep each day for ten weeks.

The British submarine *Conqueror* sank the Argentinian cruiser *General Belgrano* on 2 May. Questions were asked in Britain as to whether it was a legitimate target since it was purported to be sailing away from the conflict zone, a situation denied years later by the ship's captain. All Argentinian naval ships were ordered back to port and then only aerial attacks continued at the extreme limits of their range.

Action stations came on 4 May when *HMS Sheffield* was hit by an air launched anti-ship Exocet missile. 170 sailors from the *Sheffield* were rescued by *Broadsword*.

HMS Broadsword, along with *HMS Coventry* were positioned in San Carlos Water but were unable to spot enemy aircraft approaching over land and were strafed and bombed, being unable to offer much resistance. Crew were instructed not to shoot at helicopters, only fast jets.

Broadsword and *Coventry* were then positioned at sea to the west of the Falklands to draw aircraft fire from the troops. With two approaching enemy jets *HMS Coventry* was hit by three 500lb bombs, caught fire and eventually sank. But as it came across the bow of *Broadsword* it prevented them from firing their missiles.

It was then discovered that at sea it was impossible to reload the four Exocet launchers on *Broadsword* once the initial four missiles had been fired. One of many lessons learnt during this conflict.

HMS Broadsword had a narrow escape when a 1000lb bomb travelling at 450 mph hit the ship towards the stern, 10 feet above sea level. It travelled through two decks and emerged upwards through the flight deck, where it took off the nose of a Lynx helicopter and bounced overboard failing to explode.

Six British war ships were lost and sixteen damaged during this conflict. 649 Argentinian military personnel, 255 British and three civilian islanders lost their lives. Charlie Threlfall knows the name of the Argentinian pilot who sent the 1000lb



The damaged Lynx helicopter aboard HMS Broadsword

bomb into the side of *HMS Broadsword*. He says he would never shake his hand as two of his fellow schoolboys from his street on the Isle of Wight were in this conflict. One was a cook and was killed in this action while another, like himself, survived thereby becoming a member of the 'Bomb Alley Survivors Club'.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.

Sherfield & District Gardening Club : let's get growing!

On Monday 19 May, our speaker will be **Martyn Cox**. Making a welcome return to SDGC, Martyn's topic is "Clever ways to grow vegetables." We look forward to learning his tips and ideas.... which varieties to choose for best flavour? Ideas on making a small space more productive? After this talk, you can get ahead, planning your entries for the **Sherfield Show** on Sunday 07 September! Please bring your questions for Martyn, and we'll all learn something new.

Sherfield Village Hall at 7.15pm (following the Pilates Class). Doors open 7.15pm: talk starts 7.30pm, then questions, refreshments and a gardening-themed raffle. We aim to finish by 9pm. *New members and guests are always welcome.*

Also, this month is "**No Mow May**" to support wildlife (to take part, just leave the lawnmower in the shed).

Important Dates for your Diary in May!

Saturday 24 May: Hanging baskets, made by our Club Members, will be in place around the Village Hall for the Sausage and Cider Festival.

Saturday 31 May: **Percy's Plant Sale** is the place to buy your locally grown veg, herbs, flowers and plants. Sherfield Village Hall: front car park: 0930-12.00.

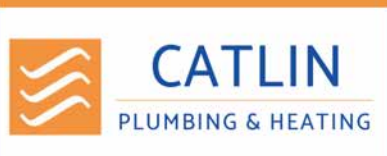
Note: Saturday 31 May will be super-busy in Sherfield because we welcome the Repair Café, in the hall from 10am-1pm: bring your secateurs, shears and garden tools for sharpening (not lawnmowers or petrol tools). No charge but donations welcome.

Happy gardening and everyone welcome!

Lauren Dotor Cespedes

On behalf of Sherfield & District Gardening Club.

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Ladies' Probus Club Visit Japanese Garden

At the February meeting of the Ladies' Probus Club of Basingstoke, speaker Graham Bowyer captivated members with a fascinating account of the Japanese garden he and his wife Pauline have cultivated over the past 25 years, inspiring members to visit the garden themselves.

Graham opens his garden in Fleet by special arrangement for parties of 12 – 20, with the proceeds of the entrance fee of £7.50 donated to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham.



The interest in Japanese gardens emerged from their initial visit to Japan in 2000. Since then, Graham and Pauline have visited nine more times, including taking a course in Japanese garden design at a university in Kyoto.

The Ladies Probus' Club had a lovely afternoon seeing the results of a quarter of a century labour of love, while enjoying tea and cake in such wonderful surroundings.

The secretary of the Ladies' Probus Club, Pam Luck, can be reached via email at SecretaryBLPC@gmail.com. Email Graham Bowyer at graham.bowyer@me.com to arrange a visit.

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