

October 2025

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



- Bramley Show
- Removal of church bells
- A new term at Bramley School



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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**October 2025**

**Chairman of Steering Group:**

Rhydian Vaughan MBE  
chairman@bramleymagazine.org.uk

**Joint Editors**

Rachel Barclay Smith  
Holly French  
editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

**Schools Editor:**

Emily Sykes

**Advertising:**

Keith Dilliway  
Rick Askin  
bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Nairn Glen  
bramleytreasurer@gmail.com

**Rector:**

Rev'd Mark Anderson  
revmarkanderson4@gmail.com  
07480 067756  
www.stjamesbramley.com

**Churchwardens:**

Dave Knights  
07552 616105  
davefrondeg@gmail.com

Rachel Barclay Smith  
01256 541251  
rbarclaysmith@gmail.com

**Bramley Parish Council**

Clerk: Maxta Thomas (07810 692486)  
parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk  
Chairman: Anthony Durrant  
www.bramleypc.co.uk

**Artwork and Printing**

Greenhouse Graphics  
Unit 8, Cufaudd Business Park,  
Cufaudd Lane, Bramley,  
RG26 5DL  
01256 880770  
www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk

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

**Editorial**

As you read through the magazine you may wonder if you have missed a month. November is traditionally the time of Remembrance, yet this issue covers the Air Cadets' visit to the D-Day sites in Normandy and Rhydian Vaughan's Battlefield Tour to the Somme. You can read about these poignant trips on pages 8 and 13. I was particularly impressed with the way the cadets learnt about the terrible loss of life on Omaha Beach. We will soon be buying poppies to remember those who have died in conflicts around the world and the Royal British Legion are looking for support for their annual appeal which starts at the end of October.

The church family and school family have also been remembering a very dear friend, Malcolm Knowles, who died in September. As well as being a churchwarden for seven years, he held several other roles including school governor, bell ringer and magazine deliverer. Even if you don't think you knew Malcolm, you may well have met him when he was running the coconut shy at the fete or when he was delivering your magazine. Before his illness, Malcolm was delivering over 300 magazines, way more than any other deliverer. A few months ago, our Meet the Neighbours article featured Sarah Stubbs who was talking about the importance of volunteers. Malcolm was a great example of someone who gave his time to our community and helped make things happen. He will be missed very much.

Looking through some of the other articles in the magazine, it strikes me how many activities in our community rely on volunteers: Lenny's Memory Café and the Women's Breakfast, both advertised on page 7, are run by teams of volunteers from our local churches, and the Parish Councillors all use their spare time to serve our community. The volunteers who run the Bramley Show and scarecrow competition put on another successful event as you can read on pages 26 and 27. Given that the show took place on 14 September, which was the deadline for articles, I was very impressed that they managed to get their report to me in time. It reminds me of the expression, 'If you want something done, ask a busy person', although I prefer the variation 'If you want work well done, ask a busy woman'!

Wilder Bramley also volunteer around the village to help our environment, and you can keep up to date with their news on page 20. Meeting them in the churchyard recently, armed with their scythes, was a slightly terrifying experience! Fortunately, they had carried out extensive health and safety training, a necessary evil for volunteer organisations. I wouldn't have wanted to write the risk assessment for the recent removal of the church bells, for example. That was quite an undertaking, as you can see on pages 16 and 17.

Thank you to those who offered to help with delivering the magazine; we now have a replacement for the Coopers Lane round. However, we are still looking for someone to help with Meet the Neighbours so if that's something you think you could help with, do let me know.

Have a great October

**Rachel**

Joint Editor

"The risk of love is loss, and the price of loss is grief – but the pain of grief is only a shadow when compared with the pain of never risking love."

**Hillary Stanton Zunin**

Cover Photo: Guy the Gardener by Rick Fey

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

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## Benefice Services

### October...

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>5th</b>  | <b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 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           |
| <b>12th</b> | <b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 10.00       | Café Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield               |
| <b>19th</b> | <b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 10.00       | Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield            |
| 10.30       | Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall         |
| <b>26th</b> | <b>Last Sunday after Trinity<br/>(Bible Sunday)</b> |
| 10.00       | Morning Worship – St Leonard's, Sherfield           |

### ...and into November

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>2nd</b> | <b>All Saints Sunday</b>                     |
| 10.00      | Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield     |
| 10.00      | Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye  |
| 10.30      | BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall      |
| <b>9th</b> | <b>Remembrance</b>                           |
| 10.30      | Remembrance – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye     |
| 10.45      | Remembrance – Sherfield Village War Memorial |
| 10.45      | Remembrance – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall     |

### Church diary for October...

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>5th</b>  | <b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine - Cross House                           |
| 10.30       | BCP Matins - St James                               |
| <b>12th</b> | <b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine – Cross House                           |
| 10.30       | Holy Communion - St James                           |
| <b>19th</b> | <b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>                    |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine - Cross House                           |
| 10.30       | Morning Worship - St James                          |
| <b>26th</b> | <b>Last Sunday after Trinity<br/>(Bible Sunday)</b> |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine – Cross House                           |
| 10.30       | Holy Communion – St James                           |

### ...and into November

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>2nd</b>  | <b>All Saints Sunday</b>        |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine - Cross House       |
| 10.30       | BCP Matins - St James           |
| <b>9th</b>  | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>       |
| 8.00        | BCP Holy Communion - St James   |
| 10.30       | Remembrance                     |
| <b>16th</b> | <b>2nd Sunday before Advent</b> |
| 9.00        | Sunday@nine – Cross House       |
| 10.30       | Morning Worship                 |

## From the Registers

### Funeral

Debbie GREY      24th August 2025      St James Church

## Bramley SpeedWatch



It is good to see some new volunteers coming forward to support SpeedWatch - thank you and welcome. Without these volunteers giving their free time, SpeedWatch would not be able

to operate.

Most people who interact with SpeedWatch whilst we are conducting deployments at the roadside offer support and appreciate what we are doing to make our village safer for us all. Unfortunately, we occasionally get somebody who, for whatever reason, seems to take objection to what we are doing. If you have objections towards us, please keep your comments to yourself and, instead, direct your comments to the police - they may listen to you. Please note, the police are aware that we are conducting a deployment in that location. Of course, we are always happy to get a thank you.

SpeedWatch took up the issue of speeding through the village with our local MP, Alex Brewer, who then took the issue up with the police. As a result, SpeedWatch has been informed that the police are commencing visits to the most persistent speeders recorded by the camera. Don't want a visit from the police? Don't speed through the village.

## Camera Data (June - August):

| Month/Year  | Verified speeders (=>35mph) | Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle | Fastest hour | Illegal vehicles |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|
| June 2025   | 2635                        | 12  | 8pm          | 68               |
| July 2025   | 1544*                       | 10  | 5am          | 40               |
| August 2025 | 2560                        | 17  | 5am          | 78               |

## Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

Four manned deployments were undertaken during August. A total of 19 vehicles were reported to the police from the 538 vehicles checked - 3.5%.

**We need your help!** If you're interested in becoming a member of the SpeedWatch group and contributing to making Bramley roads safer, please reach out to Bramley SpeedWatch at [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com).

yahoo.com. Your support is crucial for the scheme to continue functioning. Don't worry, full training will be provided by Hampshire Police. Thank you for considering joining us!

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email us.

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

## Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (August):

| SID Location          | Days deployed | Traffic direction | % of vehicles exceeding 30 mph | No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Forge*            | 31            | Westbound         | 60%                            | 0                             |
| Farriers              | 26            | Westbound         | 45%                            | 6                             |
| Bramley Corner        | 26            | Eastbound         | 69%                            | 26                            |
| The Street Beaurepair | 31            | Eastbound         | 32%                            | 0                             |

\* The data from the SID at The Forge is only using data from vehicles leaving the SID. Vehicles will all be within the 30mph zone.



## Sherfield & District Gardening Club

Our next meeting is **Monday 20 October**. Sherfield Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm: talk starts 7.30pm, followed by Q&A, refreshments and our gardening-themed raffle.

Our guest speaker is **Geoff Hawkins** who is specially recommended and requested by several members.

His topic is **"The answer lies in the soil"**, relevant to all gardeners, of all ages, whatever we grow, and whatever size garden we have.

New members and guests are *very welcome*.

Annual subs are due now, if you missed last month. A bargain at £10 per person: then just £2 per meeting for members. £5 per meeting for non-members and guests.

The visit to **RHS Wisley** is booked for **Sunday 12 October**. We look forward to seeing some spectacular Autumn colour including the wonderful Piet Oudoult garden of perennials and grasses. Ruth will send details to everyone who has booked for this trip, the cost of which is subsidised by the Club.

**Lauren Dotor**

On behalf of Sherfield & District Gardening Club.

## Basing Singers and Basingstoke Concert Band 'Harvest Concert'

Date and time: Saturday 4 October 2025 at 7.30pm

Venue: Old Basing Village Hall RG24 7DA

Join us for a delightful evening to celebrate the Harvest season in true traditional style with the talented Basing Singers and Basingstoke Concert Band

Adults: £10 (U16 free) Tickets: [bcband.org.uk](http://bcband.org.uk)

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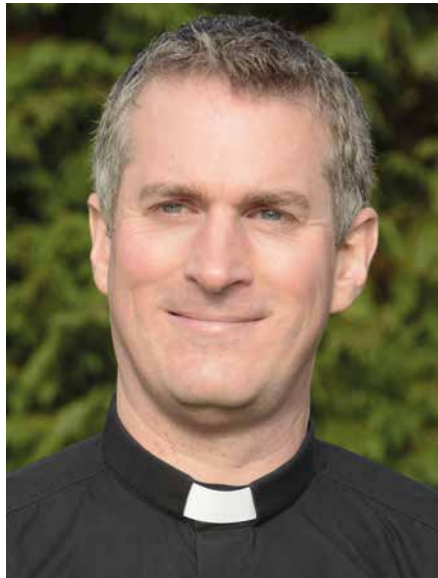
## Reaping and sowing

Have you ever planted a seed and waited for it to grow? It's an amazing feature of nature that plants just grow, given the right conditions. Living as we do in the countryside, we see lots of plants and trees growing: some where we want them to and some (we call weeds) where we don't want them. They all just keep growing.

It's harvest time and in church we use this season to acknowledge the goodness of the Earth and be thankful to all those who provide for us, especially the food we eat; the farmers who plough, sow and reap; the miners deep underground; the factory workers who make products; those who transport, deliver and sell. And we just go to the shops (or online) and expect everything to be just there. Many people have worked to make sure that item is where it should be so we can enjoy it.

At our church harvest festival service we remember that ultimately everything comes from God, who we believe made all things; all things bright and beautiful as the song goes. God creates, humanity takes it and with creativity makes the resources of the earth into many beautiful and useful things.

There's another way we can reap and sow and be thankful. I'm not only thinking about the food we eat, which can lead to a healthy or unhealthy body. There are influences we sow into our spiritual and emotional lives which can lead to positive



Rev'd Mark Anderson

or negative outcomes. We all have influences on how we think and speak and act. Are they good and wholesome? What are those 'seeds' growing into? We're encouraged to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. What would it look like if we 'sowed' five positive things into our lives (or someone else's) each day?

It could be a kind word or act to someone who needs some encouragement. It might be forgiving someone who has hurt you. It may be following some good advice on improved mental health. What we sow into our own and other people's lives will be reaped, for better or worse. We reap what we sow.

Harvest is not only a time to be thankful for all we have, especially the food we eat. It's also a time to remember where it all comes from. God created everything

and knows how we work best, how humanity can flourish. God provides all we need to live, both in terms of our planet's resources (let's take care of them) and also the emotional and spiritual side of life too. If you're the person who likes to have a healthy body (eating and exercising) then my harvest encouragement to you is also to have a healthy emotional and spiritual side, by following God's Way, exemplified in the life and teaching of Jesus.

**Rev'd Mark Anderson**  
Vicar, St James Church, Bramley



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**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

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**The RAF Air Cadets Aldermaston Squadron, which includes several members from Bramley, had a memorable trip to Normandy as Commanding Officer Flt Lt Richard Williams explains.**

You will have been used to seeing the Squadron at various local events. Now with fundraising and support from the local community, 2025 marked the first trip abroad for the Air Cadets of 2403 (Aldermaston) Squadron. It had been a dream for some time to take our Cadets to the Normandy Battlefield and witness firsthand the sights, exhibitions and memorials relating to D-Day. We wanted to expand their understanding of the events of that day, why it was so important to WW2, and to appreciate the sacrifice made by so many brave service men and women.

The Squadron started the tour in Arromanches, the site of the incredible Mulberry Harbour. We were able to visit a 360-degree cinema experience which really brought the event to life, showing period recordings of the lives of civilians in occupied France, and the hardships they faced amongst the devastation of their town.

At Omaha Beach, the cadets stood on the shoreline and were each given a number. They were instructed to run up the beach, stopping when they heard their number shouted. Before they even set off, half of them had their number called. As the rest surged forward, nearly all the numbers were shouted out, leaving barely any to reach the rocks. This was a graphic demonstration to show just how few of those first brave souls made it from the landing craft to a fighting position. It was a very impactful way for the Cadets to better understand what the forces were up against in 1944.



After visits to the American Cemetery at Omaha, and the British Cemetery at Bayeux, we stopped at the Allied Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer, where the Padre led the squadron in a small service and a wreath was laid. To do this, close to the stone pillars bearing the names of 22,442 men and women who fell during D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, was an experience that the Cadets will never forget.



Our final destination was Pegasus Bridge, a site of huge tactical importance, and where the first troops landed via Horsa gliders at 0016, 0017 and 0018 on June 6th, landing with staggering precision given the poor weather and pitch-black conditions.

On Behalf of the Squadron, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

**Your magazine needs you!**

Did you miss reading your usual Meet the Neighbours article this month? If so, why not join our team and become one of our Meet the Neighbours correspondents? Clare Jones already writes some of our articles so you would only need to do four or five a year. Just find someone interesting, ask them a few questions and see what you find out!

Please contact Rachel on [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk) if you would like more information. And if you know someone in Bramley or Little London who would be good to feature in Meet the Neighbours, do let us know.

**Meet the new editor?**

Many congratulations to joint editor, Georgie, and her husband, Jamie, on the birth of their daughter. Grace Helen was born on 11 September, weighing 8lbs 9oz.



## Sue Howell has exciting news from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

Being part of a semi-rural practice, patients know how lucky they are to have a dispensary at the Surgery. Without this, patients would need to drive to the nearest pharmacy in Tadley or Chineham.

We also know that getting to the dispensary during the day is difficult for some people. It is not easy to take time off work, or battle with the level crossing and the endless roadworks, and then not being able to find a parking space on site makes collecting a stressful experience.

Clift Surgery is aware of the difficulties so.....

### Welcome to Clift Surgery's Pharmabox!

From the start of October, a dispensing machine will be available from which to collect most medications. It works just like an Amazon collection box.

How does it work?

1. Sign up to the Pharmabox service
2. Order your repeat prescription
3. For those who pay for their prescription, payment is made at the box, using your phone or card.
4. You will be sent an SMS text with a code
5. Type in the code and your order will be sent to the collection drawer for you to pick up.

Simple!

It is a flexible, safe and simple way of collecting your medication with no queues. You can change your mind at any point and revert back to a traditional collection.

The Pharmabox will be placed in the car park, next to the dispensary door. The area will be lit and there is CCTV for added security.

NB. It will not be able to dispense refrigerated or bulky items or some restricted medication.

The Surgery is one of the first in the area to invest in this new technology to help their patients, while keeping the personal touch.

Want to find out more? Come to the Surgery on Saturday 4 October and 18 October from 10-12, where the PPG will be there to demonstrate and help you

sign up. We will also be there to assist anyone who needs help using the NHS app.

### Vaccination programme starts in October.

You can get the winter COVID-19 vaccine if you:

- are aged 75 or over (including those who will be 75 by 31 January 2026)
- are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment
- live in a care home for older adults

If you are eligible, you will be contacted.

The flu vaccination invitations are going out. If you have not yet received one, don't worry, you will get your vaccination. Stocks of the vaccine are being delivered in batches.

### Supporting the Community

On 7 September the Surgery kindly offered to help the Bramley Show out, when they didn't have anywhere for their annual Children's Potato Count. The venue was perfect. Over the course of 90 minutes, 15 buckets of potatoes were delivered tipped out, counted and weighed. There were some very excited faces when they saw their potatoes emerge from what was a very messy bucket of earth. This is such a lovely activity for both children and parents, getting to know where their food comes from (not out of a supermarket plastic bag), as well as getting outside to tend their crops.



That's an impressive number of potatoes!



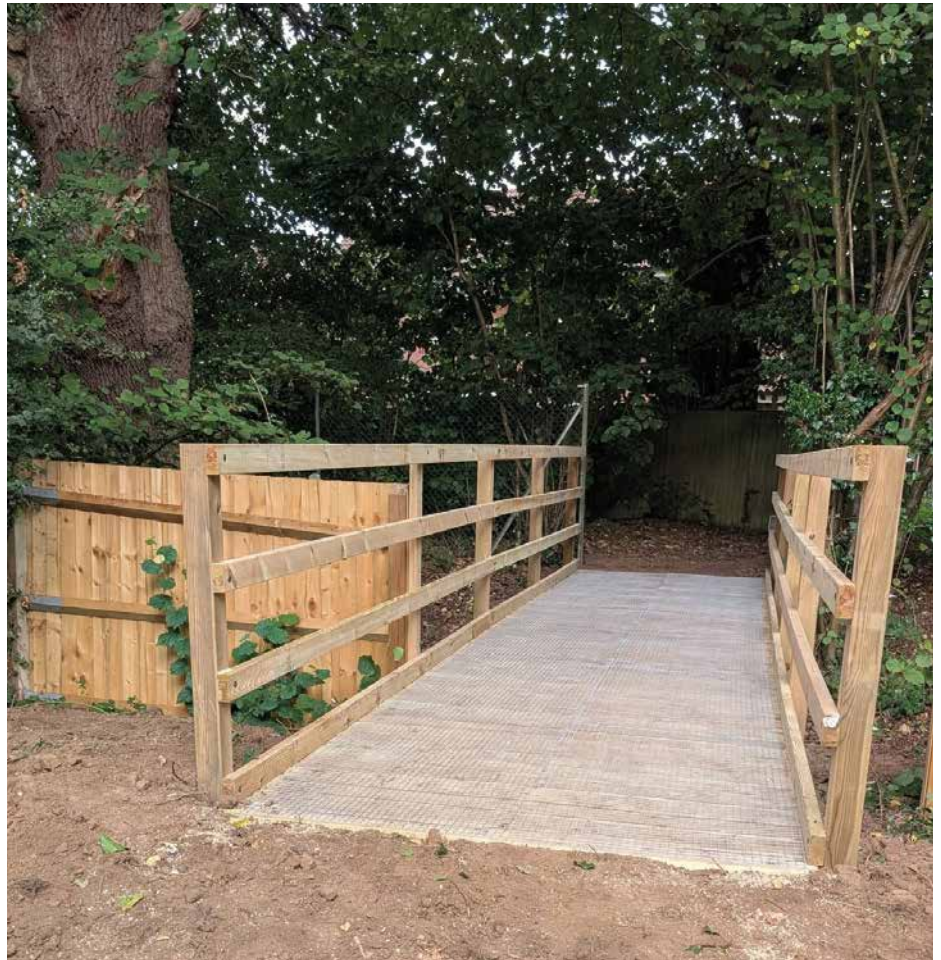
Potato counting in Clift Surgery car park



**T**hank you to **Maxta Thomas**, Clerk to Bramley Parish Council, for bringing us this month's update

Autumn appears to be here with a bang or two of thunder! We hope everyone had a good summer, and that everyone takes care as the evenings start drawing in. Bramley Parish Council is now back to its usual meetings after the summer recess; however the recess did not decrease the amount of work needed and the Clerk and Councillors have all been working hard.

**Parish Green** – work on the Parish Green between Longbridge Road and the Cinder Track continues. With the removal of much of the undergrowth earlier in the year and formalisation and improvement of the paths, the space is now much more open and usable for the community. An improvement that has been completed recently is the installation of a footbridge across the ditch between the Green and The Smithy (as pictured). This should make it much easier for people in The Smithy to travel across the Green.



## Little Apples of Bramley

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***Did you know...?*** You can use any of our opening hours for EYE grant funding! Whether your child is eligible for the 15 or 30 hours per week funding (ages 2-4), check what funding you can access at **www.gov.uk/get-childcare**



*Bramley Parish Council continued*

**Local Plan Update** – Work on the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) Local Plan has continued over the summer. The site selection strategy was scrutinised by the BDBC Environment & Infrastructure Committee. Bramley's housing requirement has been considered and reported as a need of 85 homes over the plan period (up to 2042). There is quite a complex calculation to arrive at this number, and Parish Councillors are querying the number with BDBC.

**Local Government reorganisation** – many of you will be aware that work on this has been progressing over the summer. The proposals from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council will be ready for submission to the Government very soon, after a BDBC special exceptional full council meeting is held on 26 September. BDBC and other district councils are looking very carefully at plans that would deliver better and more local services for everyone.

**Bow Brook Farm 50 houses** – this application was reviewed in September by the Development Control Committee at BDBC. Bramley Parish Council objected to the application and spoke at the DCC meeting in support of rejecting the proposals. The Committee voted to defer the decision on the application until satisfactory answers have been received from HCC Highways about the road layout safety of the plans, and concerns around the heritage assets have been addressed.

**Grants** – The Parish Council supports many activities in the parish through giving a helping hand to improvements, events etc, that benefit as many as possible in the community. In particular, we note the completion of the

replacement heating system at Cross House. The old system has been replaced with air to air heat pumps, which will reduce operating costs and provide a much more effective and efficient heating system for Cross House, thus making the building much more usable than previously.

Work on repairing parts of the Bramley Village Hall roof was also completed over the summer – again, Bramley Parish Council gave a grant for this.

**Next meetings** – The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 20:00 on 14 October at Bramley Village Hall. The next full Council meeting will be at 19:00 on 21 October. Everyone is welcome to come and see what we do and ask relevant questions.

**Contacts**

**Bramley Parish Council**

Parish Clerk: Maxta Thomas: clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk, 07810 692486

Bramley PC website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Bramley PC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BramleyPC

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council**

www.basingstoke.gov.uk, 01256 844844. Good for reporting fly tipping issues and issues with local playgrounds.

Planning portal: <https://publicaccess.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications>

**Hampshire County Council**

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

**Little Apples**

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back to the new school year at Little Apples.

It was a very busy summer preparing for the new term. Our biggest project was the removal of our old large wooden shed which was replaced by a new metal one. This was possible due to the support of the parish council, for which we are very grateful. The poor old shed was very tired indeed and when we took everything out, it was hard to work out how it was still standing up! However, the new shed will be much more hard wearing, and we are very excited to be able to announce that a local artist is booked to paint a nature themed mural on the side in October. Improving the standard of the ground around the shed, and developing a covered teaching space beside it, are ongoing projects for us this year. We can't wait to see everyone enjoying the new improved garden space.

Inside, we have developed our emotional support and well-being area and have been able to upgrade some of our furniture and the play spaces. We have developed our sustainability planning by moving to a meat free menu for snacks and for the Little Apples lunches we provide.

All of these improvements mean we are very excited to move into the new academic year. We have lots of new children and families joining us and can't wait to get to know them as we learn about the changing seasons and the signs of autumn and winter.

We are already looking very busy for this year, so if you would like to register a child or find out more, please contact Jo on 07598 588 460 or [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org)



**Basingstoke Gazette local news**

The Basingstoke Gazette, like the Bramley magazine, wants local news.

For a trial period, I have volunteered to be the local contact for the publication. Kimberly Barber, the editor, advised me "Feature several items, the more local the better - think talks, jumble sales, WI meetings etc. Nothing is too small for this page."

I require concise material to copy and paste. Please email it to me on [paulchase75@gmail.com](mailto:paulchase75@gmail.com) by the end of Sunday each week for publication the following Thursday.

**Keith Dilliway**

**0771 721 4521 - 01256 412723**

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## World Polio Day 24 October 2025

### A Sea of Purple with a Special Meaning

Every year, Rotary clubs across the UK and beyond plant millions of purple crocuses. It's a simple but striking way to raise awareness, raise funds, and add a splash of colour to our towns and villages.

The purple crocus isn't just a flower—it's a symbol of Rotary's worldwide fight to rid the world of polio, echoing the purple dye once used to mark a child's finger after vaccination. In many countries, children who received the vaccine had their little finger dipped in purple dye so health workers knew they'd been protected. That's where the idea of Purple4Polio came from. Rotary uses purple crocuses to spread the message and raise funds for this life-changing work. Rotary in Basingstoke will plant more crocus bulbs this autumn so the purple blooms you see around Basingstoke continue to tell this story. And with each one, we are one step closer to ending polio for good.

### Rotary's Part in Beating Polio

Not so long ago, two diseases—smallpox and polio—were taking the lives of children and adults all over the world. Smallpox was finally wiped out in 1980 thanks to a huge global vaccination effort. By 1990, polio cases in the UK had dropped to just a handful. Today, every child is offered routine polio vaccinations, with boosters later on—a powerful reminder of how well vaccines work.

For over 35 years, Rotary has been leading the charge to end polio through the End Polio Now campaign. Together, members have raised more than \$2.1 billion and given countless hours of their time to help protect almost 3 billion children in 122 countries.

Because of this work, polio is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 2020 Africa was officially declared free of the disease.

Here in Basingstoke and the surrounding villages, local Rotarians have planted purple crocuses as a colourful symbol of hope. You might spot them in bloom at Turnpike Cottages in Overton, the Silk Mill in

Whitchurch, and Stratton Park in Kempshott. Each flower is a small reminder of a world where no family has to fear polio again.

### Partnership with the Gates Foundation

Rotary is grateful that the philanthropist billionaire Bill Gates has for many years supported Rotary in its commitment to eradicate polio. It was announced in June 2025, that the Gates Foundation will continue to provide a 2:1 match for Rotary's funds raised, totalling up to US\$450 million over three years. A man who uses his significant wealth to improve lives worldwide.

### JONAS SALK

The unsung hero of this battle. An American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines which quelled one of the biggest outbreaks of Polio in the US when it was introduced in 1952. The rolling out of Polio vaccination programmes around the world has been a great success.

Jonas Salk has been hailed for his altruism; he chose to not patent the vaccine or seek any profit from it to maximize its global distribution.



### SAVE THE DATE OUR ROTARY FUNDRAISING ROYAL MARINES BAND CONCERT

**will be held on January 25th 2026  
at The Anvil**

**Look out for tickets on sale from  
the box office.**

*Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 30 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.*

*If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just take a look- [www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Mike [mike.lakin@gmail.com](mailto:mike.lakin@gmail.com) or Paul [tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com) to find out more.*

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**Fb: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane**



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

## Royal British Legion

### Poppy Appeal

During this month, we are gearing up for the annual RBL Poppy Appeal. Our major effort is the stall we run in the reception area at Basingstoke Hospital. Thank you to all who take a turn on the rota for that. We operate from 9am to 4pm each weekday in the two weeks running up to Remembrance Sunday on 9th November. This year we have some additional help from Network Rail staff who are using their annual charity release day to support the appeal; most of them are ex-Service members.

Natalie Larnier will also have a Poppy stall outside Sherfield Coffee shop each Saturday of the appeal period.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE POPPY APPEAL** and help to bring hope and comfort to so many who have been injured in mind or body while serving in the armed forces of our country.

### Trafalgar Day

Trafalgar Day is commemorated annually on 21 October by the Royal Navy. The battle, in which the British Fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson fought against the much larger attacking fleets of France and Spain, took place off Cadiz and the Strait of Gibraltar in 1805. It is still celebrated in UK naval ports with parades and dinners; Cadets of the Sea Cadet corps also have special ceremonies for the day. We remember all who serve in the Royal Navy today, often away from their families for long periods in some of the world's most tense areas.

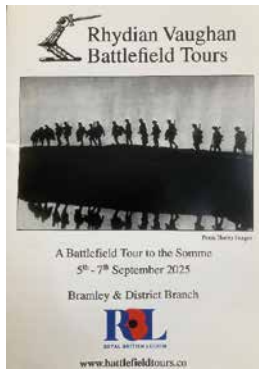
### AGM

Finally, a reminder that our branch AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 October at 7.30pm at Cross House, Bramley. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments will be available.

### John Morley

Vice Chairman  
Bramley & District RBL  
07900 892566





In September, eighteen members and friends of the Bramley & District branch of the Royal British Legion visited the **Somme Battlefield**. Tour leader, **Rhydian Vaughan**, tells us about the trip.

We departed Bramley at 0700hrs for our weekend adventure to the Somme Battlefield in northern France, travelling by coach via Dover. We spent the next three days looking at and understanding the 14-mile front line that was the battle of the Somme 1916. The ground provides a perspective that no book or film can quite do justice to, and to be on the ground where the carnage ensued is quite another thing.

The first day of the battle, 1st July, was a bad day at the office for the British Army - 58,000 casualties, of which 19,240 were killed. The battle, which lasted from July to 17 November, is often painted as a huge failure with British casualties at 420,000 and German at 650,000. However, the battle was described by a German Staff officer as "the muddy grave of the German Army and the loss of belief in the German high command".

One of the 18 on board commented that: *"our assembled group were enlightened with an authoritative insight into how events on the ground unfolded, coupled to the often tragic outcome. It proved moving and humbling to the entire group and had a profound effect on me and touched my soul in ways that I had not expected. It brings home the tremendous sacrifice of that generation, the likes that fortunately my generation has never experienced and hopefully never will."*

Picnic lunches, glorious sunshine and evening revelries in the town of Albert, mixed with the pathos of the historical input, made this adventure a real treat for those who took part. Thank you all for your enjoyable company and active participation.



The tour group at the Ancre cemetery



At Albert



Rhydian next to the 38th (Welsh) Division Memorial, Mametz



Picnic time!



At Foncquevillers Military Cemetery



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## Raffle winners

As part of the St. James Church 80th VE anniversary flower festival, a raffle was held in Cross House and we would like to acknowledge our grateful thanks to all those businesses that donated such generous prizes and those who purchased tickets. The raffle was a great success and generated an amazing £666. Here are a few winners enjoying their prizes.

Unfortunately we are unable to include all prize winners but give our sincere thanks to our generous donors: The Barn, A1 Logs, Bob-i-tea boo, Bramley Bakery, Bramley WI, Cadbury World, Fish & Chip van, Tara Blackburn, Emma O'leary, Greenhouse Graphics and Tadley hand car wash.

**Grahame Mellor**



Winner of the picnic hamper



Sue (centre) winner of the Cadbury World tickets with friends who will accompany her.



Rosie collecting her very useful prize of a MOT voucher kindly donated by Mekanix Bramley



Lindy, winner of the chocolate hamper



Polly delighted with the donation by Elaine



Linda & Val enjoying afternoon tea courtesy of Sherfield Garden Centre Café

**St Michael's Hospice**

# Light up a Life

**Sunday 7 December**

Remember the past, support the present, and shine hope into the future.

**Location:** St. Joseph's Church, St Michael's Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG22 6TY

**We're holding two services for Light up a Life 2025, please register for:**

- Service One: **3.30pm** (arrival from 2.30pm)
- Service Two: **7pm** (arrival from 6pm)

For further information visit [stmichaelsospice.org.uk/LUAL](http://stmichaelsospice.org.uk/LUAL)

Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848  
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**H**ow do you remove eight bells with a total weight of just over 2.5 tons, or 2600 kilos, which are hung in a frame that is 40 feet above the ground? With a lot of strength, preparation and expertise, as **Rachel Barclay Smith** explains



Ian Roulstone working in the bell tower



Andrew fitting the hoist

I always find preparation the most boring part of renovation projects, but in this case it was crucial. The week before the professional bellhanger arrived, members of our local band of ringers, led by Ian Roulstone, undertook



The hoist in place



The bell being lowered out of the belfry

some preliminary dismantling of the bell ropes, wheels and pulley blocks, all of which saved us some money. Then, the first job for Andrew Mills from Loughborough Bell Foundry was to install some lifting gear in the belfry,



Made it half way!

which is easier said than done. The old roof timbers are very strong, so they could carry the weight of the bells, but threaded steel rods had to be inserted into these beams. This involved drilling holes about 18 inches deep using a power drill and working from a ladder above the bell frame. Once the steel rods were in place, the lifting gear was attached to them using chains.



The bell going through the second trap door

The plan was to lower the bells into the ground floor ringing chamber before they were taken out of the church. However, the doorway wasn't quite wide enough, so the next job was to remove the door. Fortunately, Andrew resisted



Bramley ringer, Sarah Kew, lowering the bell into ringing chamber

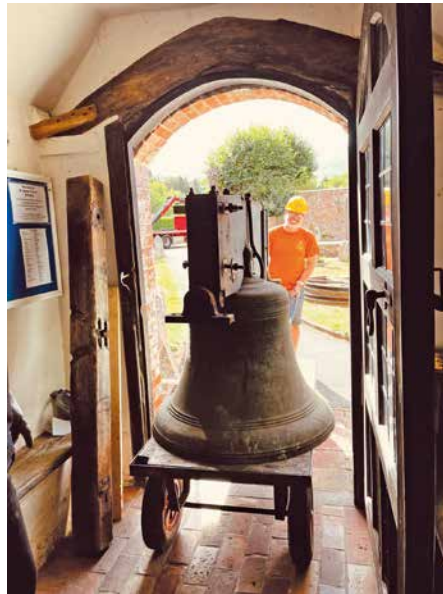
the temptation to do an Italian Job and blow the door off. Instead, he carefully removed the door from the frame, ensuring that the electricity cables feeding the lights were kept safe.

Lowering the bells from such a height requires ingenuity. The two floors between the base of the tower and the belfry have trapdoors to allow the





The final bell being lowered into the bell chamber



The tenor bell being wheeled out of the main door

passage of the bells, but only one bell is positioned in the frame directly above the trapdoors. This bell was removed first. To remove the rest of the bells, additional lifting gear had to be installed in the belfry, to enable each



The tenor bell squeezing through the door

bell to be hoisted out of the frame and then swung across the belfry until it was in position above the trapways! Again, this sounds straightforward, but with the bells weighing between 200 and 600 kilos, it's a tricky operation and one that is accomplished using manual effort – no electric motors driving the lifting gear! Our local ringers were able to assist Andrew with this too – a once in a lifetime experience for most of us.

When all the bells had been lowered to the ground floor, they were hoisted onto a trolley and wheeled outside to a waiting haulage vehicle. The vehicle was

equipped with a winch which enabled the bells to be lifted onto the back.

Removing the largest (tenor) bell from the church was a bit more of a struggle. Measuring just over a metre wide, it couldn't get through the door of the ringing chamber. Andrew therefore had to shave off some of the door frame until the bell was just able to squeeze through.

The bells are now at the bell foundry in Loughborough and we are hoping they will be back for our services in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our restoration project so far.



The bells being lowered onto the lorry



Some of the Bramley bell ringers



## Back to School

It was lovely to welcome all of our families back to school at the start of September. It is always lovely to see how eager the children are to start their learning, and they have settled into new routines brilliantly. We have had several new families join this year; the children bounced in on day 1 and were so excited for their new start – a huge welcome to them all.

As always, it's a quick start with our topic work to immerse and excite the children – they have thrown themselves into their learning with fabulous attitudes and an eagerness to develop their skills.

To start **Year 6**, the children have travelled back in time and across the seas to the Galapagos Islands where Charles Darwin first discovered many of the animals that would help him to develop his theory of evolution. Using a range of techniques, the children have created a range of Galapagos animals from clay, thinking carefully about textures and joining small parts to develop their sculptures further.



In **Year 5**, the children have been learning all about the Stone Age. As part of their topic launch days, they learnt about the houses and communities that people would have lived in throughout the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age and used this to build their own roundhouses. A highlight of this topic is a visit from Iron Age Matt who shares his wealth of knowledge, fantastic artefacts and helps the children re-enact warrior life!

In **Year 4**, the children have had a great time exploring major sporting events in their topic Ready, Steady, Go! They investigated medal designs and created medals of their own, using clay. They have studied sports people in a range of forms and then had the tricky task of using pipe cleaners and tin foil to make their own sculptures. In class, they have read *The Proudest Day* by Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad, looking at her achievements and discussing the importance of respecting people's differences.

**Year 3** have had a fun start to the year, enjoying their launch days focused around their topic of the Victorians. They have explored the famous Victorian art form silhouettes, creating silhouettes of themselves. After studying toys typical of the time, they will make a thaumatrope, which is an optical toy; flicking between the two images gives the

illusion that the image is moving – the children were amazed at the simplicity! Children placed important inventions and events on a timeline to develop their understanding of how much things changed during that era.

We are excited to start our new journey in **KS1** with mixed year 1/2 classes. The children have been thoroughly enjoying their first topic: the Great fire of London! They have really enjoyed looking at houses from the time and role-played retelling the key events from that night after reading Samuel Pepys' diary. In a few weeks, we will be welcoming a fire crew into school to talk to the children about fire safety, as well as holding our very exciting 'Great Bramley Fire'.

Our youngest children in **EYFS** have now begun school full-time – we are incredibly excited to have them join the Bramley family. The children have had fun coming to visit us at school for stay and play sessions and meeting new friends at the Teddy Bear's picnic. Now they are settled into their classes and building the routines for school.

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term – we are looking forward to another great year!



## Bramley Church of England Primary School Year R Open Mornings

Is your child turning 4 before the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026? If so, now is the time to explore different schools.

To help you make the all-important decision as to where to send your child, **Bramley C of E Primary School** is hosting *open mornings*. These mornings will allow you to make an informed choice.

Our open mornings this year are:

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 9.00am**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am**



These sessions will last approximately 90 minutes – consisting of an information sharing talk and a tour of the school. A great opportunity for you to see the school in action, pick up a prospectus and ask as many questions as you like.

*At Bramley, we are a COMPASSIONATE, nurturing school which enables everyone to flourish feeling confident in their uniqueness, being FRIENDS with others and showing RESPECT for all, whilst making a positive contribution to God's world.*

**Our vision for our children is for them to:**

Be confidently me

Show kindness to all

Make a difference

Please either email [adminoffice@bramley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@bramley.hants.sch.uk) or phone the school on 01256 881339 to book your place.

**The application deadline is 15 January 2026**



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## Harvest Festival

A big thank you to Bramley Bakery for making this Harvest Loaf for the Harvest Festival at St James' Church, and another thank you to the talented flower team for decorating our church so beautifully.

All those who attended the Harvest Festival service were asked to bring donations for the Foodbank and an amazing 109.16kg of food was collected.



## Annabelle's Campaign

At just 15 years old, Annabelle from Bramley is already making a difference in her community. Having lived in Bramley all her life, she joined the Basingstoke Fire Cadets in January 2024 and quickly discovered a passion for the programme. Just one year later, in January 2025, Annabelle was promoted to Crew Manager. In this role, she proudly volunteers her time, supporting and guiding 12 cadets as they work towards completing their training.

Annabelle's dedication to the fire service shines through in everything she does. Inspired by her experiences, she hopes to one day join the service herself, continuing her commitment to helping others and serving her community.

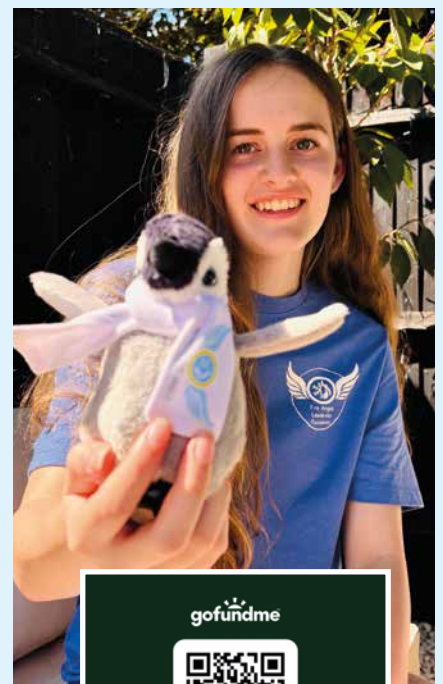
Annabelle has been selected for an extraordinary opportunity to take place in February 2026 with Fire Angels Foundation. Founded by long-serving firefighters Georgie and Bex, Fire Angels empowers young people through specialist training, mentorship, and role modelling—challenging the narrative of what it means to be a young woman in the fire service.

As part of this, Annabelle will take on a demanding polar expedition in Sweden—an adventure that will test her both physically and mentally. With the support of seven other fire cadets from across the country and a group of inspiring women from the fire service, she is determined to rise to the challenge.

To make this journey possible, Annabelle has set up a fundraising page. Every penny helps and she would be incredibly grateful for any support. All donations will go directly to Fire Angels, helping to create life-changing opportunities like this for young people.

Please scan the QR code if you would like to donate.

For any questions, feel free to contact [hayleyburgon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hayleyburgon@hotmail.co.uk).





## Exploring Nature in Bramley

As Autumn beckons, Wilder Bramley looks back at the many surveys and conservation activities over the summer that helped build an understanding of the surrounding delicate ecosystems through research and connectivity with nature.

### Bat walk with Hampshire bat group

Wilder Bramley started September with a bat walk, which once again proved popular. We had a magical twilight adventure using bat detectors to listen for ultrasonic vocalisations of these elusive nocturnal mammals. Common and soprano pipistrelles were numerous, as our detectors kept ringing! We also had an infra-red camera to see them in flight. These walks help raise awareness about the ecological importance of bats: they control insect populations or can be indicator species, making them unsung heroes of biodiversity.

Fun fact: did you know that the Greywell tunnel along the Basingstoke Canal is home to one of Europe's most important bat roosts, hosting large numbers of Natterer's bats and Daubenton's bats? We haven't seen them in Bramley; one day maybe!

### Summer Surveys: A Season of Discovery

Summer is peak season for ecological surveys. Butterflies, active by day, and moths, by night, serve as sensitive indicators of habitat health, pollution, and climate shifts. A huge thank you to Basingstoke and Deane Council, who provided survey training. With our new skills, we surveyed Council land near Bramley Green Road and Bramley Green. It was the first year we did such a regular butterfly transect, which provided important data through the season, along with moths and reptiles. Did you know that the common blue butterfly feeds on the bird's foot trefoil you see in Bramley Green?



An orange swift moth



A light emerald moth

## Meadow Scything: A Gentle Art of Land Stewardship

Meadow scything is a traditional method of cutting grass using a long-handled blade. Unlike mechanical mowing, scything is quiet, low-impact and helps to preserve wildflowers and habitats for pollinators. We scythed the church mini meadow to maintain this grassland. This year, the yellow rattle seeds were funded by Debbie Grey and the plants went to seeds as she left us. Our work party was quite quick because the rain the night before made the grass easier to cut.



All ready to scythe the meadow at St James' Church

## Coppicing and pond restoration

We are excited to partner with Basingstoke Council to restore biodiversity in woodland near St Mark's Close. We will restore an ephemeral pond by coppicing some trees.

The work party will be at 10 AM on 18 October, near the play park in St Marks Close.

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management that involves repeatedly felling trees at the base and allowing them to regrow to provide a sustainable source of timber. It also enables the light to reach the soil so new flowers can grow and be pollinated by all sorts of new insects, providing food to birds too.



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**T**his month, **Jordan Rollinson** takes a break from the civil war to share a **Blissful Invitation** with us – the perfect spooky story for Halloween!

Darkness swallowed the woodland, but my torch pierced the gloom. I panned my beacon left, right; its beam either bounced from gnarled trunks or dissipated into the dark beyond. Flitting through its path, visible for brief seconds, were moths that were no doubt startled by the sun's reappearance. Ahead, the treeline had finally cleared, judging by how greedily and completely my lifeline of light was devoured. As a diver plunging beyond his depth, I marched into that onyx abyss. I'd come looking for answers, without risk of sounding like an extravagant, intrepid explorer.

We - my scout troop - had camped in this woodland years ago, telling horror stories by firelight to give each other the jitters. But it wasn't the stories that I was chasing. One of us had sprinted back after he had taken a leak, panicked.

"Some-something in the trees!" He had uttered. I think his name was Michael. Our leaders had risen to their feet, asking for more information. Michael had none. Each leader pulled a burning stick from the fire; we only had one torch and they didn't want to leave us without. They set off together into the woodland, one remaining with us.

None returned.

We had to close the camp early, police were summoned that very night; blue and red flashes lit up the leaves. Come morning, the officers had found no-one, and our parents were waiting at the woodland carpark to collect us.

Now, I returned.

This void of darkness beyond the trees had continued for what felt to be an hour, but similarly to caving, could just as well have only been fifteen minutes. Suddenly, rather than steadily, my torchlight impacted with a rough, stony wall. I should have noticed something like this minutes ago, more and more of my light reflecting from its towering form until I came to its base. No matter, I supposed. It wasn't like the stars above had been much help either. It was stylised as a church: swooping crenellations, weathered gargoyles and a single spire that jutted from its roofing like a broken bone.

Half of its door still hung on its hinges. I stepped through its absentee sibling's space. Inside, it was smaller than it looked; claustrophobic, even. Woven from twisting boughs, ad-hoc pews sprawled irregularly across the small space. Moss clung to cracks in the stoneworked walls. At the far side of the nave, what may once have passed for an organ sat rotting, unused. I trod towards it, but something stopped me. A skeletally thin hand clutched my jacket. I jolted back. I shone the torch on its face, which despite its shrivelling, I recognised.

"Leader Hugo?" Hugo didn't respond, he just grinned with yellowed teeth. His index pointed first at the pulpit, then what resembled a choir's stalls.

"Join our Choir," Hugo rasped, and the other three leaders' voices joined him. Worshipfully melodic, their words were almost enchanting. Blindly, faith lured me. Snapping out of their allure, I bolted, sprinting from the door.

## Supporting Hampshire's Heart: Help for Community Groups, Charities & Village Halls

Did you know there's a local charity dedicated to helping small community groups, village halls and charities thrive across Hampshire?

Action Hampshire has been empowering local communities for over 70 years. Whether you're running a village hall, starting a community project, or managing a small charity, they offer practical support to help you succeed. From governance and

training to grants and advice, Action Hampshire provides tailored guidance to help your group grow. They run workshops and events to build skills and connect with others doing similar work. They offer specialist help for community buildings, including funding, networking opportunities, and best practice guides.

Action Hampshire works on behalf of all local charities to represent the sector's needs to local authorities and funders. Their regular e-newsletter contains useful updates and links to new funding opportunities as well as details about new project funds

## October at The Wyne – National Trust

The Wyne's gardens are turning flaming shades of copper and amber as the estate starts to cosy up for autumn and winter with some exciting Halloween and Christmas activities for the whole family. This month is also your last chance to see the Regency Revisited Exhibition and take the Jane Austen House Tour, with 2 November being their last day.

### Last Month of the Jane Austen Celebration

- Daily until 2 Nov - Regency Revisited Exhibition: get up close to first editions of Austen's books and feast your eyes on beautiful Regency costumes.
- Wednesdays and Saturdays until 2 Nov – Jane Austen House Tour

### Outdoor Cinema Nights

Unless you have premium tickets, you'll need to pack your camping chairs along with your torches, picnics and blankets. Find out more and book online: [adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/the-wyne](http://adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/the-wyne)

- 3 Oct - Outdoor cinema: *Scream* (18)
- 4 Oct - Outdoor cinema: *Hocus Pocus* (PG)
- 5 Oct - Outdoor cinema: *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (PG)

### Halloween Adventures

- 11 Oct - 2 Nov - 'We're Going on a Ghost Hunt' Halloween Adventure

### Christmas Magic

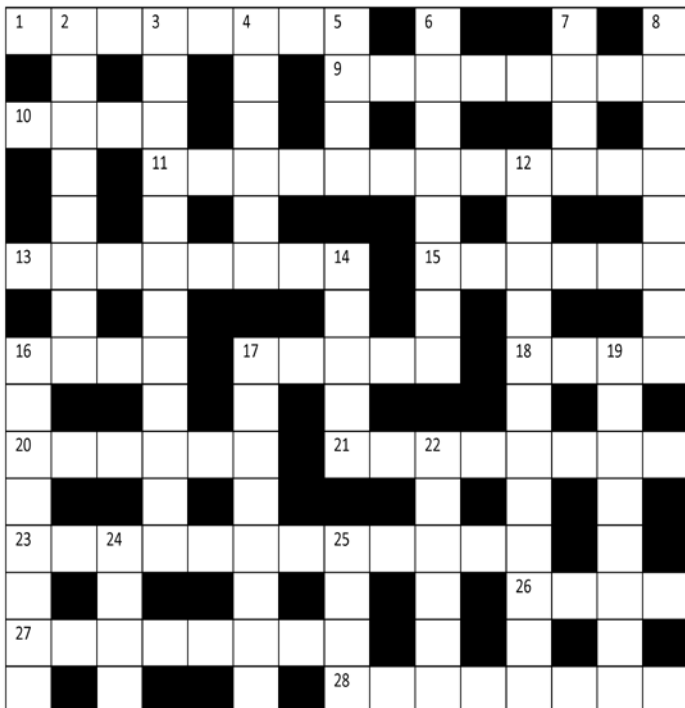
- 1-19 Dec (12 noon weekdays only) - Christmas lunch in the Brewhouse tea-room
- 22 Nov - 5 Jan - A Fairytale Christmas at The Wyne

they are delivering. Their projects focus on tackling health inequalities, organisational development, poverty and cost of living, community led research, and rural affordable housing.

They are currently inviting applications for several community-focused projects, including funding opportunities for initiatives such as 'Healthwatch Hampshire Engagement', 'Safe and Warm Communities', and 'Let's Be Smoke Free'. Visit [www.actionhampshire.org.uk](http://www.actionhampshire.org.uk) or call 01962 854971 to learn more and see how they can support your group.

# Cryptic Crossword No: 92

See page 30 for the answers.



## Across

- 1 Doing something, or not possibly ? (8)
- 9 Heap miss arranged and got stress. (8)
- 10 Initially a bold looking example of being competent. (4)
- 11 Musician in sympathy with others perhaps. (12)
- 13 Zinc ties all around for members. (8)
- 15 Blunt or awkward. (6)
- 16 Computer term may take a chunk out of you. (4)
- 17 You may find this where there is muck ! (5)
- 18 The town of Forfar may hide land. (4)
- 20 Look into Basque all over for animal sound. (6)
- 21 Commit to altering iced date. (8)
- 23 It meant chess became a telling off. (12)
- 26 I considered concealing symbol. (4)
- 27 Table met with a change to fortify. (8)
- 28 The quality of not being common. (8)

## Down

- 2 Aristocracy created tiny boil. (8)

- 3 Seen IV crates turned into imaginative ability. (12)
- 4 Result of cold dripping water. (6)
- 5 Close to start with north, east and round about. (4)
- 6 Pair cost confused fruits. (8)
- 7 Drink hidden as tiny bubbles. (4)
- 8 Is other map showing temperature line ? (8)
- 12 Information or warning. (12)
- 14 Follows band or Custer's last. (5)
- 16 Musical symbol associated with F. (4,4)
- 17 Ball is taking a toll on wall as a weapon. (8)
- 19 Revolving almost palindromic blades. (8)
- 22 Can the River Dee perhaps be seen to be further down. (6)
- 24 Reflective singing group. (4)
- 25 Hid pitcher in sewers. (4)

# CodeWord No: 78

See page 30 for the answers.

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

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

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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### Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Irene Hickson illustrated her demonstration, entitled 'Fashion trends of the twentieth century', with five varied colourful designs, all accompanied by snippets of music from the era. The first trend to be represented was the straight, low-waisted dresses of the twenties. She told us that this loose-fitting style soon became very popular as it provided freedom from the more heavily structured outfits of previous years. Irene started with a container decorated with fringed fabric, which was often used to edge these 'flapper' dresses. Her arrangement featured mainly pink flowers: lilies, alstroemeria, roses, germinis and lisianthus, with an outline of palm leaves. She added a few colourful feathers frequently worn by Charleston dancers with whom these dresses are most closely associated.

Her next choice, 'the little black dress', was designed by Coco Chanel and has remained a popular choice for women since, due to its versatility. For this, Irene's two matching asymmetrical arrangements were started with an outline of manipulated aspidistra and fatshedera leaves before adding white roses, carnations, and white calla lilies. These were interspersed with crocosmia seed heads which had been sprayed black. The result was, very much like the little black dress, elegant and stylish.

Her next design was much more flamboyant and colourful, to reflect the full circle skirts of the 1950's which were often supported and exaggerated by stiff net petticoats. Bright red net was used as the base for the all-round design featuring a mix of flowers: yellow and orange germinis, pink alstroemeria, white carnations, and pink lisianthus. A few grasses placed around the design helped to give the illusion of fullness to replicate the skirt. We then moved on to the 1960s and Irene told how Mary Quant's bold youthful designs, which also featured new materials such as PVC, captured the spirit of the decade. One of her designs, the mini skirt, teamed with white PVC go-go boots soon became extremely popular. To illustrate this, Irene made a beautifully constructed compact design using red roses, pink anthurium and red germanise, outlined with manipulated phormium and aucuba leaves. The very high platformed soles of the 1970s, popularised by pop singers of the time, became very popular with men and women. Irene's elevated parallel design featuring a pair of such shoes was very striking. The

base was edged with conifer and heuchera then topped with three vertical lines of carnation, allium, and anthurium.

Our monthly meetings mainly feature demonstrators, with the occasional workshop for those members wanting to practise some of the techniques that we learn from our NAFAS trained demonstrators. Do come along on the first Thursday of the month to Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1:30pm if you'd like to spend an afternoon with friendly company or to make new friends. For more details visit our Facebook page or contact Dusty on 01256 881420, or email: TayMab1@aol.com.

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# Sherfield-on-Loddon

## GARDEN CENTRE & CAFÉ



11<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October



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## What's this fruit family asks John Stubbs

Well, yes, OK – it's a tomato, of course. But this parent plant has a mis-begotten sibling, very familiar to us all, though rarely acknowledged as such. Both these plants will have fruit looking very much like the ones in the photo, given the chance. If it's not a tomato, what else? Gooseberry? Greengage? Damson? But the fruit from this other plant – if they're found – are summarily dispatched as unwanted, unpleasant, and a drag on the plant's growth. Wouldn't do that to a tomato, would we?

The estranged relative is the potato. The relationship's been recognised for hundreds of years, and both were known to be in the family of the deadly nightshade – even to the extent of their both being classified as inedible, until Spain and Italy well demonstrated otherwise. The assumption had been that they'd evolved from one common stock, a long, long while back, and then they diverged entirely separately. After all, tomato roots wouldn't make much of a meal, nor the potato fruit much better. However, recent studies of the plants' genealogies, and those of geological plate tectonics, have changed how we look at the humble spud, and the other inhabitants of Bramley's allotments.

But did potatoes really depend on the moving continental plates of the earth's crust? Apparently so, from new conclusions and trials lately released by Shenzhen University. The story has its origins in how the Andes have been found to have grown not as had been assumed at a steady, leisurely rate normal for a mountain range. Nothing as fast as a glacial pace, but making occasional jumps upwards, as heavy rock below gets heated and then fails to anchor the mountains. Hence instead of the usual sort of 1m in 50,000 years, as the Himalayas heave, parts of the Andes could jump a metre in a fleeting three thousand years.

And as it happened, in these areas of the Andes 14 million years ago, there was a plant (now) called *etuberosum*, from which the tomato family evolved. Over the next 6 million years, the *etuberosum* and the tomato wound up in very different growing conditions – some kilometres apart in elevation. Then apparently at random, the two now different plants hybridised – hey presto, the potato is born. This sort of genetic mix-up is rarely stable, but in this case, it worked fine: the hybrid had



the enlarged tuberous root, used as the plant's energy reserves for hard times.

The new potato went into a sort of explosive diversification, finding hundreds of niches that different forms could now occupy. It relied less on using the rather variable business of flowers and seeds for reproduction, instead sprouting from the spuds' eyes; more predictable, though limited to propagating clones. And it prospered, thriving in grasslands and dry tropical forest, up to high alpine meadows. Archaeologists have concluded that the Andean people had adopted literally hundreds of varieties as staples, going back as much as 10,000 years. The excellent properties of the potato with nutrients, vitamins, fibre and minerals made it an invaluable food source, and this was naturally noticed by Spaniards in the mid-sixteenth century when they came searching for Inca gold.

Introduced to European countries, the plant's ability to adapt to different climates, when grown from seed, allowed it to thrive in many areas. It was tolerant of poor soil conditions, inexpensive, and suited to small-scale

cultivation. It propagated easily and reliably from seed-potatoes, as opposed to the potato seed from the flowers. It contributed significantly to the growth of most European, and later some Asian populations as it was found to be such a valuable food source, and gradually became widely accepted.

In France, the potato's progress was much advanced by one Antoine-Augustin Parmentier in the 18thC. He was a pharmacist to the French Army during the Franco-Prussian wars: captured and imprisoned; he was fed, what was to the French, illegal pig-fodder. He survived fine – and later, when there came some years of national crop failures, he proposed fostering their wider use in France. He used ruses such as sending potato samples to royalty and celebrities, even putting an armed guard round his plantings during the daytime, quietly removing the guards during the night. The local populace were then pleased to acquire these evidently valuable exotica and exploit them. His name is still celebrated in many recipes, potatoes parmentier are very much still with us.



## Scarecrows

Thank you to everyone who took the time to brighten up the village with their scarecrows. The winner, Guy the Gardener by Rick Fey, is featured on the front page and here are some of your other creations.





**A**nd that's a wrap....As you can see from the photos on the opposite page, another successful **Bramley Show** took place on Sunday 14 September. **Sue Howell** reports on the day.

The village hall was buzzing with entries being delivered in the morning and competitors having a quick peak at what others had produced; then in the afternoon the café filled with visitors enjoying the amazing range of cakes on offer. It was particularly good to see a new cohort of entrants coming through and it is these people who will help continue the Show.

Despite the weather, there were some excellent fruit and vegetables. There was something in almost every class. Apples and pears have been especially good this year and even with the initial lack of rain, the large squashes were impressive; the heaviest squash was too heavy for the scales, being more than 5 kilos! The winning indoor plant was won by Hazel Gaer with her pineapple plant, but the overall winner in the Horticulture classes was James Quidgley for the second year.

The photography classes were very well supported with some interesting views of Bramley, windows, weather, animals and abstract photos. The overall winner was Anne-Marie Jones with a photo of a window in Cornwall overlooking the sea.

The cookery was a very high standard, with a variety of sponges and biscuits, fruit cakes, jams curds and pickles. A new class this year was bread, with eight loaves entered. The overall winner was Viv Salem. The Craft section continues to grow. There were so many interesting items, all of which showed the talent there is in Bramley – magnificent needle felting, metal work, woodwork, weaving, sewing, knitting, recycling, and so much more. This year there was a new trophy for the Craft section and this was won by Jo Barnes.

The Flower arranging was well populated, especially the miniature class, and the overall winner was Joyce Rutland.

The children were stars and their entries were excellent as always. Some great flower arrangements, drawings and models. Annabelle Lee retained her place as overall winner.

There was a scavenger hunt for the children with prizes, guess the height of the Sunflower and some lovely toys made by one of the team in exchange for a stone hidden in the local parks.

The raffle was popular as always and many thanks to those who were kind enough to give prizes.

This small but important local event would never happen without the small army of people who did the admin, ironed, made, baked, sold, collected, set up, washed up, cleared away and were all round good sports. We are so grateful to everyone who supported the Show.

**Date for your diary: The 38th Bramley Show will take place on Sunday 13 September 2026.**

## Kingsclere Singers

### Kingsclere Singers' New Term Has Started.

We are the Kingsclere Singers, a friendly easy-going group of people that just love to sing together and be social in a safe place.

If you love singing, with whatever ability you have, and you just want to find a friendly, inviting place to be yourself and release the stresses, repetitiveness, or lonely weeks, please come and give us a chance to lift your spirits in song.

We are all looking forward to meeting you, you can find us on Facebook (Kingsclere Singers Group) or at our website [www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk](http://www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk)

### Why We Sing

On the 19th Oct at 3pm, come to Pamber Heath Village Hall as the Kingsclere Singers are joining forces with the Tadley Singers, to put on a performance you just can't miss. Come along and listen to the two groups sing on their own and together. The event is free with collection.



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Sunday 30 November  
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Location: Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

**Alton**  
Sunday 14 December  
Time: Arrival at 9AM, start at 10AM  
Location: The Market Square, Alton, GU34 1HD

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**Mondays**

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Badminton</i>                      | Village Hall          |
| <i>Petite Dance</i>                   | Village Hall          |
| <i>Hipp Pilates</i>                   | Clift Meadow Pavilion |
| <i>NHS Health 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<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i> | Bramley Room,<br>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<br/>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,<br>Little London |

**Wednesdays**

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

**Thursdays**

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral<br/>Society 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday<br/>1.30 - 4.00pm</i> | Sherfield on Loddon<br>Village Hall |
| <i>Dance Club</i>  | Primary School Hall                 |
| <i>Pilates</i>   | St Stephen's Hall                   |
| <i>WI 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>  | Village Hall                        |
| <i>Bath Babies 10.30 &amp; 11.30</i>   | Village Hall                        |
| <i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>   | Clift Meadow Pavilion               |
| <i>Dance Vibes - adult fitness class<br/>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 &amp; Friendship<br/>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<br/>8pm 1st and 3rd Saturday<br/>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](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.bramley-pc.gov.uk<br>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                        |   |                    |
| Bath Babies                                 | Katie Loosley            | 07921 158495                  | info@babyserenity.org   |                    |
| 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/<br>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<br>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<br>sam@naturalnook.co.uk                |                    |
| NHS Health Visitor                          | Nicola Jones             |                               | Nicola.Jones@SouthernHealth.nhs.uk                              |                    |
| Perform                                     | Gemma Payne              | 07825 916496                  | gemmapayne@perform.org.uk                                       |                    |
| Petite Dance                                | Louise Pain              | 07877 890673                  | misslouise@petiteschoolofdancing.com                            |                    |
| Body Control Pilates                        | Heather Lewis            | 07785 254313                  | hsfitnessuk@mac.com   |                    |
| Pilates (WG Pilates)                        | Wendy Gill               | 07961 102535                  | wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk   |                    |
| Rainbows                                    | Christina Wilson         |                               | 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:<br>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship                 |                    |
| WI  | Pat Cole                 | 881715                        | gpcole37@gmail.com  |                    |
| Wilder Bramley                              |                          | 07503 155669                  | wilder.bramley@gmail.com<br>www.wilderbramley.org or Facebook   |                    |
| Yoga  | Mark Golding             | 07969 890722                  | goldingyoga@gmail.com<br>goldingyoga.com                        |                    |

## Help Shape Local Health & Care and be in with a chance to win a £25 Gift Card!

Action Hampshire is working with Healthwatch Hampshire to gather feedback from people across the county about their experiences with health and social care services. We especially want to hear from underrepresented groups such as rural communities like yours.

Maybe you've had a great visit with your local GP, or perhaps you've struggled to get a dentist appointment. You might have had support from a social worker, or needed help from a paramedic. Whatever your experience, we'd love to hear about it. Your feedback helps make sure services are working well and meeting the needs of local communities.

As a thank you, you'll have the opportunity to enter our free Autumn Prize Draw to win one of three £25 One4All gift cards – perfect for a little treat.

**Deadline: Sunday 26th October at midnight**

**Share your feedback here: [bit.ly/AutumnPrizeDrawHWH](http://bit.ly/AutumnPrizeDrawHWH)**

Let's make sure rural voices are heard – your story could help shape better care for everyone.



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T: 01295 534211 E: [recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) Registered Charity No: 1121258 [againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://againstbreastcancer.org.uk)

## Cryptic Crossword No: 92 Solution

|    |              |    |              |
|----|--------------|----|--------------|
| 25 | EWER         | 28 | RARENESS     |
| 24 | ABBA         | 27 | EMBATTLE     |
| 22 | DEEPER       | 26 | ICON         |
| 19 | ROTATORS     | 23 | CHASTISEMENT |
| 17 | BALISTA      | 21 | DEDICATE     |
| 16 | BASS CLEF    | 20 | SQUEAL       |
| 14 | STAND        | 18 | FARM         |
| 12 | NOTIFICATION | 17 | BRASS        |
| 8  | ISOTHERM     | 16 | BYTE         |
| 7  | ASTI         | 15 | ORTUSE       |
| 6  | APRICOTS     | 13 | CITIZENS     |
| 5  | NEAR         | 11 | ACCORDIONIST |
| 4  | ICICLE       | 10 | ABLE         |
| 3  | CREATIVENESS | 9  | EMPHASIS     |
| 2  | NOBILITY     | 1  | INACTION     |

Down Across

## CodeWord No: 78 Solution

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

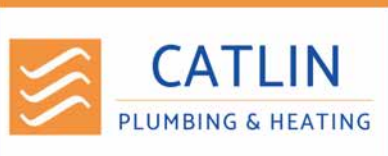
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[bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com](mailto:bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com)

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Basingstoke Cats Protection is currently inundated with cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

We are looking for fosterers in the Basingstoke area, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.



Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness 🐱

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at [welfareteamleader@basingstoke.cats.org.uk](mailto:welfareteamleader@basingstoke.cats.org.uk) or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.

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serving the local  
community**

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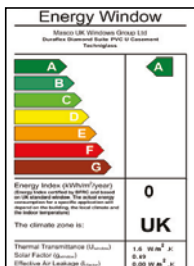
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