

November 2025

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- 
- A photograph of a cemetery with rows of white headstones and pink roses. The headstones are arranged in neat rows on a green lawn, with pink roses planted in front of them. The background shows a brick wall and a line of trees under a blue sky with clouds.
- Remembrance Month
 - Local planning updates
 - Who were the Clift Brothers?

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

November 2025

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

Editorial

Do you remember the story of the *Magic Porridge Pot*? I'm probably showing my age here, but I had the Ladybird version which I seem to recall had a picture of a harassed looking mother on the cover. It was about a girl who had a magic pot that would cook delicious porridge if you commanded it to "Cook, little pot, cook". It would carry on cooking until you said, "Stop, little pot". I was reminded of this story when I walked to church recently and passed a bucket of apples being given away. Gradually the apples were taken by passers by and then, a few days later, the bucket was full again! The apples were delicious, and other people have made similar donations around the village: I came out of church this morning to find two large boxes of apples, one in the porch and one outside Cross House. I love stewed apples and don't have any apple trees of my own, so I am very appreciative of this generosity.

In the story, the pot overflows because the mother can't remember the words to stop it. It's not exactly a difficult set of instructions, but I imagine the poor woman had 100 other things on her mind. The porridge keeps cooking until it has filled the whole house and the next house, running down the street until virtually the whole village is full of porridge. It's only when the girl comes home and commands "Stop little pot" that the village is prevented from being overrun. Perhaps we could get a magic pot here and start it off in Stocks Farm or some of the other places that are being targeted by developers. Building houses on sand didn't work well in the Bible and I can't imagine porridge would be a much better foundation. If you can bear it, see page 10 for information about more planning proposals. I can only echo the words from Mark Davies' winning poem about Bramley on page 23: *You grew and recently you've grown apace. We'd rather that you didn't grow much bigger.* (And by the way, I didn't bribe Mark to write his comments in verse 6!).

One of the few places in Bramley that we can safely say will never be developed is Clift Meadow, but do you know why we have it and who Mr Clift was? You can find out by reading Sarah Stubbs' interesting article on page 15. The churchyard is another development-free area and in October a small team set to work getting it ready for winter. Annoyingly I didn't take any 'before' photos but the huge pile of brambles and other garden waste on page 20 shows how much was cleared. Of course, the new developments aren't all bad and often have some good features. St James' Park has 24 allotments where locals can grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. I'm not sure whether you would be allowed to grow apple trees but if you are interested in applying for an allotment, turn to page 11.

Going back to the porridge pot, I do like the idea of having my meals produced instantly, without having to do any work. It's a bit like the magazine this month: our new editor, Holly, has done virtually all the hard work of designing the magazine and editing the articles; I've just done a few bits and pieces behind the scenes. I'm sure you will agree, she has done a great job and I hope this is the first of many magazines she will work on.

Have a good month

Rachel

Joint Editor

"When you go home, tell them of us and say: for your
tomorrow we gave our today."

John Maxwell Edmonds

Cover Photo: Flatiron Copse Cemetery on the Somme by Rhydian Vaughan

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

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Benefice Services

November...

2nd	All Saints Sunday
10.00	Holy Communion - St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
3.00	Remembered with Love – St Leonard's, Sherfield A memorial service for loved ones who have died
9th	Remembrance Sunday
10.30	Remembrance – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye Followed by tea/coffee in The Iron Duke pub
10.45	Remembrance – Sherfield Memorial
10.45	Remembrance – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
16th	2nd Sunday before Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
23rd	Christ the King
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield
30th	Advent Sunday
10.30	Benefice Holy Communion at St James

...and into December

7th	2nd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.00	Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
5.30	Carol Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
14th	3rd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre

Church diary for November...

2nd	All Saints Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins - St James
9th	Remembrance Sunday
8.00	BCP Holy Communion - St James
10.30	Remembrance - St James
16th	2nd Sunday before Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship - St James
23rd	Christ the King
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
30th	Advent Sunday
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Benefice Communion - St James

...and into December

7th	2nd Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins - St James
14th	3rd Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
6.30	Carol Service - St James

From the Registers

Baptism

Reuben Ernest BRAILEY 26th September 2025
St James Church

Funeral

Malcolm Keith KNOWLES 3rd October 2025
St James Church

Bramley SpeedWatch



The residents in Kirby Drive have raised concerns over speeding vehicles in the area with the Parish Council and SpeedWatch. In response SpeedWatch set a SID up

to collect some baseline data for the residents. Two manned deployments were also undertaken in the area. The data collected has been fed back to the residents and the Parish Council.

SpeedWatch often get questions regarding the camera and how it works. Hopefully this brief explanation will answer some of your questions.

The camera uses a single-channel radar looking at the front of vehicles approaching the unit. It is relatively low-power and detects vehicles within the last 50m or so depending on size. Larger vehicles get picked up earlier and for longer than mopeds, etc. The unit then takes multiple measurements and checks for consistency. It then determines whether the radar profile fits a 'signature' of a vehicle passing the unit, and whether it is speeding. If all these things are true, it'll delay and then take a capture of the rear of the vehicle having passed by. The data is recorded direct onto a central database which can be accessed by the police and SpeedWatch. The data is held for a period of 1 year and then deleted.

Not just Bramley! The data from the camera is amalgamated with data

Camera Data (July – Sept 2025):

Month/Year	Verified speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest hour	Illegal vehicles
July	1544*	10	5am	40
August	2560	17	5am	78
Sept	1953	15	5am	62

from all the cameras operating on the AutoSpeedWatch system. The police access this data which highlights persistent offenders and shows un-taxed and no MOT vehicles - it is not just limited to Bramley.

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

4 manned deployments were undertaken during September. A total of 30 vehicles were reported to the police from the 550 vehicles checked - hit rate 5%. Top speed recorded 46 mph.

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. 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 (September):

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph
The Forge*	30	Westbound	70%	33
Farriers	30	Westbound	42%	4
Bramley Corner	30	Eastbound	69%	34
The Street Beaufort	30	Eastbound	33%	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

BRAMLEY WI

It is that time of the year again where we fill Rotary boxes for children. At the September meeting, we had a lady called Anne Watson who told us about how they get to the children. It is quite an operation; the boxes are sent to the District Warehouse where they are all checked to make sure there isn't anything which shouldn't be in the boxes. They then get taken away in a lorry where they are distributed to children in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, and Albania. Obviously, this takes time and weather conditions can be challenging, but they get there in time for Christmas. As usual our members were very generous and we aimed for children aged between 1 and 3, and 12 and 15. The committee then packed up the boxes and delivered them to the drop off point.

In the October meeting, we had a craft evening where we decorated glassware which consisted of drinks mats, Christmas trees, etc. We had a lady called Tina who brought all the supplies to decorate the items, and then she took them away to place them in her kiln, and we will get them back later. It was a fun evening and there was some lovely,

decorated items. Afterwards we had the usual refreshments and raffle.

Next month we have a speaker talking about a housemother in India.

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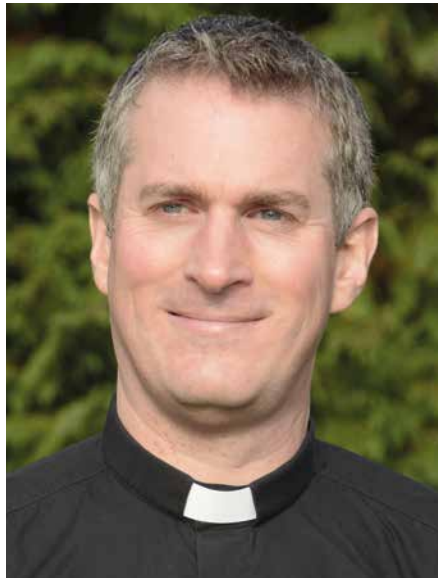
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Who do you think you are?

That's the title of the BBC series where they say 'lost connections and unfamiliar histories are revealed as celebrities trace their family trees... everyone has a tale to tell.' We all have a past (and a future!) and our families are rooted in the past, although it's rare for us to know our ancestors beyond our grandparents. It got me thinking about how our present and our futures are influenced by our past.

These days we are surrounded by influences and for many, influencers on social media. Some good and wholesome but some less so. Perhaps the most influential people in our lives are our families, particularly our (grand) parents and siblings. Again, for better or worse! It's one reason I love history: by understanding our past we can better appreciate why things are the way they are. Of course, we are also very much the product of the choices we make for ourselves.

November is the month when we remember the past. We remember those whose hard work and sacrifice has bequeathed our peace and security today. On Remembrance Sunday we will say, "For your tomorrow we gave our today". This is the Kohima epitaph which is on a memorial in a war cemetery in Kohima, a hill town on the India-Myanmar border. In 1944 it saw some of the fiercest fighting of World War 2 in the Far East. The original words were not written



Rev'd Mark Anderson

to commemorate Kohima, but were composed at the end of the First World War by a Cambridge classicist turned wartime codebreaker, John Maxwell Edmonds. He also wrote 'We died and never knew; But well or ill, England, we died for you'.

It is good to remember. We do it every week in church. We remember that God does not want to remain far off, but came close to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We remember his life, teaching, death and rising again to new life in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, the singing of hymns and the reading of the Bible. We remember in the stories of faith and sacrifice told by those who are older to those who are younger; from one generation to the next. As the ancient Jewish scriptures remind us

(in the Bible's Old Testament), 'Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.' That's from Deuteronomy 4.9 and is about parents telling their children of the faithfulness of God over many years. I wonder, what will we pass on to the next generation?

Rev'd Mark Anderson

Vicar, St James Church, Bramley

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Service of Remembrance

All are welcome to join us to remember and give thanks for those who died serving their country

9th November 2025
at St James Church, Bramley
Starts at 10.30am

A service of BCP Holy Communion will take place at 8am

There will be no Sunday@9

In last month's editorial, **Rachel Barclay Smith** remembered **Malcolm Knowles**. This month she pays a fuller tribute to her friend and fellow churchwarden.

You know someone is special when over 180 people squeeze into church for his funeral. St James' Church comfortably seats 150, but for Malcolm Knowles' funeral extra chairs had to be put out in the bell chamber and the Brocas aisle to accommodate all those who wanted to pay tribute to this remarkable man.



Malcolm celebrating his 60th birthday

Malcolm moved to Bramley in 2010, with his wife, Lucy, and was fully invested in our community from the start. He was the parent governor at Bramley School, served on St James' PCC, ran the popular coconut shy at the Bramley Fete and delivered more magazines than anyone I know. Taking early retirement from M&S Bank enabled Malcolm to take on the childcare role for his son, Marcus, who was then 6 years old. He was an enthusiastic 'school gate chatter' (being a master at dad jokes!) and a few years ago he took on the Three Peaks challenge with Lucy, Marcus and a group of other parents and children, to raise money for Bramley School. When Marcus started Cubs, Malc would support the group and was involved in planting some of the daffodils we see around the village. He was a keen gardener and would often enjoy a chat with passing dog walkers as he was working on his immaculate flower borders.

Malcolm was on the PCC at St James' Church for around ten years and was churchwarden for seven years. He was involved in all aspects of church life and if a job needed doing he would do it: he helped with everything from re-gravelling the paths and digging trenches for internet cables, to welcoming the Bishop and ordering communion wine. Now he has gone, I realise just how much he did, quietly behind the scenes. The gutters seem to be overflowing more than they did and there are cobwebs in places only Malc could reach. He was also one of the best singers in our

congregation, having joined his church choir at the age of eight; I miss hearing him belting out his favourite hymns on a Sunday morning.

I must admit, when John Lenton asked me to be churchwarden in 2021, I was pretty reluctant; I was busy thinking up excuses before he had even put the phone down. Then I had a chat with Malc, who had already been churchwarden for three years, and I realised how good it would be to work alongside him. Nothing ever seemed to faze Malc; he was calm and positive, with a great sense of humour.

Malcolm was also a member of our bell ringing band, having learnt to ring as a boy at his church in Egham. He and his brother, Graham, rang their first peal in December 1983, when Malc was just 20. That's over 3 hours of non-stop ringing, changing places with other bells at every stroke. He also rang at other churches around the country, including Canterbury Cathedral. The band at his former church rang in Malcolm's memory the day after his funeral and we will do the same at St James' once our bells are returned.

There is so much more I could say about Malcolm and I'm sure everyone who was lucky enough to know him will have their own special memories. He was an amazing Dad to Marcus, Laura and Hannah and a devoted husband to Lucy. He was often described as caring, cheerful, calm, generous with his time and faithful. You could also describe him as an eternal optimist, having been an enthusiastic supporter of Reading Football Club for many years!

I will just end with some words from Rev. Mark Anderson's address at the funeral service: *Malcolm was like a firm foundation, someone I knew I could trust, completely and wholeheartedly. He served others, he served this church, he served God.*



A typical picture of Malcolm – working at church, up a ladder, in his shorts!

Sue Howell shares an update from the Patient Participation Group as well as an exciting update about the Pharmabox

From The Patient Participation Group on behalf of Clift Surgery

The PPG has been working with the surgery recently and something that has been brought to our attention is that the surgery has been having an increase in abusive behaviour. This of course is unacceptable on every level. Everyone knows that all parts of the NHS are struggling and to add this to the list of problems is not helping.

Why is this happening? It isn't clear but some reasons are: not being able to get the appointment they think they need; being annoyed if appointments are cancelled; not feeling well and feeling upset. All this is understandable, and everyone is working hard to support all patients but please be aware that:

- We are coming into the winter where illness is increasing, so there are limited face-to-face appointments.
- "On the day" appointments are only for those with serious health problems.
- All staff are human beings. They too get ill, can have family crises and they can feel stressed. They deserve respect and understanding just like our patients do.

In addition to this, there have been increasing incidents of poor behaviour in the car park which has been recorded on CCTV. There are steps in place to curtail such behaviour but ultimately any abusive behaviour can result in being removed from the surgery's register.

The surgery is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for everyone and it wishes to thank the vast majority of our patients who continue to treat staff and each other with kindness and courtesy.

Pharmabox update

Patients are already signing up, and it has been great to see the enthusiasm for this new service. I have tried it out and it is quick and easy. A few teething troubles need to be sorted out but it will be fully operational soon. No need to have



to dash to a pharmacy further away if you work during the dispensary opening hours, as it is available 24 hours a day.

If you have your medication sent to a different pharmacy, why not consider swapping to Clift Surgery's dispensing Pharmabox if you are a patient at Clift Surgery and live in the catchment area for this service.

N.B. What you cannot get from the Pharmabox is:

- Liquids – in case of possible spillages/breakages
- Refrigerated items – the box has no refrigeration
- Controlled drugs – these need to be handed over personally
- Bulky items – there is not enough space to store for these.

Complete a registration form available from the surgery to use the Pharmabox.

The new Ten Year plan for the NHS

Key shifts are:

- Hospital to Community: Shift care closer to home.
- Analogue to Digital: Embrace technology for faster, smarter services.
- Sickness to Prevention: Focus on predicting and preventing illness.

Further details are evolving, and we will keep you up to date.

If anyone would like support or know more about the use of digital processes or need some support in using such services, please let the PPG know at ppgclift@gmail.com.



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**Hampshire
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Bramley Parish Council give us their latest updates for this month.

Planning Updates

Bramley Meadows (the Duke's Land) with proposals for up to 650 homes. The developer has reviewed the workshops held earlier in the year and there is a clear 80% of residents who are not supportive. The local Parish Councils met with the developers and Lord Mornington on 6 October to discuss these results. There is no formal planning application ready at this stage, but they continue to discuss the schools, shop and medical service provision with those relevant bodies. However, it is clear that they have not reached a solution for the extra traffic generation – how it will affect all of Bramley and Sherfield on Loddon and in particular Minchens Lane and Bramley Lane with the increase in trips planned. There are drop-in sessions at Clift Meadow planned for Tuesday 4th November: 10:00am – 5:00pm, Wednesday 5th November: 1:15pm – 8:00pm, and Thursday 6th November: 1:30pm – 6:00pm.

On 8 October the Basingstoke Council development committee granted outline planning permission for 50 houses at Bow Brook Farm. This is despite serious concerns about road safety, given the exit of the site is into a 60mph speed limit, and that there is a narrowing of the carriageway to a single priority chicane so that a narrow footpath can be provided. The Parish Council strenuously fought this application, but Hampshire County Council highways had no concerns, despite a previous council planning meeting having deferred the application for their review. They offered no extra comment so reluctantly we were given yet more houses.

Wates Homes, who took Stocks Farm planning to appeal before selling to Barratt Redrow, have reappeared with a potential application for another 100 homes to the west of Minchens Lane, adjacent to the battery farm and surrounded by the future Solar Farm.

The development is too small to offer much in the way of infrastructure. The initial discussion with Hampshire Council Highways has suggested another right-turn-only solution to help with Minchen's Lane traffic – but we all know how well the left-turn-only exit from St James' Park works!



Image courtesy of Wates Homes

If that is not enough, Taylor Wimpy are pushing forward with an application adjacent to the Cufaude Farm site –

West of Cufaude for up to 240 more homes in the south of the Parish – so with Vyne Park and Upper Cufaude this totals nearly 900 homes.

As Stocks Farm is being built out, the PC has met with Barratt Redrow to discuss issues with the traffic management (on-road parking and traffic entering Bramley from the east), resident's privacy and construction impact of dust, mud etc. Promises were made to improve matters. We shall see in due course. However, there is an issue regarding the occupation of the first houses as Thames Water are late with their plans to upgrade Bramley's sewage, which at worst will see tankers being used to remove the sewage until sorted due to a permissive condition that was put in place by the planning inspector at the appeal. Members of the Parish Council continue to meet with Thames Water's engineering management and will keep you updated with progress on the works as this situation unfolds.

Other News

The Village Green project is continuing well with works completed to the path through the site.

Upcoming Meetings

The next upcoming Bramley PC meetings are as follows:

- Planning Committee – Tuesday 11 November 2025, 8.00pm
- Full Council – Tuesday 18 November 2025, 7.00pm
- Planning Committee – Tuesday 9 December 2025, 8.00pm
- Full Council – Tuesday 16 December 2025, 7.00pm

All meetings are held in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall and, as always, members of the public are welcome to attend.

Vyne Park magazine distribution

If you are a resident of Vyne Park, do you enjoy receiving this magazine? Would you be able to help deliver it? Four people at 1/2 an hour per month would work. If so, please contact the Editor.

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.

Bramley Parish Council Allotments

Bramley is lucky to have allotments at two locations, one at St James Park off Minchens Lane and the other off Silchester Road, near St James Church. Both sites have 24 half size allotments, 48 plots in total. Allotment gardens, as they used to be known, are an ideal opportunity for those with small gardens, or no gardens, to grow fruit and vegetables and flowers, to promote healthy eating and exercise.

If you are keen to take one on, please note that allotments tend to have long waiting lists and you could be waiting for between 1 and 5 years. Allotments are time consuming and if you decide to apply, please be aware that you will need to devote several hours a month for maintenance and growing. Once you accept a plot, you will be joining a community of like-minded people and so you need to respect others and make sure you keep your plot free of weeds and make sure you do not shade your neighbouring plots.

The Parish Council does not support the use of any kind of pesticides. Many of our allotment holders choose to grow organically, and pesticides can run off to another plot during heavy rain, contaminating other plots.

If you would like to apply, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk. Your application will be acknowledged, and you will be notified what position you are on the waiting list. Please note that there is only one waiting list and you will be offered a plot when one becomes available from either site. If you refuse the location, you will go back onto the waiting list. While you wait you may like to take a look at the Allotment Society web site www.thenas.org.uk and other gardening sites, such as www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/allotments/allotment-basics and www.allotmentonline.co.uk.

In Bramley you can install a sentry box type shed to store tools and a small non glass green house. Within 6 months of being allocated you will be expected to have your plot ready for cultivation. It is advised that you take out insurance against damage and injury and this can be obtained from the Allotment Society.

For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk.

Come and join us at the village coffee morning

Looking for a warm cuppa, a friendly chat, and a slice of something homemade? Why not pop along to our village coffee morning, held every Wednesday from 10 o'clock to 11:30 in the pavilion at Clift Meadow.

Whether you're new to the area or have lived here all your life, everyone is welcome - and you don't need to book or bring anything. Just turn up, say hello, and enjoy a relaxed hour or more with neighbours old and new.

We serve tea, coffee, and delicious cakes and biscuits, often homemade, and there's always a friendly face to chat with. It's a lovely way to catch up on village news, meet new people, and take a break from the week.

We're also looking for ideas to make the mornings even better, whether it's a craft table, a book swap, or simply changing the time to suit more people.

We would love to see more of you there, and if you've never been before, this is your official invitation! Bring a friend, bring a neighbour or just bring yourself.

You can contact us at: jk.cmcc@btconnect.com

Sherfield & District Gardening Club

We look forward to welcoming members, guests and visitors on **Monday 17 November**. Our guest speaker is Claire Mitchell whose talk is entitled "**A plant a month – how to build a successful, successional garden**". Claire will provide inspiration for us all!

Sherfield Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm. Talk starts 7.30pm, followed by Q&A, refreshments and our gardening-themed raffle. If you arrive early, kindly wait in the room next door (where the Bar is). The Pilates Class before us ends at 7pm and they have 15 minutes "clearing up" time (as we have, too!)

New members and guests are very welcome. Just £2 per meeting for members. £5 per meeting for non-members and guests. Includes refreshments. (Annual Subs only £10, if you've not paid already)

A date for your diary, ahead of the busy Festive Season our **Christmas party** is on **Monday 15 December**.

Happy gardening and we look forward to seeing you in November.

Lauren Dotor

On behalf of Sherfield & District Gardening Club.



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 stmichaels Hospice.org.uk/LUAL

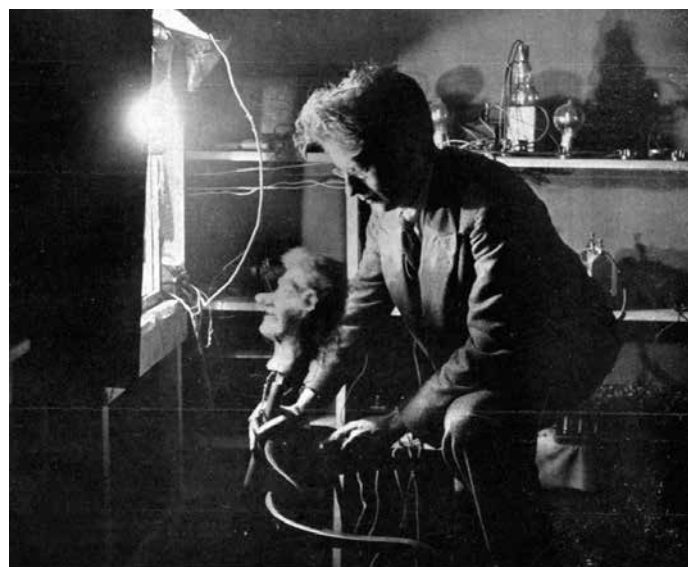
Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848
St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB

Probus Hears about the History of Television

Where did it come from? Was it invented? Did it happen by accident? The concept of transmitting sound, let alone pictures, by wire was beyond the imaginations of the greatest minds in preceding years. Although considered by many that television was simply 'invented' in this country by Scotsman John Logie Baird, there were many scientists before him in the 18th and 19th centuries whose developments paved the way that ultimately resulted in electronic television.

Italian Volta, in 1799, created the first battery. Using this invisible force of electricity Sir Humphrey Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, created the first arc lamp. In 1896, William Crookes developed the cathode ray tube to show that cathode rays could travel through space in straight lines causing residual gasses to glow. This was further developed by Ferdinand Braun with his phosphor-coated display tube which laid the groundwork for electronic imaging. The brilliance of JJ Thomson (Nobel Physics Prize recipient in 1906) further developed the tube, causing a "beam" of rays to be controlled. Several of his students and later his son all won the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Early in the 1900s, Archibald Campbell Simpson, a British Theoretical Scientist, published a paper proposing a 'scanning system' that would eventually form the basis of transmitting an image. Baird used this electro-mechanical scanning method to develop the first transmission by wire from one room to another of the image of the head of a ventriloquist's dummy. The British Government recognised the potential of such a system and funded its development. It was the development of wireless transmissions following inventions by Marconi that the GPO became involved with the early radio broadcasts in 1906. The British Broadcasting Company was formed in 1922 as a trade body for the radio industry. It was converted in 1926 into The British Broadcasting Corporation and financed by a radio licence. Under government direction, the BBC played a pivotal role in bringing into existence the TV system using studios.



It will soon be 100 years since the Baird system of transmission using a scanning disk was first broadcast. The Baird Televisor sets sold to affluent Londoners were made by the Plessey Company and cost the equivalent of several year's earning of the average man. Meanwhile, in America, Philo Farnsworth, firstly at Westinghouse and then at RCA, in cooperation with Russian émigré Mr Zworykin,

developed the first electronic practical TV camera tube, the Iconoscope. This was further developed by a British Russian scientist, Isaac Schoenberg at the EMI laboratories in Hayes, Middlesex, into a more robust and usable camera tube, the CPS Emitron. The first 'High-Definition TV system' was in development.

Guided by the Government, in 1937 the BBC trialed both the mechanical Baird and the EMI electronic transmission systems eventually settling on the EMI/Marconi version that was able to provide an image consisting of 405 lines – the world's first high-definition television. Public television broadcasting began in the London area in 1936 but ceased in September 1939 at the outbreak of WW2. Technical advances in radar made during hostilities brought improvements in the quality of transmissions when resuming in 1946. Again, the GPO was heavily involved in building lines to enable regional broadcasting to be introduced which necessitated substantial investment.



Gareth Lewis shared several memorable experiences from his forty-one-year career in broadcast engineering, which took him to many places around the world. Starting with the BBC in 1968 he worked in the famous Television Centre at White City as a project engineer. During the ruinous year of industrial unrest in the UK 1975, he moved to South Africa to be a part of the introduction of colour television in that country. Returning to England after several years working overseas, he joined Sony in Basingstoke and among other things, became involved with the engineers working for a little-known Australian TV mogul - Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch wanted to broadcast four channels simultaneously by satellite to the UK, and Sony was able to supply equipment that would achieve this aim, which was the start of Sky Television based in Brentford, West London. Gareth Lewis is of the opinion that over the next few years, the days of linear broadcasting schedules of programmes may disappear. It will become normal to stream programmes to watch at leisure, as is now happening with internet provided television. Possibly then, the days of the BBC licence fee may become a thing of the past.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.club or phone their secretary Andrew Barton on 07814 937202 for an informal chat.

Updates from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

The Local Plan - The new government basically exploded our draft local plan with its massive hike in required housing numbers; the Borough Council has had to start again and will go out for Regulation 18 public consultation in December. Bramley's housing requirement has been considered and reported as a need of 85 homes over the plan period (up to 2042). The number is determined by calculating the proportion of homes needed in the borough with Bramley's contribution pro rata against Bramley's size. The calculated number then is reduced by the extra houses Bramley has taken in recent years producing the number 85 (now 35 as Bow Brook Farm was just allowed). Until the whole plan is approved by Government (in 2027) we are faced with developers proposing sites that are not included in the plan due to Government rules – hence most of the above sites have appeared in a developer frenzy!

Local Government reform - On 26th September there was a borough special exceptional full council meeting where the proposal for Local Government Reorganisation was agreed and subsequently sent to the Government. We believe that the option proposed for four unitary councils in Hampshire with the Northern one made up from Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Hart as the best for residents as it will be closer to the people than other proposals. This proposal would provide a new council of the right size giving better choice, more local than a greater Hampshire proposal set out by the County Council but big enough to deliver the services we all need. Thankfully this will have no direct effect on your Parish Councils as they are not part of the reorganisation.

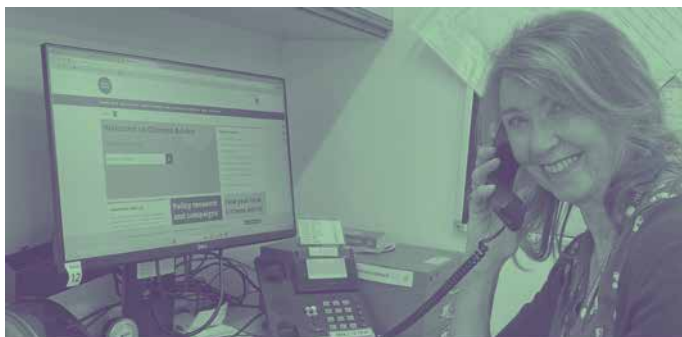


Proposed local government reorganisation

The Borough Council Green team - Every household in Basingstoke and Deane is being invited to book a free home energy survey that could help them save hundreds of pounds a year on their energy bills. The one-hour visits, carried out by trained assessors from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, are designed to help people understand how to keep their homes warmer and more comfortable in the colder months while saving money on energy. After their home visit, residents will receive a tailored report with practical steps they can take to improve their home's energy efficiency and lower heating costs. Advice ranges from simple, everyday tips to more impactful home improvements, like insulation and solar panels. It also covers grants and funding that could partly or fully pay for these home upgrades, depending on people's individual circumstances.

Food waste bins – Food waste bins have been delivered. Please report any missed bin deliveries to the Basingstoke and Deane Contact Centre 01256 844844. The scheme started on 6 October and the food waste will be collected as part of the weekly refuse collection on the usual date unless you have received a letter to the contrary.

Cllr. Chris Tomblin



Do you have some free time and would you enjoy a new challenge?

We are looking for volunteer advisors, information assistants and administrators at your local Citizens Advice in Tadley, on Franklin Avenue.

No formal qualifications are needed as full training will be given; you just need a genuine interest in helping your community for two mornings or one day per week.

Tadley CA has a lively, friendly atmosphere and the work is stimulating - no two days are the same!

So if you would like to have a chat about the possibility of volunteering, please call Di on 0118 981 7567. Or email us at recruitment@catadley.org

The office has free parking and is fully accessible. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and pay expenses for attending the office/training.

citizens advice Tadley & District

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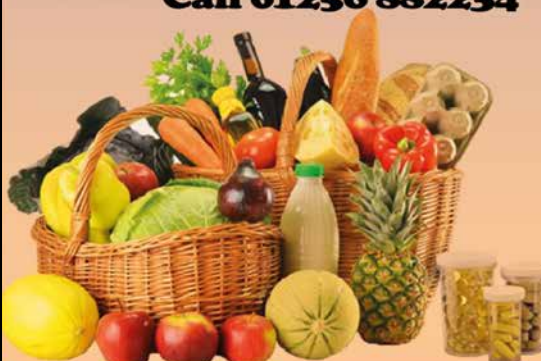
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Thank you to **Sarah Stubbs**, who shares with us the story behind **Clift Surgery's** name in this article

Why is the doctors' surgery called Clift Surgery? Why is the meadow called Clift Meadow? These are questions often asked by newcomers to Bramley. The answer is easy: they're named after the Clift brothers, the two farmers, John and Will, who donated the land to the village for the common good. They gave the land for the new Village Hall at no cost to villagers, who had managed to raise most of the money for the building themselves. John Clift, the younger brother, was Chairman of the Parish Council for many years and was very forward looking. He was concerned at the lack of common land for the village as the original common now had a road right through the middle, rendering it useless for village events. He tried to get a field at Bramley Ordnance Depot, but the MOD refused to release it. So, he and Will donated Bell's Field, together with funds to build a Pavilion. They were hopeful that a cricket club or team would be established, as they were both cricket enthusiasts. They set up the Clift Meadow Trust, which stated clear aims of providing facilities for villagers to meet and to join in various social activities and events. The next land donation was for Clift Surgery.



John Clift



William Clift

There are probably other folk living in the village who remember the brothers, but here are a few of my memories. The most vivid and most typical is that of seeing a tractor in the field behind the Village Hall towing a harrow, with John standing on the back, pipe in mouth and evident pleasure. I remember Will, who was a shy man, presenting a paper on the history of Bramley and reading it to a crowded Village Hall, then distributing copies for everyone, (I still have mine) though I cannot now remember what the special occasion was. Possibly the Queen's Silver Jubilee as John made sure that Bramley celebrated this with a fancy dress parade, entertainment and a BBQ on the football field.

Another strong memory is the Remembrance Day Parades when John, wearing a bowler hat, stood on a dais with the Commandants of the Ordnance Depot and the Royal Observer Corps, to take the salute while the lads marched past. My first knowledge of the Clifts was in 1970 or 1971, when they held a party to celebrate three hundred years of the Clifts in Bramley. I think Bramley is very lucky to have benefitted from their presence and their generosity.

A tree in memory of the Clift brothers will be planted at the bottom of Minchens Lane, adjacent to Clift Meadow, on Saturday 22 November at 10.30 am. All are welcome.



Many of you will know I have raised funds for Arthritis UK for many years, and many of you have supported me by donating. Yesterday, my husband, Paul,

and I were privileged to attend the launch of the rebrand of the charity, with the new name ARTHRITIS UK. This is the biggest charity in the country funding research, offering advice and support to sufferers and campaigning to shape better policy. 1 in 6 people in the UK live with the pain of suffering from some form of arthritis.

If you would like to order some of Arthritis UK's lovely Christmas cards, I shall be sending in a combined order in the middle of November, so that customers will not have to pay postage and packing. Take a look at the cards on shop.arthritis-uk.org/collections/christmas-cards, then email me on 1catrina.stockwell@gmail.com with your requirements by Saturday 8th November 2025 (sorry for the short notice). I will deliver the cards to you as soon as possible, and payment does not have to be made until delivery.

I hope to hear from you!

Catrina Stockwell



Butter Daisy

We are very proud and excited to start this academic year having just been awarded "Outstanding" in all areas following our recent Ofsted Inspection. This was then shortly followed by also achieving a "5" during our latest Environmental Health visit. It is an honour and privilege to nurture and educate the children in our local community, and it is a remarkable achievement to know we are doing this to the very best standards.

This year we joined others in the community by putting together our fantastic scarecrow for the village competition - "Daisy the Flower Girl". Every child in our setting has had the opportunity to make their mark in some way or another, using materials and colours of their choosing; reflecting their own personalities.

We continue to celebrate festivities and special days relevant to the children. 'National Uniform Day' was a favourite with the children, when we had two special visitors to the setting: a Police Woman and a Royal



Electrical and Mechanical Engineer in the British Army. We welcomed another special guest during 'National Recycling Week' when Jonathan from Veolia came to share about the importance of recycling and information about behind the scenes of waste disposal.

For 'National Hygiene Week' the children were engaged in a variety of activities that focused on the importance of personal hygiene routines such as washing hands and brushing teeth to defeat the germs; skills all too valuable this new cough and cold season. Babies developed their coordination as they scrubbed

giant teeth with tooth brushes, meanwhile toddlers and pre-school explored the effectiveness of handwashing with soap and water.

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



Welcome to Autumn at Little Apples

I can't believe we are nearly at half term already. For the last couple of weeks, we have been exploring autumn. Spotting the signs of autumn is a lot of fun and we are extremely lucky to have a beautiful garden to be able to do this.

The children have created a wonderful hedgehog using leaves collected, and they have made autumn trees and decorated pumpkins. In our tuffspot, they have explored the different footprints of native British wildlife and the textures of the fruits of autumn.

Our menu planning has included seasonal fruits and berries, as well as a homemade soup of seasonal vegetables, to add a taste of the season. We used oranges, sliced and baked, as well as whole and freshly harvested lavender to add smell to the senses we are exploring.

Best Start in Life... for every child

Giving every child the best start in life is the Government's strategy for improving child development and

meeting the ambition that 75% of 5-year-olds in England have a good level of development by 2028. Read the Prime Minister's letter to parents on the Department for Education's Education Hub at educationhub.blog.gov.uk.

Also, beststartinlife.gov.uk is replacing the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support.

CBeebies Parenting – Starting School

BBC Tiny Happy People is now part of the CBeebies Parenting site.

Check out the 'Skills for starting school' and the Starting School collections on the website for free expert advice and activity ideas to help parents/caregivers support their children's development. If your child is starting school for the first time, or changing schools this year, Hampshire Libraries have a range of great books as part of their "When a Book Might Help" collection that can help.

We hope you find some of this information useful. For more information about Little Apples, or to book a look around for you and your child, please visit our website or contact us at manager@littleapples.org or 07598 588 460.



Bramley School – Living our Values

At Bramley, we are so proud of the way our children show our core values every day. Within school, we discuss these values all the time: in the way we behave towards each other, the way we approach our learning and how we think about the world around us.

Our aim as a school is to grow future citizens who: show kindness to all, be confidently me, make a difference. We are proud that our recent Ofsted captured our culture by stating that: “This is a warm, welcoming and inclusive school. Pupils and staff treat each other with compassion, friendship and respect, bringing the school’s values to life.”

We started off the year using the themes of friendship and respect as a focus within our worships. This is not only showing respect to those around us and our world but also respecting ourselves, helping themselves to be ready for learning and speaking to themselves in a manner that helps

them. We also view friendship as being a friend to all: we want the best for everyone and ‘cheer them on’ – when one person succeeds, we all succeed.

Already this year, the children in Year 6 have wanted to make a difference and be confidently me in applying for the role of House Captain. This is a role held in high esteem at Bramley. The children prepared speeches to persuade others in their houses that they would be the best representatives. Now we have our House Captains in place, they take leading roles at events such as our Open Mornings, supporting in assemblies and being fantastic role models for our younger children.

We have also shown kindness to all and demonstrated great compassion as a school in our annual harvest collection. We were able to donate a whole car full of food and toiletries to the local food bank – making a difference beyond our school, to people we may never meet. We are always incredibly humbled by the vast quantities our school community can contribute.



These values don’t just stop at the school gates - they are things we can live out in our homes, neighbourhoods and communities too. Our aim is for our children to develop as lifelong learners and youngsters who are ready to step confidently into the wider world.

We are incredibly proud of our school values and the way the children bring them to life every day.



Better Together at The Priory

Unity is a school value at The Priory Primary School in Pamber End, and this can be seen in learning across the school in all subjects.

The Priory School has also proudly joined South Farnham Educational Trust, another union that will help the school continue to grow.



Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Sue Wall travelled from near Lymington in the south of Hampshire for our October demonstration. Her theme was 'Re-use and Renew'. None of her five arrangements were made using the usual plastic based floral foam. She either used one of the current floral foam substitutes 'Agra Wool', or reused supermarket plastic trays to hold water with floral tape criss-crossed across the top to give some support to the flowers and foliage she used. She explained that 'Agra Wool', which is made from basalt and a type of sucrose, can be reused if wrapped in chicken wire or compostable waste bags, and when no longer good for flowers it can be substituted as potting compost as it contains many nutrients which are very good for plants. At the end of its useful life it degrades completely, so has very little impact on the environment. A few of her containers also had had previous lives: items

found in car boot sales and unwanted items donated by friends. No one guessed that one of her containers had previously been a lampshade.

All her arrangements included roses of different shades and shapes, as she explained that it is definitely her favourite flower. Other flowers included Bells of Ireland, lisianthus, delphiniums and sunflowers. Sue inspired us to try alternatives to floral foam, to think laterally about what might make a good container and how we can reuse more things that we often just throw away.

Christmas is coming and we have two special events to look forward to. Tickets are now on sale for our Christmas meeting on Thursday 4th December at 1:30pm. This year our raffle will include two hampers packed to the brim with Christmas goodies, plus all the fabulous arrangements made by our demonstrator Carole Stables. The ticket price of £18 for members and £20 for visitors includes afternoon cream tea, sandwiches and cake.

If you like to hang a wreath on your front door during the festive season, why not make your own! Carol Bennett, an Area Demonstrator, will be teaching us how to make a wreath at our next workshop from 10am to 1pm on 13th December. Tickets for this are also now on sale at £27 which includes all the mechanics needed to construct the wreath and light refreshments.

Both events take place in Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Dusty Taylor on 01256 881420, or by email, taymab1@aol.com.



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The Loddon Mane Event

Loddon School, just down the road from Bramley, are running a sponsored challenge! Our students, as well as lots of other participants, are walking, running, cycling, and riding their way through November. Sponsor us and help us to raise money for a fantastic cause!

The children and young adults at Loddon School have autism and learning disabilities, which means they face unique challenges. We are lucky enough to be able to offer a wide variety of activities and therapies at Loddon school, including animal assisted therapy. There are many benefits to animal assisted therapy, and it's worth reading up more about it if you're interested. The students at Loddon are given the opportunity to groom, feed, walk, and ride the animals on our small holding, and this really helps them to develop in countless ways, such as gaining confidence, communication skills, coordination and gross motor skills, and emotional wellbeing.

Historically, pony cart rides were a really popular activity, but unfortunately we no longer have the equipment to do this, and the pony that was retired from driving very sadly passed away recently. We have now got a new horse arriving imminently, which is very exciting, and we would love to be able to offer cart rides again! We'd like to raise £5000 to buy a new cart, the tack that is needed, and for additional grazing. This website will take you to our JustGiving page – we are so grateful to any donations, thank you in advance: www.justgiving.com/campaign/the-loddon-mane-event?utm_medium=CA&utm_source=CL

Additionally, if you know of any local businesses that might be able to help us, by sharing the event, or by donating prizes, please email fundraising@loddonschool.co.uk



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Churchyard tidy up

It's amazing what a small group of people and some power tools can achieve in a short space of time. Spurred on by the thought of bacon sandwiches, several members of St James' Church set about tidying up the churchyard, parts of which had become quite overgrown. Brambles were cut down, borders were weeded and hedges were pruned. I even spotted the Rector with a broom! A huge pile of rubbish was created and the churchyard is now ready for winter. Thank you very much to everyone who took part – you definitely earned those bacon sandwiches!

Rachel Barclay Smith



Some of the helpers



Harry and Devika tackling the brambles



What a transformation!



The pile of rubbish

Little Apples of Bramley

Your local charity pre-school



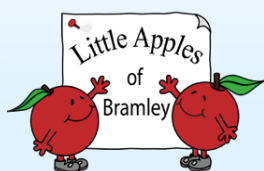
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Did you know...? You can use any of our opening hours for EYE grant funding! Whether your child is eligible for the 15 or 30 hours per week funding (ages 2-4), check what funding you can access at www.gov.uk/get-childcare

Jordan Rollinson is back with his latest instalment of his Civil War series, entitled **4th November, 1643.**

Acridly stale, the smoke stained the night sky grey above the churning flames. With snapping crackles, the blackened boughs popped and sizzled beneath the shimmering heat haze. Samuel fiddled with the bark on his de-facto lance, speared through the bubbling meat of a pig's thigh. Dripping, the fat hissed as it dropped into the smouldering ashes. It smelt astounding, a bold and full-bodied change to the dry grains and mushrooms that their Company was used to. Having trawled through the dense thickets of woodland for a week, each man was starving and heartily yearning for something, *anything*, that might silence the pangs of his stomach. It came as a miracle when they had found the hog, alone and unguarded in its pen. There was no sign of her farmer.

"Farmer is probably a Crown-lover..." someone had said. Samuel wasn't sure who.

"The beast is fat, imagine..." another had said.

An assumption of guilt was all it had taken, in the end. An urge to inconvenience a Cavalier, or perhaps merely the hunger itself, and the pig was slaughtered. No butcher's tools these desperately starving men had used, but the weapons that were freshly smithed for conflict between their own kind.

Desperation was a wonderful excuse for the sin of greed.

Stories had been told, reports had been muttered - a Norton, some aristocrat no doubt, had sallied his cavalry against the walls of Basing House. Naturally, his erstwhile companies had found themselves routed, as brick so often beats a steed. As to where those men were, Samuel had little clue, but in their defeat, the morale in the local Parliamentarians had wavered as the subtle flickering of the hot air above the firepit.

That would not do, Samuel had thought. So had his companions. And so, they had marched on a return to Basing, wholly unsure of what they might do when they got there, but boldened by the fires of righteousness and holy justice in their breast.

As Samuel had heard it, Norton had tried his hand against the walls of Basing House, whose own allies had arrived but the day before. Those very men who had come to John Paulet's rescue stood inside the walls of his home, mounting the crenelations of its curtain. As rock beat scissors, so too would their muskets trounce the cavalymen that rode upon them below. He could well imagine the cutting sheets of lead that had flown out from atop, scything fathers and sons down with practised, performative ease. Horses were still reported wandering Basing's green pastures, unsure without their perished masters. Samuel stared into the licking flames, losing himself in their rhythm. It had been an unnecessary tragedy, and men who had not known better than to obey had fallen as a result.

Again, here they strode, men walking in tune to the commands of a commander who may or may not be wise enough to see them survive. The plan had filtered down through the ranks, as water through gravel. *Siege.*

What's on at The Vyne

A fairytale Christmas at The Vyne

Expect sparkling decorations and an interactive family trail in The Vyne's house and gardens open daily 22 Nov 2025 - 5 Jan 2026 (Closed 24 & 25 Dec). Immerse yourself in the magic and wonder of best-loved fairy tales. House open 11am-3pm, gardens 10am-4pm.

New for 2025, book your Christmas lunch in the Brewhouse tea-room available on weekdays 24 Nov - 17 Dec at 12pm. You can book over the phone on 0344 249 1895 or online at nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne.

Christmas events at The Vyne

24 Nov -17 Dec (12-2pm weekdays only) | Christmas lunch in the Brewhouse tea-room

22 Nov - 5 Jan | A Fairytale Christmas at The Vyne (closed 24 & 25 December)



Remembrance

November is the month of Remembrance for all who have given their lives in conflict, especially in the two world wars of the 20th century but also now for those killed in action in subsequent battles in Europe and round the globe.

The Cenotaph (meaning 'empty tomb') in Whitehall, London, is the focus of our national commemoration where Silence descends at the Eleventh hour of the Eleventh day of the Eleventh month, the time at which the end of WW1 was proclaimed in 1918. At this hour in the following year, King George V organised the first annual commemoration in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. The Portland stone Cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens was consecrated on 11 November 1920. Remembrance Sunday, always the second Sunday in November, assumed prominence after WW2.

In the 1920s, War Memorials began to be erected in towns and villages so that families and residents could have a local monument where to remember their own loved ones who had paid the ultimate sacrifice and demonstrated their 'greater love' and 'given up their life for their friends'.

Please join us at the commemoration in your community on Remembrance Sunday and on Armistice Day or simply take a couple of minutes at 11 o'clock to pause, remember and give thanks.

We are grateful as ever to our Poppy sellers for their generous gift of time during the Poppy Appeal to support the ongoing RBL welfare support for service men and women and their dependents.

New National Chaplain

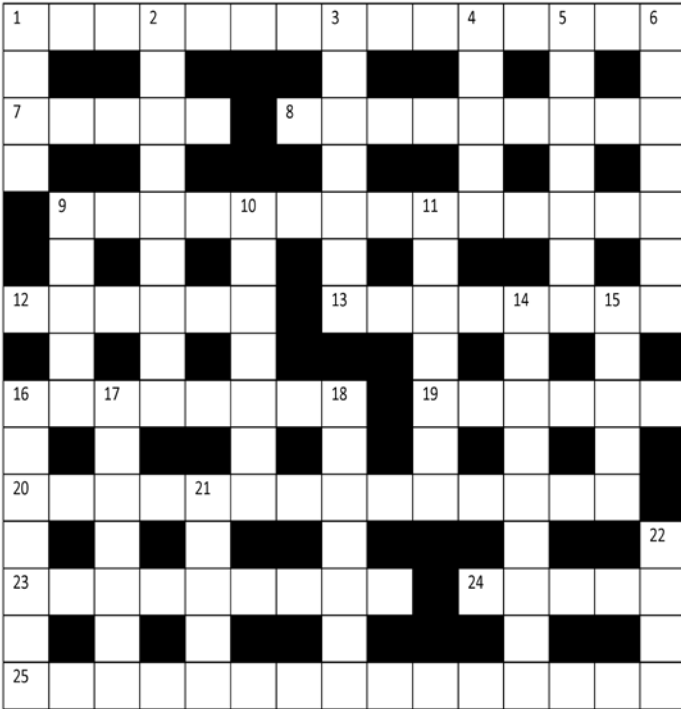
The new National Chaplain to the RBL is The Ven Dr Giles Legood, presently Chaplain-in-Chief RAF, and a friend of mine for many years. We wish him well in his new and additional appointment.

John Morley

Bramley & District RBL
07900 892566

Cryptic Crossword No: 93

See page 30 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Saying of intellectual agreement. (1 and 7 across) (5,5,5)
- 7 See 1 across (5)
- 8 At event it becomes to be there in mind and body. (9)
- 9 Room for pause perhaps. (9,5)
- 12 King who should not have looked up ! (6)
- 13 He is a gent, lest he is the most soft. (8)
- 16 Paymentless travel. (8)
- 19 Set of games or eraser. (6)
- 20 Confusingly I cage Polly a lot feeling ruefully. (14)
- 23 Boosting or improving. (9)
- 24 Atoll on the radio is actually church feature. (5)
- 25 Student of past life. (15)

Down

- 1 Begin to get round a body to get a hold. (4)
- 2 Ban no leek stew for body part. (9)
- 3 No thing can be used for this clue. (7)

- 4 Leans to nurses. (5)
- 5 I mate it to copy. (7)
- 6 Sharpest is found amongst Yankee nest of spies. (7)
- 9 Peal sound for past PM. (5)
- 10 Bill Tidy in group found to be clearing up. (7)
- 11 Hydrogen Eric used to conceal universal term. (7)
- 14 Naming made bangle ill. (9)
- 15 I see Dyson to shelter this sort of character. (5)
- 16 Hurl me up far into trap. (7)
- 17 Concoct ale chop to be of an age. (7)
- 18 Former metal court is no more. (7)
- 21 Use noun certainly to find weight. (5)
- 22 Land perhaps you can wear. (4)

CodeWord No: 79

See page 30 for the answers.

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

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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The Bramley Show 2025 Winners

Poetry

The Bramley Show invited writers to take part this year. There were some great entries and below is one of the winners. Congratulations Mark.

Bramley Village

Historic Bramley, you have been the home
of generations whom you've kept contented,
close to a vanished town that represented
the once unchallenged dominance of Rome.

39 households was the Domesday figure,
a church, two mills, woodland and pasture space.
You grew and recently you've grown apace.
We'd rather that you didn't grow much bigger.

Pilgrims passed by. A well-worn route they had
to reach Southampton and take ship to Spain.
Henry the Eighth came three times in his reign
to visit his Lord Chamberlain's nearby pad.

On the church walls survives medieval paint.
Here Thomas Becket meets a gruesome end,
and there is Christopher, the traveller's friend,
and James the Apostle - he's our patron saint.

Railway passed through in 1848.
Fifty years more they waited for a station
and having that is worthwhile compensation
for patience at the level crossing gate.

Distinctive style of windows, bakery smells,
the clubs and sports and the Barn's cafe scene,
the quality of the monthly magazine,
all these are Bramley. And the sound of bells.

Red kites by day and bats at twilight glide
and deer and hares and pheasants can be found
by those who choose to walk the fields around.
Bramley, we truly love your wilder side.

The churchyard grave of Lise has fresh flowers.
A physicist phenomenally clever.
It says she kept her humanity for ever.
May she inspire us never to lose ours.

Mark Davies

Photography Winners

We had lots of great photographs entered into the show this year. Thank you to everyone who entered - here are our 2025 winning pictures.



Sue Howell – My Bramley



Catrina Stockwell – Weather

Anne-Marie Jones
– Windows



Sue Howell – Abstract



Catrina Stockwell – Animals



Sherfield-on-Loddon

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Breakfast with Santa
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Nr Basingstoke, RG27 0HL**

Are They Gulling Us?

Strange birds, these. They can do a sort of shape-shift, or perhaps attitude shift would be more accurate. See them round the seafront café, they'll choose a moment you're distracted to snaffle a chip or two from right under your nose; not funny really. Get within range of a nest at the wrong time and you're liable to be dive-bombed, even less amusing. But when we get a bunch of them in a field in Bramley, they'll be pretty much unapproachable; shy, scavenging and digging out anything edible they can, in groups right in the middle, well away from the footpaths. Possibly the different attitudes are due to the local experiences of different groups, or do they reckon the fields are more of a hazard than the seafront shops? This shot was from around a hundred metres; they were watching warily...

And these guys are far from gullible. Any so-called scarecrow will just make a handy perch, and no model of a raptor will intimidate them. Spikes and sticky surfaces? Work round them. The urban gull is intelligent, adaptive, strong and agile. On the coast, populations are not thriving, with the effects of reduced fishing waste and the loss of nesting sites. In urban areas, there's always food from bins and tips, and nesting sites with warmth and shelter, hence numbers are increasing. But we don't see them round here a lot: by my observation, they mostly show up at the start of the autumn gales. I took the photo early in November - just a few days before a storm arrived. Was that a co-incidence, a part of their normal annual visiting schedule, or, just possibly, did they know something I didn't?



It's always a problem, trying to analyse the behaviour of another species: we can have no real idea of how they're thinking. One speculation is that gulls can sense the drop in atmospheric pressure and use that signal to get away from the more exposed coastline. The circular flying patterns of groups of gulls around a field has been put down to their need to sense and calibrate the local degree of pressure drop. Well, I guess that's possible: the barometer in our hall, certainly, shows a marked drop when a storm arrives. But in the few days beforehand, as far as I can see, it'll be unlikely to be a reliable enough forecast to plan a holiday trip. It might be more logical to assume that as these storms tend to happen at these times of the year, so a pattern of visiting opportunistic feeding grounds is adopted over the years. This would accord with the very sound principle of Occam's Razor: why choose a more complex explanation if there's a simpler one to account for what you see - it could also deal with a lot of conspiracy theories, but that's a different aspect.

On the other hand, gulls are remarkable creatures, with skills and knowledge we can barely appreciate, let alone explain. For instance, they have built-in desalination equipment, so that excess salt can be expelled from just above the bill. They'll dance on a patch of soil to raise worms, perhaps imitating the threat of a mole to scare a meal to the surface. They co-operate, one helping a partner open a food container or a bin. And monitored trials have shown conclusively that they're aware of the gaze direction of humans when planning a chip-heist and will hesitate to approach if they're being directly watched. Whether this is a learned trait, or a more innate factor is unclear, though it's hoped that such studies may lead to better ways of dealing with conflicts and intrusive behaviour, as gulls come into contact with humans more closely in towns and cities.

It's certainly very possible that they have skills of weather and navigation intelligence, or shared lore, that direct their movements in ways we have yet to pin down. It's the sort of thing that should never be dismissed as myth, without sound reason. Tricky.

Anvil Arts

What's on in November

For more information, call 01256 844244, or visit anvilarts.org.uk.

STEWART LEE VS THE MAN-WULF

Fri 7 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil,
Suitable for ages 14 and over.

GRIFF RHYS JONES: THE CAT'S PYJAMAS

Tue 11 Nov, 7.30pm, The Haymarket,
Suitable for ages 14 and over.

VINCENT SIMONE - Tango Passions

Sat 15 Nov 2025, 3pm, The Haymarket,
Suitable for ages 14 and over.

NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORRORS - The silent masterpiece with a brand-new live score

Sat 15 Nov, 7.45pm, The Forge,

TERJE ISUNGSET ICE QUARTET

Tue 18 Nov, 8pm, The Anvil

HEIDI TALBOT & BOO HEWERDINE

Tue 18 Nov, 8.15pm, The Forge

HurlyBurly Theatre presents

YOU ARE THE SUN

Fri 21 Nov, 11am, 1pm & 2.15pm
The Forge, Suitable for ages 0 - 2.
Running time: 35 minutes

*Blackeyed Theatre in association with
Theatre Royal Winchester and South
Hill Park presents*

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HUNT FOR MORIARTY

Adapted by Nick Lane from the work
of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Tue 25 - Sat 29 Nov, 7.30pm + Thu &
Sat 2.30pm, The Haymarket,
Suitable for ages 11 and over.

JOHN BARROWMAN - Camp as Christmas

Wed 26 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil

EMMANUEL SONUBI - Life After Near Death

Sun 30 Nov, 7.30pm, The Haymarket

Wilder Bramley - A look at Bramley Green Grasslands

People have been asking us why Bramley Green has been cut and where have the signs gone? The signs were removed for the annual haycut and will be back next spring. In February 2020, recognising the climate emergency, a 97% decline in wildflower meadows, and importance of meadows as a rich carbon store, founding Wilder Bramley members convinced Bramley Parish Council and Stratfield Saye Estate to make a pioneering move - returning Bramley Green to a traditional lowland hay meadow. The goal is to enhance biodiversity and address an important village issue: a lack of nature reserves and wild green spaces to connect with. Since then, Wilder Bramley has monitored wildlife and engaged the community by holding survey trainings, butterfly and bat walks. In 2023, we created the Grasslands Meadow Trail - a resounding success! We loved hearing positive feedback from residents learning about meadow wildlife and hearing the grasshoppers and cricket "chorus".

This year, despite extreme weather, we continue to see exciting wildlife changes. Our regular butterfly transects (surveys) started in Spring. Overwintering adult brimstones and commas emerged first. Orange tips, holly blues, and green-veined whites also appeared. Summer was peak butterfly season. We saw many Essex and small skippers (who rely on cornerstone grass species), common blue, "white" butterflies (small, large, marbled), ringlets and meadow browns. Autumn has seen a decline in number, but late-flying species like the small heath, speckled wood and red admiral persist.

Plant surveys revealed lesser knapweed and betony expanding their range along Bramley Green Road versus 2024. Bird's-foot trefoil, a key food for common blue butterfly larvae, remains present but is less visible this year likely due to the early heatwave. Yarrow and cow parsley are gradually moving toward the linden trees. A large patch of meadow sweet, which likes slightly wetter conditions, has established near Pond Road. Interestingly, wood anemone, typically a woodland indicator species, was observed, suggesting possible microhabitat variation or historical woodland influence.

We also need help from you: record what you see and make it count!

Spotted a hedgehog or woodpecker? These moments aren't just special—they're scientifically valuable. Citizen science (recording wildlife sightings) is accessible to anyone to contribute to scientific research. Platforms like iRecord or iNaturalist help protect nature, inform conservation efforts, and even challenge unsuitable housing developments.

iRecord is the official UK database while iNaturalist helps you identify wildlife with artificial intelligence and feeds into iRecord. The latter is easier if you feel less comfortable, due to an ID feature. Download the app, snap a picture, log the date and location, hit upload. That's it!

Upcoming event: Wednesday 26 November, 7.30 Clift Meadow Pavilion

Our next talk: 'All about toads and other amphibians' by Andrew Cleave MBE, with our local toad patrols supporting. Learn how to identify toads and frogs in your garden and how to help them.



A six-spot burnet butterfly



Knapweed is gradually increasing on Bramley Green



Popular information boards help you learn more about what you see

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ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/35423



We Will Remember Them

Join us for a Service of Remembrance at Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere on 11th November at 10:50 a.m.

Sandham Memorial Chapel is one of the few National Trust properties dedicated to the First World War, and the only one in this country that commemorates the Salonika Campaign – often known as the ‘forgotten war’. The service will be led by Padre Mark, a volunteer at the Chapel. It is a particularly poignant occasion, as both Sir Stanley Spencer – who created the Chapel’s 19 iconic paintings – and Harry Sandham, brother of Mary and brother-in-law of benefactor Louis Behrand, served in Salonika. We are honoured to be joined by members of the Salonika Campaign Society, whose work is dedicated to preserving the memory of the campaign and the soldiers who endured the hardships of the Balkans between 1915 and 1918. Many of its members are descendants and relatives of those who served, keeping alive a legacy too often overlooked.

The service takes place in the Chapel Garden, where a sea of poppies created by volunteers will be draped over the wellhead, symbolising remembrance and hope for peace. Padre Mark will also share reflections from his time in the British Army, including the tradition of chaplains crafting crosses from shell cases for repatriation services. During his own tour, 79 such crosses were made and presented to bereaved families. This year’s Service of Remembrance promises to be a moving tribute – honouring sacrifice, preserving memory, and renewing hope for a peaceful future.

This event is free but please bring your NT card if you have one.

Follow us on @ntsandham

Kingsclere Players in association with Kingsclere Community Association presents:

Snow White, by Alex Jackson

At The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere

November 28th to 30th: 2.30pm/7.30pm

December 5th to 7th: 2.30pm/7.30pm

Tickets from £7.50



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Basingstoke Concert Band

invites you to their

Annual Christmas Concert

at

**Queen Mary’s College, (Main Hall)
Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG213HF**

on

Sunday 21 December 2025 starting at 3.00pm

Tickets £10 (U16 free) available from:

band members, at the door, or visit:

<https://ticketlab.app/event/35239>

Join us for a concert of festive songs, carols old and new and, of course, traditional favourites for you to join in with!

Hook Choral Society

Hook Choral Society’s Autumn Celebration concert will be given at 7.30pm on Saturday, November 15th. The programme will include Handel Let their celestial concerts; Whitacre Sing Gently; Gjeilo Sunrise Mass; Runestad Let my love be heard; Handel Dank sei dir, Herr; Kreiling Salva me; Elgar In haven; Handel Silent Worship; Schubert Kyrie from Mass in E flat; Gjeilo The Rose; Parry My soul there is a country.

Nicholas Woods, our distinguished and inspirational Director, said recently ‘It will be a classic concert, with a bit of something for everyone. A performance of music that we are happy and stylish enough to sing, and which will introduce the audience to music that is both attractive and likeable.’

The concert will be given at St. John’s Church, London Road, Hook.

Tickets £18.00 (£16 for four or more), from www.hookchoral.co.uk,

or by telephone at 07957 293 641. And our Christmas concert will be given, also at St. John’s Church, on the afternoon of Saturday, December 20th.

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 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>NHS Health Visitor</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>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bath Babies 10.30 & 11.30</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		
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/ 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	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: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com www.wilderbramley.org or Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

Basingstoke Deane

Rotary

HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 25th January 2026, 3:00pm

"Looking for a gift that's a little different this year? Treat someone special (or yourself!) to an unforgettable afternoon" with The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil.

Hosted by Basingstoke Deane Rotary, this spectacular concert promises a mix of military precision and musical flair—from classical and swing to pop favourites and movie themes like Bond and Star Wars. The majestic, full concert band and yes, the incredible Corps of Drums will be there too! We're also thrilled to welcome back our cherished guests, the Chelsea Pensioners, adding a touch of tradition and warmth to the day.

Tickets on sale from The Anvil Box Office.

anvilarts.org.uk 01256844244

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BRAHMS**EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM****SCHICKSALS LIED****Saturday November 22nd****The Anvil Basingstoke at 7.30pm****Docklands Sinfonia**

Soprano
Sofia Ticcianti

Baritone
Ross Cumming

**BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY****CONDUCTOR JORDAN THEIS****Pre-Concert Talk in The Forge 6.30pm**

Tickets: Anvil Box Office 01256 844244 or anvilarts.org.uk
www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk



BCS is a registered CIO: no. 1202484

Cryptic Crossword No: 93 Solution

22	BELT	1	GREAT MINDS THINK
21	OUNCE	7	ALIKE
18	EXTINCT	8	ATTENTIVE
17	EPOCHAL	9	BREATHING SPACE
16	FRAMEUP	12	HAROLD
15	SEEDY	13	GENTLEST
14	LABELLING	16	FREE RIDE
11	GENERIC	19	RUBBER
10	TIDYING	20	APOLOGETICALLY
9	BLAIR	23	ENHANCING
6	KEENESE	24	ASISLE
5	IMITATE	25	PALAEONTOLOGIST
4	TENDS		
3	NOTHING		
2	ANKLEBONE		
1	GRAB		

Down

Across

CodeWord No: 79 Solution

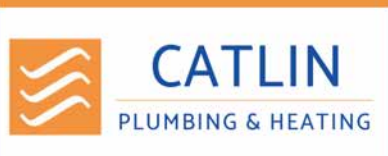
T	N	E	C	S		S		D	E	E	P	S
C		N		A		I		E		V		G
E		N	I	R	E	G	N	A	T		O	N
F		N		D		O		C		L		I
N		O	I	N	P	D	N	A	K	C	A	R
I		S				A		E				B
	Y	A	S	S	E		Y	R	W	E	J	
S				L		H				H		Y
D		E	S	I	L	A	T	I	P	A	C	R
I		T		O		I		M		A		I
P		M	I	R	E	N	O	I	S	N	E	P
I		N		N		E		K		A		X
L	A	U	Q	E		Z		S	E	G	D	E

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

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

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The climate zone is:	UK
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