

April 2026

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



- The bells are back!
- Guides update
- Volunteers needed!

883388

881312

MEKANIX

Bramley's Garage since 1947

MOT

Servicing

Repairs

Car Sales

Diagnostics

Air Conditioning



find us next to the
railway station
behind the bakery



The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

April 2026

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:

Rick Askin
bram.mag.adverts@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, Cufaude Business Park,
Cufaude Lane, Bramley,
RG26 5DL
01256 880770
www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk

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

Editorial

There seems to have been an explosion of green recently. Every coffee shop I pass is promoting Matcha drinks: bright green concoctions made from the finely ground powder of green tea. It's grown in the shade which apparently gives it its vibrant green colour. To go with it you can try pistachio cheesecake, a slightly duller shade of green, or Dubai chocolate with its light green filling. Costa is even organising a 'Matcha merch tour', selling items such as green cups and cuddly toys. Sadly, it's not coming to Basingstoke – I guess we're not fashionable enough!

Personally, I prefer the natural greens I see when I am walking around Bramley: the leaves emerging on the trees, green shoots sprouting through the soil. Even the weed-filled grass in my garden looks good at this time of the year. Everything is so fresh, it's as if nature has given our landscape a fresh lick of paint. As Rev Mark Anderson says in *On Reflection* on page 7, nature is coming back to life and God is making all things new after the darkness of winter.

Clift Meadow is the perfect place to spot signs of spring and now we have a new path to walk along, as you can read on page 8. While there, have a look at the bee garden; perhaps you can volunteer to help keep the flowers blooming. See page 24 for more details. Volunteers are also needed to keep the Clift Meadow coffee mornings going. A big thank you to Wendy, Jane, Angela, Andrea and Margaret who have worked so hard over the years to provide a friendly place for people to get together and make new friends. If you would like to be involved, turn to page 8 to find out more.

Spring is one of the best times for photographers, a time to capture nature's resilience and the promise of new beginnings. In other words, it's the perfect time to take that winning shot for the Bramley Show. The photographic categories are listed on page 11 and include trees in Bramley and a photo featuring an animal. While you are looking for subjects perhaps you will spot one of the butterflies mentioned on page 25. I'm sure a Peacock butterfly would qualify for another of the categories – something red.

The church bells are sporting new red headstocks which were fitted while they were on their six-month break at Loughborough Bell Foundry. They have returned to St James' Church looking half their age; I'm thinking of booking in there myself! You can see the transformation on pages 16 and 17. As I write this they are being fine-tuned and will hopefully be ringing out to celebrate the joy of Easter.

Have a great month, enjoy the Easter break and try and save some Easter eggs for Bank Holiday Monday.

Rachel

Joint Editor

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

Martin Luther

Cover Photo: Bramley Bells by Rachel Barclay Smith

Material for the May issue to be sent (preferably by email) to the editor no later than 15 April 2026.

HORIZON

SOUND & VISION

Family Run Business Est 1988

- **Aerial, Satellite & Sky Q**
Freeview, Freesat
- **Tuning & Set Up**
*Remote control programming
Weak/No Signal Repairs*
- **TV Wall Installation**
Hidden Cabling
- **Additional TV Points**
- **Wi-Fi Signal Improvement and Network Cabling**
including garden area and outbuildings
- **CCTV Installations**
Including Ring doorbell
- **Starlink Installation**
Superfast Internet for Rural Areas



Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

01256 841860

Essex Road Basingstoke
www.horizonsoundandvision.co.uk
info@horizonsoundandvision.co.uk



BUTTER DAISY NURSERY

Quality day nursery for children
aged 3 months to 5 years

Private, spacious nursery in a characterful
setting, beautifully designed to support the
individuality of every child.

Open 7.30am to 6pm, 51 weeks a year for
full days and part-time sessions.

Participates in the Early Years Education
scheme, funding places for all 3- and
4-year-olds and eligible 2-year-olds.

01256 882515

Easy access to
Basingstoke
and Reading.
Ample parking.



WATER SOFTENERS

**AMS LTD
WATER SOFTENER
REPAIRS
[ALL MAKES]**

**NO CALL OUT CHARGE,
CAN FULLY RECONDITION
WITH GUARANTEE.**

**NEW SOFTENERS SUPPLIED
AND INSTALLED 10 YEARS
GUARANTEE.**

**Email: infoamsmayfair.co.uk
Tel: 01256 768171/ 07836 247694**



**XPERT
ENERGY**

Solutions

**THINKING OF INSTALLING
A HEAT PUMP ?**

Call your local experts on
0118 930 3600

0% VAT if eligible

www.xpertenergy.co.uk



Benefice Services

April...

2nd	Maundy Thursday	2nd	Maundy Thursday
19.00	Community Supper – Cross House	19.00	Light Supper and sharing of bread
20.00	Holy Communion – St James		– St Leonard’s, Sherfield
3rd	Good Friday	3rd	Good Friday
14.00	An Hour at the Cross – St James	11.00	At the foot of the Cross
5th	Easter Day		– St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	5th	Easter Day
12th	2nd Sunday of Easter	9.00	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	10.30	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
19th	3rd Sunday of Easter	12th	2nd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.00	Café Church – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Morning Worship – St James	19th	3rd Sunday of Easter
26th	4th Sunday of Easter	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	26th	4th Sunday of Easter
		10.00	Family Service – St Leonard’s, Sherfield

...and into May

3rd	5th Sunday of Easter	3rd	5th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer – St James	10.00	Family Service – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
10th	6th Sunday of Easter	18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10th	6th Sunday of Easter
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	10.00	Café Church – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
17th	7th Sunday of Easter	17th	7th Sunday of Easter
9.00	NO Sunday@9	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Songs of Praise open-air service on Clift Meadow	10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall

Church diary for April...

2nd	Maundy Thursday
19.00	Community Supper – Cross House
20.00	Holy Communion – St James
3rd	Good Friday
14.00	An Hour at the Cross – St James
5th	Easter Day
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
12th	2nd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
19th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
26th	4th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

...and into May

3rd	5th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer – St James
10th	6th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
17th	7th Sunday of Easter
9.00	NO Sunday@9
10.30	Songs of Praise open-air service on Clift Meadow

From the Registers

Funeral

Nicky Haigh

13th March 2026

St James Church

Bramley SpeedWatch

Speed and Injury*

One in four deadly crashes in the UK involves someone who was travelling too fast. A pedestrian hit at just 30mph has a 1 in 5 chance of being killed.

How impact speed affects injury

The higher the speed a vehicle travels, the greater the likelihood of serious injury or death if there is a crash. The risk of injury increases exponentially with impact speed. A crash at 30mph involves a lot more energy and destructive potential than a crash at 20mph.

Driving is unpredictable and if something unexpected happens on the road ahead – such as a child stepping out from between parked cars – it is a driver’s speed that will determine whether they can stop in time and, if they can’t stop, how hard they will hit.

A vehicle travelling at 20mph would stop in time to avoid a child running out three car-lengths in front. The same vehicle travelling at 25mph would not be able to stop in time and would hit the child at 18mph. This is roughly the same impact as a child falling from an upstairs window.

The greater the impact speed, the greater the chance of death. A pedestrian hit at 30mph has a very significant (one in five) chance of being killed. This rises significantly to a one in three chance if they are hit at 35mph.

Camera Data February 2026:

Verified speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest hour	Illegal vehicles
581	4	7am	14

Kinetic energy and impact force

When a car crashes, it’s the amount of kinetic energy that the car has which determines the force of impact. Kinetic energy is the energy of motion. Small increases in speed lead to much higher increases in kinetic energy. When you’re driving, it’s hard to perceive that a slight increase in speed is really so damaging. It’s easy to let speed creep up. But a crash at 30mph involves twice as much energy and destructive potential as a crash at 20mph.

It is in everyone’s best interest for drivers to ensure that their speed is appropriate for the road they are travelling on and does not place them at increased risk of being involved in a crash resulting in death or serious injury. Remember speed limits are just that, limits not - targets. Please take care and Watch Your Speed.

*Ref: Brake, the Road Safety Charity.

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

Two manned deployments were undertaken during February. A total of five vehicles were reported to the police from the 234 vehicles checked.

The police will be undertaking a series of roadside checks during the spring. If you don’t want a ticket, points on your license and a fine, then don’t speed!

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email:

bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com

speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or visit: www.hampshire.police.uk

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

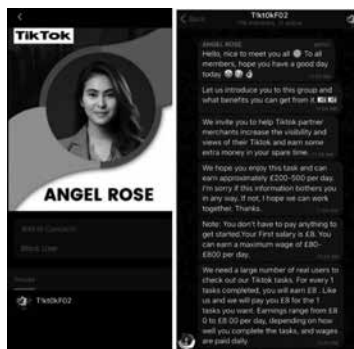
SID Data – February 2026:

SID location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph
Bramley Corner	28	East	68%
Farriers	28	West	35%
The Street	28	East	24%
The Forge	28	West	55%

Update from the Force Crime Prevention Team

Social media job scams

We are seeing an increase in scams which involve individuals being recruited via social media for fake job opportunities, which might include tasks such as ‘liking’ videos/posts, writing reviews or making payments for completed tasks.



Victims believe they are completing legitimate commission based work. Sometimes victims are instructed to send money to other individuals, or unknowingly receive money from other victims of fraud and are asked to make payments themselves with the promise of larger returns.

How to spot job fraud:

- Vague job descriptions: Be wary if the job looks unclear or lacks specific responsibilities.
- Informal channels: Contact is often through messaging apps, social media or personal email.

- Unusual salary promises: If a salary seems too high for the task, it could be a scam.
- For further advice: The rise of job offer scams | Take Five

You can report a scam to Report Fraud: 0300 123 2040
<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

Heartsmith Property Services
Home Improvement and Property Maintenance

Services include:

- Media Walls
- Painting, Decorating, Panelling
- Flooring, Skirting
- Door Hanging, Architrave
- Radiators, Taps, Toilets
- Small Repairs and More...

Get in touch today for a free quote
✉ heartsmithpropertyservices@gmail.com
☎ **+44 (0) 7518 303175**

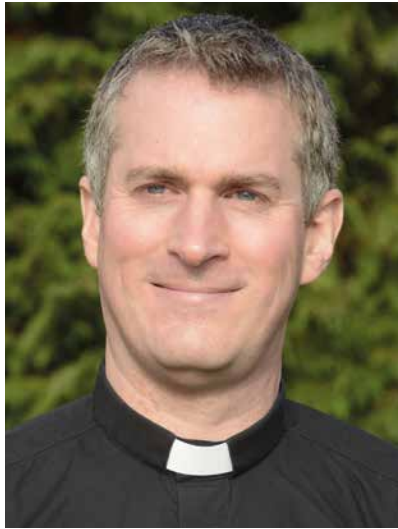
Easter: making all things new.

It's easy to love new things. There is a lovely expectation when we receive a gift, unwrap it and it's what we've been hoping for. Or when we have ordered something online and it's delivered and we open it and start using it or wearing it. There are even videos on the internet which show people opening the box of their new phone or device: the delight is clear in their voice.

We love new things and indeed new people. There is much joy and celebration when a baby is born. There is love, joy and the hope for a good life for the baby, who will soon grow up, with the guidance of parents, friends and peers.

Easter is always in Spring when nature comes back to life. We see the first flowers: the snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils. We see the buds on the trees forming and, in our garden, the magnolia tree is blooming. After the wintery darkness, the light and new life is here.

The Christian season of Easter is about the new life we are offered in Jesus. There is plenty of darkness in our world: pain, suffering and death. Jesus recognised this and indeed suffered it. The darkness of his death on the cross, which we remember on Good Friday, is soon followed by his rising to new life on Easter Sunday. This is the good news of Jesus which we celebrate at Easter. Friday is called good because it



Rev'd Mark Anderson

was the start of God making all things new. Jesus overcame all the world threw at him: all the pain, suffering, rejection and even death. In rising to new life on the first Easter Day, he showed us that not even death can separate us from God's love, peace and new life.

The invitation of Jesus to us, is to join with him in 'making all things new'. When we seek the best for others, pray for good things to happen and do what we can to help those who struggle in mind, body or spirit, we are helping make all things new. Perhaps we will even ask God to help us when we are struggling ourselves. God's peace and reassurance of a better life is available to everyone. We simply need to ask, have a little faith and then be open to

receive all that God wants to give us. The promise of God is one day it will be complete. When Jesus returns, God himself will be with us again. Whether then or in heaven, he will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.

So when you see that new flower or tree blossoming, remember God is making all things new, starting with me and you. That's the wonderful promise we remember every Easter. I invite you to celebrate this at church, every week but especially on Easter Day, Sunday 5 April.

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



CELEBRATE EASTER AT CHURCH



HOLY WEEK EVENTS

2nd April - Maundy Thursday

7pm - Community Supper in Cross House

8pm - Holy Communion in St James Church

3rd April - Good Friday

10am - Easter Crafts in Cross House

**2pm - An hour at the cross: music, meditation & prayer
in St James Church**

5th April - Easter Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion in St James Church

EVERYONE INVOLVED LEARNING TOGETHER GROWING COMMUNITY

Clift Meadow

As spring approaches and the days grow longer, you've probably noticed the biggest change going on at Clift Meadow as we carry out the long-awaited improvements on the path through the meadow. Thank you for bearing with us during these improvement works; hopefully you will enjoy the delight of walking on a flat smooth path with the ability to pass someone coming the other way without getting your feet muddy! This improvement was funded through the Parish Council by way of developer contributions, one of the positives to come from the continued pressure of house building in the parish.

Spring is an opportunity for the committee of Trustees that manage Clift Meadow to take stock and plan for the future, from things as small and mundane as what toilet paper we'll buy this year to more significant items like planning kitchen upgrades or replacement flooring. It's always



The new path in Clift Meadow

CLIFT MEADOW COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

For many years, our coffee mornings have been a lovely place to chat, laugh, and connect. They have meant a lot to many people in our community. As our current team take a well-deserved break, we are looking for a small group of volunteers to help continue this friendly gathering. It doesn't have to be a big commitment, even helping once a month would make a huge difference. Time commitment is approximately two hours per session.

If you enjoy a chat and a cuppa and would like to help keep this community space alive, we would love to hear from you. For more information, please speak to a member of the coffee morning team or email jk.cmcc@btconnect.com.

COFFEE MORNING AT THE PAVILION, CLIFT MEADOW RETURNS ON WEDNESDAY 15TH OF APRIL, 10am.

Thank you - Wendy, Jane, Angela, Andrea and Margaret.

good to schedule disruptive works in the buildings for the summer holidays when many of the term time hirers take a break. Every so often I'll hear a good natured grumble about something we should or should not have done at Clift Meadow and I can admit that with the benefit of hindsight we would certainly get less things wrong than we do today. Now why did I bring this up you ask? Well now is your chance to have your say!

We are running a public consultation (sounds fancier than a questionnaire for the public) and we want your input! It's seven whole questions, half of them are optional, and you can do it on your smart phone. This is your time to shine. Tell us what changes you want to see, tell us to change nothing, tell us you want a massive cockerel weather vane on the top of the Pavilion and a massive cellar digging out for underground raves. If you're really passionate about change or events in our community, why not consider joining us as a Trustee?

Scan the QR code or head to our website www.cliftmeadow.org.uk to give us your feedback



Interesting in getting more involved?
Email Graham.auld@cliftmeadow.org.uk

Graham Auld
Chair Trustee
Clift Meadow Trust

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SMALL TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN THE THE CLIFT MEADOW COFFEE MORNING.
Help keep this community event going.

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10 - 11.30 AM
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL :
jk.cmcc@btconnect.com

St James' Church
**Good Friday Easter
 Craft Morning**



Friday 3rd April
 At Cross House, Bramley
 from 10 to 11.30 am

All welcome to join us for Easter themed craft and Bible stories, refreshments and hot cross buns.

This is a free event for children, their parents or carers. For more information please email admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk



Bramley Fete
 Clift Meadow 12 – 4pm
 Saturday 16th May

Bramley Mile Run, Tombola, Cakes, Music, Plants, Dance, Local Produce, Bouncy Castles, Children's Activities, Cars, Refreshments & So Much More



Little Apples of Bramley
 Your local charity pre-school



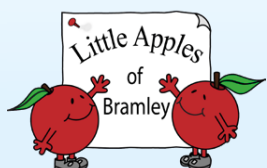
Are you looking for an excellent local pre-school for your child, where



“Children’s emotional well-being is fostered by staff who nurture children’s confidence and successfully support children to reach their next steps in their learning”? – (Ofsted, 2020)



“Little Apples has been amazing for our child. We’ve seen our child’s confidence, social skills, and love for learning grow so much. We highly recommend it!”



Call Jo on **07598 588460** or email: manager@littleapples.org
 Visit www.littleapples.org or search for our Facebook page!



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

This month's update from Bramley Parish Council comes from its Chairman, Tony Durrant.

What a month! More rain, flooding, sewage, more construction work and more frustration in getting around our Parish. However, there are efforts in progress to minimise these impacts and a number of smaller things happening that remind us of the great community spirit and efforts of Bramley Parish Council.

We know the big issues, those being construction traffic, mud on the roads, potholes and temporary traffic lights. What is Bramley Parish Council doing?

1. Potholes – these are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council Highways, so we all have to keep reporting them and driving with extra care.
2. Construction traffic related issues - we are working well with the CERO Solar Farm team to manage traffic, wheel washing and those misleading traffic lights at the bottom of Minchens Lane. The lights are creating a confusing and potentially dangerous situation. The lights are an HCC Highways requirement; we and CERO have queried their deployment and are working to get them removed allowing a “normal” traffic flow – we shall see! CERO are being much tighter in the control of their traffic movements and wheel washing. My thanks to those residents who have added their weight to the discussions. There will be the occasional slip up; unfortunately the sheer number of movements create the opportunity for mistakes. Wheel washing and road cleaning by CERO has improved but they are not the only active site in Bramley. We are in contact with all the development sites on a regular basis and try to minimise or eliminate the adverse impacts. Bramley Parish Council has no powers to enforce discipline, but we do what we can. There will soon be more traffic movement approaching Minchens Lane as National Grid start delivering equipment for construction work. All we can do is monitor and chase the organisations to do the right thing - as I say, we have no powers once planning permissions are granted.
3. Sewage and drainage problems – these are a significant problem for many residents. Thames Water's upgrade to the main sewerage pipe out of Bramley has been delayed yet again, resulting in tankers adding to the disruption. It is not good news but rest assured we have had meetings with engineers and are keeping the pressure on. Two of your Parish Councillors are specifically focused on Thames Water matters and we will keep you posted as we learn more. National legislation and the Government's efforts are not helping the situation. We will persevere and keep you posted on events.

It is not all gloomy news and the things we can control and support are coming to fruition.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) imposed on developers provides funds for us to improve our infrastructure and support local assets. These include Clift Meadow, Cross House and the Village Hall. Grants are being awarded to upgrade the buildings and also access across Clift Meadow (this work is currently underway). The Parish Green at Longbridge Road was

born of ten years of negotiation and the use of CIL funds. The Green is a great success for people and wildlife; there will be a good display of daffodils, bluebells and poppies this year as part of our two-year plan to make this area a real community asset. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, nudged by the Parish Council and residents, have just completed their strip of path joining The Smithy to the bridge on to the Green.

The two bus stops by the Campbell Road roundabout will hopefully undergo an upgrade during the summer, due to a grant application to Hampshire County Council.



Amongst many others, Parish Councillors attended the Church service for the Blessing of the newly refurbished church bells. It will be grand to hear the bells ringing out again soon.

CIL funds have, without question, enabled us to fund larger and much needed improvements to our key local infrastructure;

however we still use precept monies to enable the day-to-day work to continue, and to support local groups by funding those smaller and essential projects.

In the coming year we will, again, be supporting the growing Activ8 youth club activities.

Our fixed costs, such as grounds maintenance at the Burial Ground and Bramley Green, are rising along with our Local Government administrative costs. This does, alas, mean we will have to increase our precept for the coming year. We have requested a 2% increase for 2026/27. We regret the need, but it is out of our control. Many will know we have had large reductions and years of no increases since 2012. The coming precept increase will be lower than other authorities have asked for in 2026/27.

Just a reminder that there will be Borough and County Councillor elections in May. These are elections for your local representatives who focus on local matters affecting your communities, and not national politics.

Upcoming meetings – the Planning Committee will next meet on 14 April at 8.00pm. The next PC full Council meeting will be on 21 April at 7.00pm. Both meetings will be in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall, and all are welcome to attend.

Lastly, as Chairman, my thanks go to all your volunteer elected Parish Councillors and local volunteer groups; a special thanks to the Wednesday coffee morning volunteers who after years of service are retiring. Hopefully, new “blood” will come forward to keep this operation going.

Contacts on page 11

News from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

A big round of applause

As most of you know, Dr Ward from Clift Surgery took part in the Bright Equipment Lapland Arctic race.

Sadly, she had to withdraw after 3 days due to illness, but what an achievement.

“Unfortunately, my race is over. I was going strong (The first woman I’m told!) but the first few days were -19 and a cold I thought I had shaken took a deeper hold and I developed a chest infection so had to retire from the race. I am on antibiotics and whilst recovering thinking through how I improve things for next time. Thanks for all your support of me and the frailty team’s work that I hope you will still support if you can”.

We are super proud of our GP and she has raised £4000 for the Frailty Team and her patients of Clift Surgery.

Spring COVID boosters

These are on their way and those eligible will be invited for this top up.

Clift Surgery Dispensary

A GP dispensary can only be used by patients who are officially eligible under NHS rules—mainly people who live in rural areas without reasonable access to a community pharmacy. In other words, not everyone registered at a GP practice can use its dispensary. A patient is eligible if:

- They live more than 1 mile (1.6 km) **as the crow flies** from the nearest community pharmacy.
- They are registered with a GP practice that has dispensing rights.
- They have formally chosen to receive dispensing services from that practice.

These rules come from NHS regulations governing “dispensing doctors.” If you have any further questions, please contact the dispensary.

Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust Involvement

Did you know about the Patient Experience at our local hospitals? Would you like to feedback about your experience? Then why not apply to join the Patient Experience.

At Hampshire Hospitals we want to provide the best services we can for our communities, and no one knows our communities better than you.

We want to:

- Listen to our patients, carers and families to understand how we are doing.
- Work in partnership with patients, carers and the broader community to improve and design our services.
- Involve our communities in research.

How can you be involved?

- Take part in a scheduled visits – talking to our patients about their experiences of care on our wards or in our outpatient departments.
- Take part in Quality Improvement (QI) projects.
- Share a patient story (e.g. an experience of a hospital stay).

- Join our Patient Voice Forum which meets six times a year (online and in-person) and welcomes staff from across the Trust to share updates, and contributes to improvement work.

Join our Involvement Network here <https://bit.ly/HHFTInvolvement> or if you have any questions email: PatientExperience@hhft.nhs.uk

More news next month...

Email: ppgclift@gmail.com

The Bramley Show 2026

Now is the time to start thinking about your entries for the Show, so get out your camera, paints and pens:

Writing must be submitted in advance via email. Closing date 20 August.

Photography

- Something Red
- Two of a kind e.g. two magpies, two bicycles
- Trees in Bramley
- A Celebration
- A photo featuring an animal

Dates for your diary

Junior Potato Challenge – Potato distribution – Sunday 19 April 10.30 – 12 at Clift Surgery Car Park.

Plant Sale at Bramley Fete – Saturday 16 May 12-4 Get your starter veg here!

Bramley in Bloom – last weekend of June. Judges will be doing a secret judging to see who will win this year.

Scarecrow Trail. From 22 August to 13 September – judging at the Show. Theme: **ROBOTS**

Junior Potato Count: Sunday 7 September – 10.30 – 12 in Clift Surgery Car Park

The Bramley Show Day: Sunday 13 September at the Bramley Village Hall.

Many thanks to Clift Surgery for supporting the Bramley Show

Art classes

- An abstract picture – any medium
- A watercolour
- A picture using coloured pencils
- An acrylic or oil painting
- A black and white picture

Creative writing

– **title: Lost**

- A poem – maximum 20 lines
- A piece prose - maximum 750 words

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.

RBL spring update

Well it will be when the Monsoon stops!

I thought I would alert you to some of the events that we are pulling together for the coming year.

We shall be at the summer fetes in Bramley, Sherfield and Sherborne St John, so do come and say hello.

Visit to the **National Memorial Arboretum**, Staffs. 18-19 May. We will have an overnight stay returning on 19 May. A very moving and emotional trip.

Colonel's Review of Trooping the Colour - 6 June. A formidable display of precision, pomp and circumstance by the Regiments of the Household Division on Horse Guards Parade, London. I have 10 tickets available @ £15 per head.

RBL summer lunch to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo - Sherfield on Loddon village Hall - 25 June. A lunch to mingle with our friends followed

by a talk from me on the Battle of Waterloo as a taster for...

Battlefield Tour to Waterloo, Belgium - 4-6 September. A decisive battle in British history that finally got rid of the scourge of Napoleon and brought peace to Europe for 99 years. In an area of 3 square miles the carnage was unmitigating although totally successful in the end. Anticipated cost £450 per head.

Early December - We will be repeating our end of year get-together for those who have helped and supported us throughout the year.

Do please contact me or Chris Woodward our secretary (chriswoodward634@yahoo.co.uk) if any of this excites and you would like to be involved. Many thanks.

Rhydian Vaughan MBE
Chairman Bramley & District
Royal British Legion
rhydian@battlefieldtours.co
07774 681516

Vision for new landmark leisure destination unveiled as new partner announced

The first look at the new energy-efficient water and leisure complex to replace the Aquadrome in Basingstoke has been revealed, marking a major milestone for the town's leisure park.

Following an extensive search for a game-changing partner and subject to final contracts being signed in May 2026, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has announced Places Leisure as the preferred bidder to take forward plans for the new state-of-the-art facility.

Shaped by residents' feedback, facilities look set to deliver thrills and fitness for all, including a 25-metre eight-lane competition pool, 20-metre four-lane teaching pool, leisure waters with flumes, a 150-station gym, three group exercise studios, a cycling studio, indoor play activities, party rooms and café.

Places Leisure, part of the Places for People Group, which is the UK's leading social enterprise, is also proposing further investment to bring even more high-quality facilities to ensure the complex keeps up with the latest leisure trends. This will include a luxury health suite, Reformer Pilates studio and padel tennis courts.

Subject to planning permission, the new action-packed complex will move to a prime spot in the centre of the leisure park on land next to Buzz Bingo. This will allow the current Aquadrome to remain open until the next-generation centre is ready.

Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Regeneration Cllr Onnalee Cubitt said: "We're laser-focused on delivering the ultimate energy-efficient leisure attraction that our residents will rave about and doing it as fast as we can. As well as creating a fantastic destination, we are investing in the long-term health and wellbeing of everyone in our borough.

Transforming our leisure park into a must-visit hotspot and bringing fresh vibes for young people in our borough is so important to us and we are looking at other improvements that can be made, including opportunities for adrenaline-pumping leisure activities and attractions."

Dan Walker, Business Development Director at Places Leisure said: "The new landmark leisure destination is an investment in health and wellbeing for the entire community. Beyond providing modern facilities for people to be more physically active, this centre will be a welcoming and inclusive space where people of all ages can connect, learn new skills and come together."

A planning application for the new Aquadrome is expected to be submitted in 2026 and, subject to approval, the facility could open in 2029.

As well as progressing plans for the new water and leisure complex, Places Leisure will take over the management of the Aquadrome, Basingstoke Golf Centre and Tadley Health and Fitness Centre from January 2027.

Sherfield & District Gardening Club: Glorious May

There is so much to look forward to! For many gardeners, May is a highlight of the year. Warmer weather. More daylight every day. Many favourite plants in full bloom. Flower shows aplenty including *Toby's Garden Festival* (Powderham Castle, Devon 01 and 02 May), *BBC Gardeners World* at Beaulieu in Hampshire (01-03 May) and *RHS Chelsea* (19-23 May).

But you don't need to travel far because we have horticultural treats closer to home, right here in Sherfield:

On **Monday 18 May**, we are trialling "**Open Gardens**". This evening, some of our members will open their gardens for other members to enjoy. This event is rumoured to finish with prosecco and treats in one of the gardens..... *could that be true?(!)* This special event is for members only, this year. If it is a success, we may open the event more widely in 2027. Thanks very much to the gardeners who have kindly offered to open their gardens. Full details and timings to be announced at Garden Club in April.

On **Saturday 30 May**, our famous *Percy's Plant Sale* returns. This is the perfect place to buy our locally-grown flowers, perennials, herbs, fruit and veg plants to fill your borders, containers and allotments. Donations of plants always welcome. Our team can collect: please email sherfieldgardeningclub@gmail.com for details about collection or drop off.

The **Sherfield Village Summer Fete** is on **Saturday 13 June**. Details to follow. Our Club will be there, with a stall full of plants on sale and free activities for children.

Happy gardening and everyone welcome!

Lauren Dotor
On behalf
of Sherfield
& District
Gardening Club.





LENNY'S MEMORY CAFE

ST. LEONARD'S SHERFIELD,
CHURCH END, RG27 0JB

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL
THURSDAY 16TH APRIL
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

For people with memory loss,
their families, friends & carers.

ALWAYS A WARM WELCOME

E: ADMIN@STJAMESBRAMLEY.ORG.UK
T: 01256 880327

Led by the PCC of St Leonard's, Sherfield
supported by private donations and



The Friends of All Saints invite you to a talk by

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan

on 9th April 2026

The Sinking of the Bismarck!

7.45pm Drinks and Canapés, Talk 8.15-9.15pm

All Saints Church, Hannington

Entrance free; donations gratefully accepted.



Rhydian shares his wealth of historical knowledge to give us an intriguing insight into this WW II cat-and-mouse tale.

British Intelligence struggled to locate the newly built pride of the German fleet, the world's largest battleship, the *Bismarck*. The British Navy was already stretched, protecting the Atlantic convoys from Germany's U-boats – now *Bismarck* threatened carnage.

Surveillance, stalking, sea battles, a chase and a hunt finally led to the Sinking of the *Bismarck* on 27th May 1941, dealing Hitler a crushing blow.



BRAMLEY FETE

FUN RUN

CLIFT MEADOW 12PM
SATURDAY 16TH MAY

Calling all children of all ages!

Join us for a **FUN RUN** around the meadow to start the Bramley Fete. All participants will receive a **MEDAL** and treats plus certificates for the age-category winners. The children will be running age-dependent laps of the meadow in a **NEW ROUTE**, for this year. Come along and cheer them on!

No need to book, just turn up from 11:45am ready for a 12pm race start.



OLD BASING BOWLING CLUB

WANT TO TRY BOWLS
FREE TUITION AND PRACTICE

OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 2 MAY 10-2
SUNDAY 24 MAY 10-2

COME AND TRY THIS ENJOYABLE, SOCIABLE AND CHALLENGING, SPORT AT THE MOST FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING BOWLS CLUB AROUND

At the Recreation Ground RG24 7DA, for further details visit
www.ldbasingbowlingclub.co.uk

For a warm friendly welcome

THE SHOP IN SHERFIELD ON LODDON

Selling a vast range of groceries including:

Bakery bread & cakes from Christmas family bakers
Market Fresh fruit and veg
Quality fresh meat, fish & poultry
Excellent selection of wine, beer, spirits & tobacco

All at competitive prices

Opening times
 Monday to Saturday 7.00am to 7.00pm
 Sunday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Orders Taken for delivery
Call 01256 882234



Cross House

These excellent church rooms are available for private hire



Ideal for functions such as birthday parties, baptism teas, keep-fit classes, presentations, wedding receptions, boardroom meetings and classes of various sizes.

Large Hall, main meeting room, further rooms, WiFi and fully equipped and newly refurbished kitchen.

For further details or to book ring Anne Smith on 01256 880327 or email admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk



Elm Park Garden Centre

www.elmparkgardencentre.co.uk

Tel 01256 850587

 Like and Share us on Facebook





Garden Furniture 🌸 Outdoor Living 🌿 BBQs
 Birdcare 🌸 Plants 🌿 Bedding 🌸 Seeds 🌿 Compost
 Pots 🌸 Hanging Baskets 🌿 Tools 🌸 Fencing
 Sheds 🌿 Garden Gift Vouchers 🌸 Coffee Shop

Aldermaston Road, Pamber End, Tadley RG26 5QW



EST. 1982
OAKLEY
 CARPETS & FURNITURE

Showroom
 The old Station Andover Rd Oakley Basingstoke RG23 7HA
 Tel: (01256) 782070
 OPEN 9am - 5pm MONDAY - FRIDAY
 CLOSED WEDNESDAY SATURDAY 10am - 3pm




😊 SERVING BASINGSTOKE FOR 40 YEARS 😊

CARPETS, VINYL, WOOD, LAMINATE, BEDS, DINING SETS, LOUNGE FURNITURE, BEDROOM FURNITURE, STUDY FURNITURE.




If you want FURNITURE and you want it FAST call in and see it, feel it and take it away today or use our FREE local delivery service




**CARPET EDGING SERVICE CARRIED OUT IN OUR STORE
 ORDER RUGS ANY SIZE TO SUIT YOUR ROOM**
www.oakley-furnishing.co.uk

Cakes and Flowers for Mothering Sunday

A big thank you to Jess Abbot who not only supported our VE Day 80th anniversary raffle last year but then shared her prize with some of those who attended the Mothering Sunday service at St James' Church. Jess won a voucher for 12 cup cakes, made and decorated by Carol of Bob-i-tea-Boo. Jess wanted to share them with her church family as she is so grateful for all the lifts and other support they provide, now that she is unable to drive. Sadly, not even Elaine Steere, who led our special Mothering Sunday service so thoughtfully, was able to turn 12 cakes into 60, so Deirdre Mellor kindly made some extras, which didn't last long once the children spotted them!



Our thanks also go to Joyce Rawlinson and Eileen Knights for preparing the lovely bouquets that were given to all ladies during the service, and for the tulips that were arranged in memory of the mothers we have loved and lost.

Our Flower Ladies at Lunch

We have all admired and been amazed by the work of our flower team with the arrangements created each week in church. Although they work in five teams throughout the year, they all meet up each spring for lunch, to discuss the successes and plans and have a good "catch up" for the coming term.



Eileen with her beautiful arrangement

Eileen, team leader, opened the afternoon by congratulating and thanking the team for their dedication and hard work, especially on the special VE Flower festival which was extremely successful! Eileen was presented with a lovely bouquet from the team in recognition of her first successful year as team leader. Twenty-two ladies and their invited guests attended the lunch.



A lovely colourful handmade lavender bag for each team member

Eileen had made a beautiful lavender bag for each attending member and gave the invited men a very generous bottle of wine for their help whenever any heavy lifting was required!

Gill, treasurer, gave the team a complete update on the year's income and expenditure showing a strong position following the VE festival.

As always, these lovely events are over all too soon but really nice to see all the ladies over a relaxed and delicious lunch and wish them every success and happy flower arranging in this coming year



A delightful and tasty homemade lasagne, salad and garlic bread, with fruit crumble and custard to follow.

Grahame Mellor

Bramley WI

This month was a craft evening, but before we started, we welcomed a gentleman from Tadley Citizens Advice Bureau who gave some very sensible advice about saving money on your bills and, most importantly, how to deal with scams etc. It was very informative and we hope to have him back towards the end of the year.

For the craft session, we were decorating tote bags, using stencils and pens. They were all brilliant, as you can see from the photo.

We managed to get a walk in this month (surprisingly we had a sunny day!!). It was very enjoyable walking along the Aldermaston canal in the spring sunshine.

Next month we have a speaker from the Heritage Society joining us.

Jane Matthews



The bells are back! After months of careful restoration, the bells of **St James' Church** have finally returned home, as **Rachel Barclay Smith** reports.

Just over six months after they were removed from the tower, our eight bells were safely returned to Bramley at the beginning of March. They looked very impressive, and much cleaner, as you can see from the before and after photos below. Among other things, the old wooden headstocks have been replaced with new metal ones and painted in the trademark red of the Loughborough bell foundry, where they were renovated. Members of the band, led by Sarah Kew, decorated the bells with beautiful roses and spring flowers, which impressed even the church flower arrangers!



The decorated bells



Before



After



One of the bells on its way back to church

To mark the bells' return, a special service of blessing was held on Sunday 8 March which drew together donors, parishioners and ringers from neighbouring churches. Over 80 people witnessed Rev. Mark Anderson bless the bells and listened to a fascinating summary of the work that had been carried out, delivered by Prof. Ian Roulstone. Everyone then had a chance to look at the bells more closely while enjoying tea and cake.



There was no shortage of cake!



Rev Mark Anderson blessing the bells



A bell in memory of Pat Cooper

On 9 March the difficult job of re-hanging the bells began. A mechanical hoist was used to raise the bells from the ground floor ringing chamber, through two trap doors, into the ringing frame at the top of the tower.



Bell number 7 being raised into the tower

That was the easy part; the bells then had to be swung across the belfry until they were in the correct ringing position. This required a lot of effort, especially with the largest (tenor) bell, which weighs in at 616 kilos.



Manoeuvring the bell into place

Once all eight bells were in place, the mechanisms that allow them to ring had to be reinstated. These included the wheels, ropes and pulleys. We also had new clappers installed; these are the heavy pieces of metal that hit the bell to make the ringing sound. The bells have been turned slightly so that the clappers can strike on unworn areas of the bells. All this work took five days and Andrew Mills from the bell foundry was ably assisted by Bramley bell ringers Ian Roulstone, Terry Cooper, Sarah Kew and Jonathan Barclay Smith.



Some of the wheels waiting to be reinstated.....



.....and now back in position

By the time you read this, a steel framed rope guide will also have been installed in the ringing chamber to stop the long bell ropes swinging around too much when in use. This will make the bells much easier to ring, so if you have ever fancied learning, or would like to return to ringing, now is the perfect time! (see page 29 for contact details).

Once again, our grateful thanks go to everyone who donated to our restoration fund. It is because of your support that our bells will again be ringing out across Bramley on Easter Sunday and for many hundreds of Sundays, weddings and special events to come.

Bramley and Romans Floral Society

For our Meeting on 5 March we enjoyed a lovely demonstration by Melanie Smith entitled “Beauty in Bloom”. Melanie is a Master Florist, NAFAS Area Demonstrator and a very accomplished craftswoman, making a lot of her own containers. For her theme she completed arrangements depicting famous botanical gardens and parks. Her first arrangement for the Singapore Temple Gardens was a fan of wire with a hand tied bunch of green carnations and ferns placed in a container resembling the bottom of a palm tree. To conjure up the Dubai Theme Park and Botanical Garden she had covered four round aluminium containers with different coloured felts, with a platform beneath and above, and arranged fatsia japonica leaves, manipulated aspidistra leaves, lobelia leaves and carnations, astilbe, tulips and hellebores. Melanie used a boat shaped container for her modern arrangement – the New York Botanical Garden using fern and fatsia japonica again, with white antirrhinum, white agapanthus, hypericum berries and black drinking straws.

We always break half way through the afternoon for tea/coffee and cake and a chat with friends, and then we settle to watch the final arrangements. Melanie covered the Keukenhof Gardens of Holland (the oldest gardens in Holland and a research garden in the past), Kew Gardens and Disney Park and Gardens, once again using her own hand made containers. Painted insulation board plus real clogs for Keukenhof and a disguised strawberry pot and bamboo canes for Kew. For Disney she used a bowl surrounded by brightly coloured baubles plus Micky and Minnie Mouse made out of draught excluder. The beautiful flowers to accompany these were roses, germini, delphinium, tulips and hellebores, together with ferns, palms (plain and manipulated), fatsia japonica and berries. A very entertaining and interesting afternoon as Melanie passed on several tips that even some of our experienced flower arrangers had not come across before.

We meet every first Thursday of the month at 1.30 p.m. and welcome everyone to join us and enjoy watching NAFAS qualified demonstrators and teachers (when we have Workshops). For more information, please contact Ilene Iles 01256 880559.

Ilene Iles



Dubai



Holland



New York



Disney

**LADIES!
GIVE US YOUR
SUPPORT**

AGAINST breast cancer | *Bra Bank*

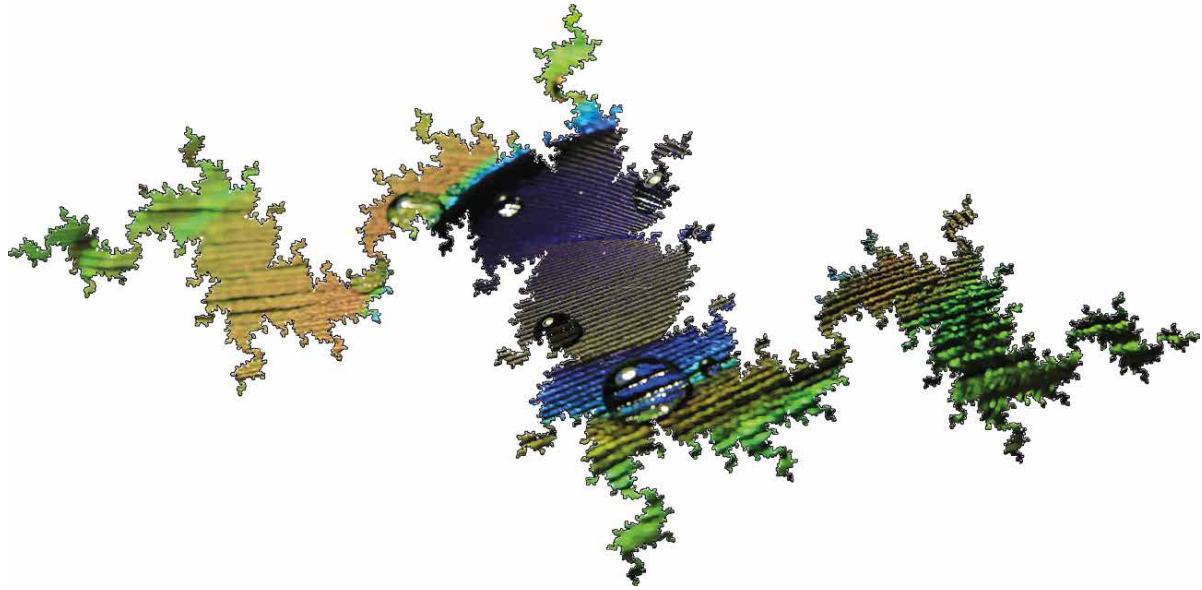
Deposit your used, new or surplus bras into our bra bank. Give them a new lease of life - raising vital funds for research into secondary spread breast cancer.

By depositing your bras in a **BRA BANK**, you will also be helping small businesses across the African continent to sell them at affordable prices.

For more information, or to order your own bra bank email recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk or go online at againstbreastcancer.org.uk

Drop off at 4 Strawberry Fields, Bramley, RG26 5QF
T: 01235 534211 E: recycling@againstbreastcancer.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1121258

BRA



B U C K L A N D

A R C H I T E C T S

NEW BUILDS | RENOVATIONS | EXTENSIONS | LISTED BUILDINGS
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | EDUCATIONAL | CULTURAL | LEISURE

buckland.co
info@buckland.co

BAUGHURST, HAMPSHIRE

Google Reviews: 5.0 ★★★★★

RIBA 
Chartered Practice



 Architects
Registration
Board

1st Bramley Guides

Thinking Day, on 22 February every year, is when Guides think about all Guides around the world. This year, it was the 100th anniversary of Thinking Day, and some of our Guides, with Unit Helper Robin, went along to Milestones Museum to join with Guides from around the district for activities to mark this special occasion.

That week, at our meeting, we celebrated Thinking Day with activities inspired by Guide Centres around the world. Two of the Guides have written about this:

“A couple of months ago at Guides, we celebrated International Guides Day. We had fondue: the chocolate was incredible. With the fondue we had grapes, raspberries, strawberries and apples. Next we wore saris. I wore a purple one with gold sequins. After that we made Godseyes and mine was black and white. Finally, we had welcome signs and mine had loads of different languages saying welcome. I loved to see the different things they do to welcome everyone.” Lyra

“One of the things we do at Guides is have nights where the unexpected happens: one of these was 25 February. Even though it was a mystery to us what was going to happen, we had a great time trying on saris, a traditional type of clothing that Indian women wear. It’s a piece of fabric that drapes around their body and over their shoulder. Saris come in lots of different colours. We had yellow, green and purple, and plain green.

We also had a chocolate fondue as patrols [patrols are groups we picked when we joined Guides]. In our patrols we would go around the circuit and eventually get chocolate fondue. They had strawberries, grapes, and chocolate of course.

One of the things I admittedly thought would be boring in this circuit was the section where we had to think of something to help welcome Guides from other countries to the UK, but it was fun to think of.

The crazy thing about this was we were actually learning all about the different Guide centres from different places including India, Mexico, London, Africa, and Switzerland.



Trying on a Sari

The last station of the circuit was a station where you got to make Godseyes: some of us struggled at first but it was easy when you got started.” Lily

Our Guide Leader Hedgy (aka Viv Salem) was honoured for her dedicated service to Guiding. Other Guide Leaders nominated her to receive the Hampshire Rose. This is in recognition of 30 years volunteering in Guiding, 15 of which must have been in Hampshire. To receive the Hampshire Rose is a huge accolade and all of us in the unit are very proud of Hedgy.

**Unit Helper,
Woodpecker**




Hedgy with her Hampshire Rose award

Bramley Osteopaths

Becky Hall MSc (Paed Ost), BSc (Ost Med), ND, Dip SMT
REGISTERED OSTEOPATH


7 St Marys Avenue, Bramley, Hants RG26 5UU
 email: beckyhall@bramleyosteopaths.com
www.bramleyosteopaths.com
 phone: 01256 884139



Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!

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 or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.



Probus Hears "The Pen is Mightier..."

Nigel Thorley, guest speaker at the Probus Club of Basingstoke, took members on a lively journey through the evolution of writing instruments.

He began with the Egyptians, who 3,000 years ago wrote on papyrus using shaped reeds dipped into ink made from natural materials and insects. These early tools eventually gave way to quills—strong feathers from large birds, slit at the tip to allow ink to flow smoothly without blotting.

Blotting itself changed dramatically in 1801, when blotting paper was invented by accident, replacing the sand traditionally used to dry ink.

By the mid-1850s, the metal nib had been refined for dip pens. A narrow slit in the nib allowed ink to flow by capillary action, and Birmingham became a major centre of production, with one company alone employing two thousand workers. Dip pens remained a classroom staple into the 1950s, when school desks still featured ceramic ink wells refilled daily by the designated "ink monitor", a prized position. Today, steel nibs survive mainly in the hands of artists and calligraphers.



Dipping pen nibs

The arrival of fountain pens marked a turning point. Although early versions were made of metal, the invention of Bakelite in 1907, by Leo Baekeland, revolutionised production. This mouldable plastic type material allowed pens to be fitted with a lever mechanism that compressed a rubber sac, drawing ink into the reservoir.

In 1921, the American company Parker launched the now-iconic Duofold and later solved the problem of slow-drying ink with the introduction of Quink, which was quick drying and fountain pen friendly. Parker's advertising dominated in the 1930s, and in 1941 the company unveiled the "Parker 51" named to mark the firm's 51st anniversary and to signal that the pen was a decade ahead of its rivals.

With eight patents and a lifetime guarantee, it became a symbol of innovation. Its fame was sealed when General Eisenhower held up two Parker 51s in a victory gesture after signing the documents that ended the Second World War.

The ball point pen, however, would change every day writing forever. Hungarian inventor Laszlo Biro and his



General Eisenhower with Parker 51 pens

brother created a thicker, fast drying ink that didn't blot. Granted a patent in London in 1938, the brothers later fled to Argentina during the war. The RAF quickly recognised the value of their invention, ordering 30,000 pens because fountain pens leaked at altitude. In 1945 a New York store placed an order for 50,000 and sold 30,000 in the first week, such was the popularity of a pen that did not need refilling for two years. Originally priced at \$12.50 today it has become a throw-away pen costing pennies.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST April 29, 1941

These famous P-51's have more than a name in common!

There's a world of kinship in these two—the P-51 Mustang, one of the fastest fighters in existence, and the brilliant, streamlined Parker "51" fountain pen.

For, like a plane in flight, the Parker "51" responds smoothly, instantly to your touch. Its beauty is the luxury of flashing wings.

Your natural desire is to possess this finest of all writing instruments at once. Yet, you may have to wait for yours.

You see, production of all fountain pens has been curtailed by government order. Secondly, Parker craftsmen are today creating primers, fuses, parts for aircraft engines (including that of the P-51 Mustang) and a long list of other vital war equipment.

All the Parker "51" pens we can produce are now rationed to dealers. However, if a new pen is essential for your war tasks—or to write letters of encouragement to someone in service—place an order for a Parker "51".

The Parker "51" is the only pen of its kind—protected by basic U. S. Patents. It *always* can use the new Parker "51" Ink—the world's fastest drying ink! Dries as you write! You need no blotter. Of course, you can use any regular ink with the Parker "51" if you so desire—but you won't "so desire."

Colors: Black, Blue-Cedar, Dove-Gray, Condover Brown, \$12.50 and \$15.00. Pencils, \$5.00 and \$7.50. Famous Parker Vacuumatic pens, \$8.75. Pencils, \$4.00.

♦ GUARANTEED BY LIFE CONTRACT: Parker's Blue Diamond in the pen is our contract unconditionally guaranteeing service for the owner's life, without and other than \$18 charge for postage, insurance, and handling, if pen is not intentionally damaged and is returned complete to The Parker Pen Company, Lancaster, Wisconsin.

Make your dollars fight—BUY WAR BONDS NOW!

Parker "51" Writes dry with wet ink!

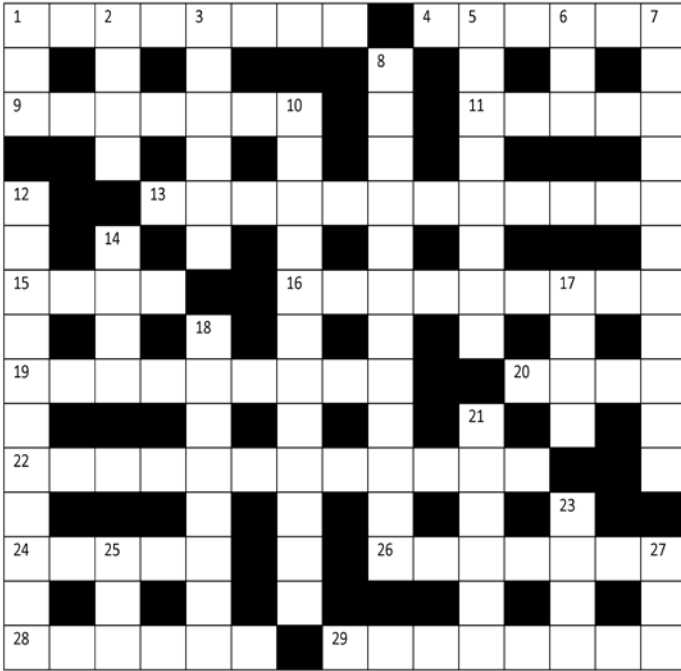
Parker advert from 1940s

In the meantime, Parkers continue with fountain pen manufacture, together with their roller ball and propelling pencil variants, marketed as a luxury item to be treasured; second-hand versions fetch good money on auction sites.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.club or email secretaryprobusbasingstoke@outlook.com or phone 07814 937202 for an informal chat.

Cryptic Crossword No: 97

See page 30 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Fish lack mere order. (8)
- 4 Agree to acquire. (6)
- 9 Lets be quite clear, there's no nag on this figure. (7)
- 11 To begin with, let it be you and me who find this country. (5)
- 13 Collectors, fond of sandy shores perhaps. (12)
- 15 Shape arranged to hide fruit. (4)
- 16 Near needle, but missing direction for lake. (9)
- 19 Adore Rome, used to park aircraft. (9)
- 20 Part of a tree or a book. (4)
- 22 Surgical procedure for nonessential organ. (12)
- 24 Can Alan catch this insect starting with these prickly plants. (5)
- 26 Temptress, shop the french hate. (7)
- 28 Wanders as trays often do. (6)
- 29 Blue litmus appropriate for this experiment. (4,4)

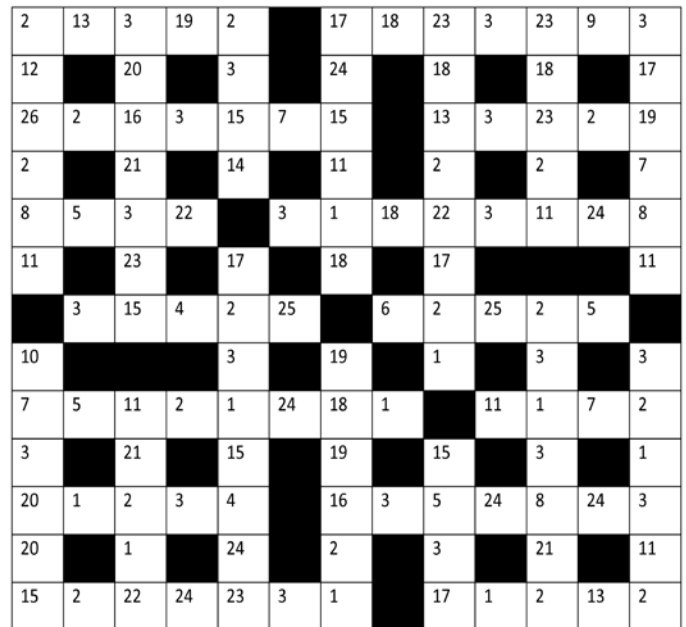
Down

- 1 May all numbers represent this sex. (3)
- 2 Bamboo has murderous connotations on the radio. (4)

- 3 Birds could be fish or golden. (6)
- 5 Squid by any other name would be as chewy. (8)
- 6 Earnest bent backwards starting a state of decline. (3)
- 7 The cost of moving position. (8,3)
- 8 Not attached or switched off. (12)
- 10 Cheap American movies theatres or jukeboxes. (12)
- 12 Facades or arrivals. (11)
- 14 For Albert it represented light. (4)
- 17 This tree would be a certainty somewhere in the garden. (4)
- 18 End it if unknown, then name. (8)
- 21 Blamed, then strolled. (6)
- 23 Happy club perhaps. (4)
- 25 Look at that escargot, what a vehicle. (3)
- 27 A winning blow perhaps. (3)

CodeWord No: 83

See page 30 for the answers.



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

Spencer & Peyton

Established 1961

3rd Generation family owned and run
Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons

24 Hours

The Flower Girl florist on site

Our family serving your family for 65 years

380 Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 5DZ
01256 323165

7 London Road, Hook, RG27 9DY
01256 761717

Trading Standards approved

funerals@spencerandpeyton.co.uk
www.spencerandpeyton.co.uk

Smokeless Sweeps
CHIMNEY SERVICES

Smokeless Sweeps offers professional chimney sweeping services covering Hampshire, South Berkshire.

As a fully certified member of the Guild of Master Sweepers.

Services include rotary power sweep, traditional chimney sweep, Stove Maintenance, Rayburn & Aga's, Inglenooks.

Bird Nest Removal, CCTV Chimney inspection, Guild Certificates issued with every job.

Call today to book appointment

Call 07881056421
info@SmokelessSweeps.co.uk
https://www.smokelessweeps.co.uk/

Little Apples

Here at Little Apples, we have been so glad to finally enjoy some dry days and even, occasionally, some sunshine. Our work to our garden has continued with new concrete bases being laid over unsafe areas either side of our new shed. Our beautiful mural now forms one side of our outside classroom which is covered by a retractable awning gazebo to enable us to use it on



damp days. We are very grateful to the Parish Council who funded this by way of a grant for us. Staff are still developing the contents for this learning space, which we intend to use for outdoor storytime and literacy learning.

As spring finally arrives, the children have been learning about growing and have planted a selection of seeds for us to study, including broad beans, marigolds and sunflowers. As well as teaching us about nature, this will give lots of learning opportunities for mathematics as we talk about comparison of sizes, count leaves and flowers, name colours and compare properties. As part of this learning, the children also enjoyed playing in a garden centre in our role-play area.

For world book day, our theme was the wonderful works of Julia Donaldson. The children enjoyed a range of activities based around classics like the Gruffalo and The Paper Dolls. They loved dressing up and we had “Stick men”, a scarecrow from “The Scarecrows wedding”, “Tabby McTat” and a whale from “The snail and the whale” amongst many marvellous costumes.



Going forward, we are excited to plan learning opportunities based around a range of summery themes when we return from the Easter holidays. We also have a visit from Millers Ark farm with their lovely animals to look forward to.

We will shortly begin to allocate sessions for next academic year, so if you are interested in visiting Little Apples or registering your child, please do get in touch.

You can contact Jo on 07598 588460 or manager@littleapples.org

Butter Daisy

Here at Butter Daisy, we have joyfully welcomed the warmth of spring and the return of the sun’s gentle glow. This time of year naturally sparks curiosity, as children explore and observe the seasonal changes in their environment. From emerging buds to the sounds of birds chattering, there are rich opportunities to encourage inquisitive discussions, critical thinking, and early scientific observation.



This month, we were thrilled to welcome the “Bubbles Man” to our setting for a special afternoon of celebration and exploration. Children discovered the many ways bubbles can be created and explored, enjoying experiences such as a gigantic foam bubble marshmallow, bubble bunny ears, and even stepping inside a bubble

themselves. These playful experiences supported children’s sensory development, spatial awareness and imaginative thinking.

We also joined in the nation’s celebrations for World Book Day. Children came dressed as their favourite characters and shared stories, both modern and classic,



fostering a love of reading and story-telling. Our team took part in a friendly challenge to dress as characters from Early Years literature. Throughout the day, activities were carefully planned to support children’s next steps, from standing and balance development through the story “How to Catch a Star” to exploring early mathematical concepts while mixing and preparing “Gruffalo’s Crumble.”

In addition, we celebrated Mother figures for Mother’s Day, and women everywhere for International Women’s Day. The children created special gifts to take home and some of our Pre-Schoolers articulated why their Mums are so wonderful, sharing reflections such as, “because she gives me big hugs.” These activities promoted children’s communication skills, emotional development and understanding of meaningful relationships.

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



Wilder Bramley

Are you as mad as a March hare? Let us know what wildlife you are enjoying this spring! For us, whilst we may have seemed a bit quieter lately, in the background we have been undergoing a small restructure and strengthening our links with Natural Basingstoke. We started by borrowing some tools so we don't have to buy new ones, which lowers our consumption and in turn helps the planet. More recently we are working on housing planning and joining forces for the creation of corridors for swifts.

Spring means the gardeners' calendar has well and truly kicked off and our Bee Garden needs volunteers for 2026!

Our Bee Garden team of volunteers keeps the flowers blooming all summer long, providing much needed food for our threatened pollinators and a colourful display for Bramley people. We need more pairs of hands! Could you spare just two hours on the second Sunday of the month? If you're interested in helping us and helping our local bees, please reach out to Jane. Kirkwood@outlook.com. Your support is crucial for the Bee Garden to continue. The upcoming dates are 12 April, 10 May and 14 June. Our website has all the dates for the rest of the year.

Lastly, we are thrilled to have seen a plaque installed in memory of the late Debbie Grey. As some of you may remember she was a fierce advocate for nature, especially the toads and other amphibians.



Best of Flooring

Best of Flooring are an established Premium flooring company based in Hampshire

We have an extensive stock of top brands, viewable in our purpose-built showroom in Basingstoke

We can not only supply, but expertly install flooring of all variations in your home. Our team of highly experienced installers will offer you peace of mind from start to finish.

www.bestofflooring.co.uk
01256 810327









Showroom opening times:
Thurs/Friday 10-4 or call for an appointment.






Unit 3, Cufaude Business Park, Cufaude Lane, Bramley RG26 5DL

ROLLER GARAGE DOORS CENTRE






**Roller Garage Doors - Sectional Garage Doors
Up & Overs - Service & Repairs**

- **FREE** no obligation survey & quotations
- 28 years plus experience
- Huge range of colours and style
- Own professional installation teams
- Secured by Design
- British Built
- **FREE** 7-year motor warranty
- Showroom at Head Office



Tel: 01256 962 660
www.rollergaragedoorscentre.co.uk
info@rollergaragedoorscentre.co.uk

Proud members of



Where reputation matters

Spring Butterflies by Paul Sterry



From left to right: Brimstone, Orange-tip, Green-veined White, Comma, Peacock, Holly Blue. Image ©Paul Sterry.

Butterflies are a welcome sign of spring in Bramley and naturalists typically notch up a dozen or so species on their local patch by the end of April. Many gardeners also have a soft spot for these charming insects and manage their plots sympathetically.

If butterflies are your passion, and you want to promote their welfare, there is so much more you can do apart from planting floral sources of nectar for adults. In order to maximise the benefits you need to understand their life-cycles because each species has unique requirements; and, through your actions, it is all-too-easy to destroy stages in their lives without realising it. Stating the obvious, if these life-cycles are not completed there will be fewer adult butterflies the following year.

All butterflies have life-cycles with four stages: adults that lay eggs, which hatch into caterpillars, that pupate as chrysalises before emerging as next generation adults. Given that basic plan, however, there are as many survival strategies as there are species. The one thing they have in common is the need to spend the winter months in a state of dormancy, not just because of cold temperatures but because there is nothing for either adults or caterpillars to eat. As a flavour of this variety, let's look at some of our spring favourites. For a fuller account of British butterfly life-cycles visit the website of the charity Butterfly Conservation.



Relatively few butterfly species live long as adults. Comma, Peacock and Brimstone are exceptions: adults hibernate from late summer until the following spring and are active before and after this state of torpor. In nature, many hibernate in dense Ivy clumps. Cut back Ivy in winter and you stand a good chance of killing these iconic butterflies, along with a myriad other insects including the chrysalises of Holly Blue butterflies.



An adult male Orange-tip and the chrysalis from which it emerged. Image ©Paul Sterry.

Our most iconic spring butterfly is the Orange-tip, only males of which are adorned with their namesake colour. Adults of both sexes live just a few weeks at most and having mated and laid their eggs they die. In Bramley, the main

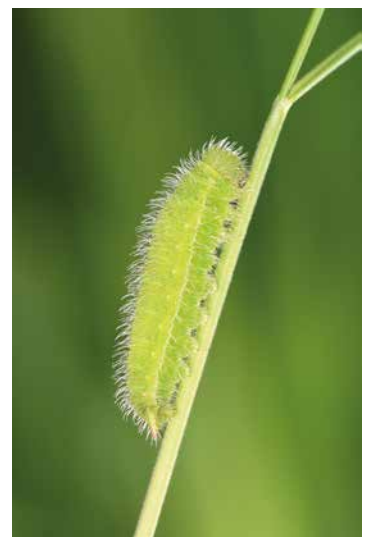
food for their caterpillars are the pods of Garlic-mustard. Having grown to full size by May or June, the caterpillars pupate and the chrysalis is the life-cycle stage that remains dormant for nine months or so until the following spring. The thorn-like chrysalis is attached to stems of wayside plants. Hedgerow and verge cutting, often driven by tidy-mindedness, undoubtedly kills untold numbers of Orange-tips during the pupal stage.

Purple Hairstreaks have a different strategy for surviving the winter months and do so as eggs, laid in the summer months on next-year's embryo leaf buds of their foodplant oaks. Come the following April, the caterpillars emerge to feed on the young leaves as they begin to grow.



A Purple Hairstreak caterpillar in April, and the egg from which it emerged. Image ©Paul Sterry.

As adults, grassland butterflies are a feature of summer, but they can still be found in spring, represented by different stages in their life-cycles. A good example is the familiar Meadow Brown. Adults seldom survive longer than a week, a staggered emergence accounting for the species being seen on the wing from June to August. By contrast, however, their caterpillars live for at least nine months – roughly September to May. Cut their grassland habitat in spring (a foolish thing to do ecologically anyway) and you will kill many of this butterfly's caterpillars and destroy the life-cycle.



A Meadow Brown caterpillar in April. Image ©Paul Sterry.



07776 303791
0800 246 1223

The Boiler & Bathroom Replacement Specialists



WE'RE MORE THAN JUST A LEAKY TAP



Boilers
Installations
Servicing
Breakdowns



Bathrooms
Cloakrooms
En-suites
Shower rooms



Plumbing
Taps
Toilets
All plumbing jobs



Contact us for a FREE estimate






info@catlinph.co.uk • 07774 741021







OUR SERVICES
Residential & Commercial Properties Serviced.

Rat and Mouse Treatments.
Wasp and Homet Nest Treatments & Removal.
Traditional Mole Catching Specialists.
Cluster Fly Treatments.
Clothes Moth Fumigation & Management.
Bed Bug & Flea Treatments.
Pest Proofing Work.
Rodent, Insect & Bird Control.
Wildlife Management.

ALL ASPECTS OF PEST CONTROL WORK UNDERTAKEN

One Off Treatments & Ongoing Pest Management Programmes Available

- ✓ Fully Insured ✓ All Staff DBS Checked
- ✓ Professional & Friendly BPCA Qualified Staff
- ✓ All staff use Non Sign Written Vehicles. Discreet Service

www.testvalleypestcontrol.co.uk





CONTACT US HEAD OFFICE: (01256) 643481 LOCAL OPERATOR: 07718986858

MK

HAIRDRESSING

Your hair, your style

Colour specialist ▪ Cuts ▪ Balayage ▪ Highlights
Tints ▪ Colour Correction ▪ Keratin Treatment

Tel: 07502 261199 www.mkhairdressing.org

MK Salon, Masters House,
Silchester Road, Bramley (near the Church) RG26 5DF

Are you looking for more control over your finances?

At S4 Financial, we have been providing bespoke financial solutions to our clients for 20 years, with a strong focus on cashflow modelling.

Using years of experience, and with the help of specialist software, we can develop a cashflow model to forecast what you'll need to do to achieve your financial goals, and how much you might need to save to reach financial independence.



Build your wealth



Protect your family



Enjoy a comfortable retirement



Pass on your wealth to future generations

To find out more

VISIT: s4financial.co.uk/bramley-sherfield
CALL: 01276 34932

Unit A, Causeway Farm,
Cricket Green, Hartley Wintney,
Hampshire RG27 8PS




S4 FINANCIAL | Where wealth meets wisdom

S4 Financial Ltd is an Independent Financial Advisory firm, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. S4 Financial Ltd is entered on the FCA register (<https://register.fca.org.uk/>) under reference 401372.

Anvil Arts Events

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)



FAIRPORT CONVENTION - with support from Jenn Butterworth

Wed 1 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £39

Fairport Convention have been entertaining music lovers for over half a century. This tour will present a mix of long-established favourites and some surprises from albums old and new. They will be joined by award-winning Jenn Butterworth as a special guest on the tour.

AN EVENING WITH HENRY COLE - Hosted by Steve 'Stavros' Parrish

Tue 7 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £35. Over 65s and under 25s £33.50. Suitable for: ages 14 and over

Henry Cole has forged an illustrious TV and movie career spanning some 32 years, currently presenting *The World's Greatest Motorcycle Rides*, *Shed and Buried*, *Find It, Fix It, Flog It*, and many more. On this 'evening with' long-time friend and former British Motorcycling Champion, Steve 'Stavros' Parrish, will guide us through stories from directing TV and films to setting a world land speed record for a pre-1955 750cc motorcycle on the Bonneville Salt Flats, and everything in between.

MILES HUNT

Thu 9 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £28.50

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Miles Hunt of The Wonder Stuff will be heading to Basingstoke to play songs and tell tales from his 40 years in music.

BOYBAND IN THE BUFF - starring Gareth Gates

Fri 10 Apr, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £38, £34. M&G upgrade £30 Suitable for: ages 18 and over

Boyband in the Buff is the ultimate throwback concert starring pop heartthrob Gareth Gates and a cast of ripped and ridiculously talented performers. With nothing but harmonies, dance moves, and a

whole lot of skin, the boys belt out the biggest hits of the '90s and '00s from Backstreet Boys to NSYNC, Blue to Take That – in a show that's as nostalgic as it is naughty. It's a celebration of pop, passion, and peccs, where the clothes come off and the heat turns up!

LIZA PULMAN & JOE STILGOE - Hooray for Hollywood

Fri 10 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £34, £24

The Hollywood musical feels like it's been with us forever. Starting with the *Jazz Singer* in 1927, almost 100 years later audiences are still flocking to the box office to watch the big screen come alive with singing, dancing, comedy and romance. Liza Pulman and Joe Stilgoe's combined love and exhaustive movie knowledge is on technicolour display here as they bring some of these great songs to life on the stage. No big screen, only big talents, great harmonies and lots of music and laughter.

T'PAU

Sat 11 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £36

Join Carol Decker and T'Pau on their first full UK tour in a decade playing all their hits, fan favourites and songs from their forthcoming album *Be Wonderful*. T'Pau burst onto the music scene in 1987 with the massive hit single *Heart & Soul* and the follow up, *China In Your Hand*, which stayed at No.1 for five weeks. Simultaneously, their debut album *Bridge of Spies* occupied the No.1 album slot for two weeks and went on to become a certified quadruple platinum in the UK.

LUCY PORTER - Let Yourself Go!

Sun 19 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £27. Suitable for: ages 16 and over

Lucy returns with a brand-new show about the power of letting yourself go – in every sense. Whether that means embracing your wrinkles and love handles whilst living in a slanket or having a couple of babychams and dancing like nobody's watching (and if you're a middle-aged woman, they're probably not). It's also about letting go of the person you've always thought you are, and using your midlife crisis to pursue new goals and reinvent yourself.

Thomas Hopkins, Craig Haffner & Sherry Wright present the *Hope Mill Theatre production*

GLORIOUS!

Tue 21 – Sat 25 Apr, The Haymarket, Tickets: £31 (matinees), Tue – Thu £35, Fri – Sat £39. Under 25s and f/t students £18. Friends £23.50 (21 Apr)

Starring Wendi Peters (*Coronation Street*) and Matthew James Morrison (*EastEnders*), *Glorious!* follows Florence Foster Jenkins's journey as she prepares for her concerts, builds an unlikely friendship with her accompanist, Cosme, and defies her critics to follow her dreams. Dubbed 'the worst singer in the world,' *Glorious!* is the true story of American socialite Florence Foster Jenkins, who was known for her flamboyant costumes, enigmatic performances, and decidedly off-key voice.

DAVID OLUSOGA

- A Gun Through Time

Tue 28 Apr, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £49, £36.50, £34 Suitable for: ages 12 and over

Have you ever considered how a single weapon could change the course of history? What stories lie behind the guns that shaped empires, wars, and even criminal underworlds? How did these firearms influence not just battles, but entire societies? Known for his documentaries *Black and British: A Forgotten History* and *A House Through Time*, as well as his appearance on *Celebrity Traitors*, David Olusoga offers remarkable storytelling in this powerful, unexpected and enlightening social narrative.

DR LOUISE NEWSON BREAKING THE CYCLE - The Power of Hormones

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £33.50. VIP Meet & Greet upgrade £54

Physician and women's hormone specialist Dr Louise Newson is back with *Breaking the Cycle: The Power of Hormones*, an unmissable new show challenging everything you've been told. Known as "the medic who kick-started the menopause revolution," Dr Louise will be unpacking the history and the often-neglected science of hormones. This is more than a talk – it is a movement and a wake-up call. Expect to leave empowered, shocked, energised and ready to demand better.

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>Fitness Pilates 6pm (from 5 January 2026)</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates for Sport 7pm (from 5 January 2026)</i>	Cross House
<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>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1st Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village 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>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>Meditation Circle session 10.15- 11.30 (from 9 January 2026)</i>	Cross House
<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Craft Group (4th Friday) 1pm-4pm</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<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 9.30-10.30m</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate 11.00-12.00pm</i>	Primary School Hall

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

Do you have a listing on this page? If so, please can you check that the details are correct and let me have the timings if they are missing. Any corrections or additions can be emailed to editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk
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 Craft Group	Anne-Marie Jones	07922 528155	anajonesuk@yahoo.co.uk	4th Friday of each month
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	
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	
Dance Vibes	Louise		misslouise74@gmail.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	
Meditation	Jennifer Duke	07764 293757	jennifer2duke@gmail.com linktr.ee/jennifer_duke	
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	
Pure Performance Pilates	Hannah Travers	07711 206043	info@performanceuk.com www.performanceuk.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	Carol Ellis	07960 049189		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			wilder.bramley@gmail.com www.wilderbramley.org or Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

Jordan Rollinson resumes his historical fiction series in the trenches around Basing

Each of the barrels of gunpowder in the cramped tent smelled chemically stale. Buried beneath a stretch of rough cloth, the soil vented a fragrant, earthy mixture into the air. Samuel pulled open the lid of a powder barrel, trapped air sighing out as the binding cracked apart.

“Let’s just...” Samuel murmured through his teeth as he frowned in concentration, gently scooping a portion of blackpowder and pouring it - carefully - into his powder flasks. Twelve of the things were tied to a bandolier about his chest; their wooden bodies rattled and clattered against each other. Samuel had never imagined himself as a musketeer - the tool felt wrong in his hands, all carved wood and smelt-shaped iron. Musketballs were a commodity they could afford to literally blast away - Parliament had dragged many crates of the things to the green around Basing House, and neither side were shy to fill the air with zipping rows of enfilading fire. Trenches sprawled throughout the fields, from the long runnels of communication trenches to the weaving and curled straits of sapping trenches that skirted the line of the walls about Basing. Wider segments were reserved for cannons: demi-culverins gave infrequent reports of cannonballs into the brickwork. So much spent powder left an acrid taste in the air, and a continuous ringing in Samuel’s ears. It was, decidedly, unpleasant.

Ammunition restored, Samuel pulled apart the passageway of the munitions tent. Having re-entered the siege site, the world erupted in a cacophony of noise, yells and thundering explosives. Gritty flows of powder mingled with the guttural prayers and chants of the Puritan members of the levy, who gave praise to their most draconian of gods even as they toiled. Distant silhouettes of armed men darted atop the manor’s walls with no doubt many more gazing from behind its windows. Anytime one of the trench-bound roundheads on ground level got a bit too close, they were sent scurrying back into the earth by the cracking musketfire of the royalists from above. Samuel considered their amour. No doubt they looked like beetles from above, all smooth edges and hard, chitinous carapaces. It irked him that the Marquess’ men probably saw them in exactly that way: chittering bugs that needed to be stomped flat. They would show them. Colonel Norton, specifically, would guide them as to how best to flatten this damned house of divine mockery. The man was a career cavalryman, always on horseback, but he insisted he had learned the ways of siege elsewhere in the country, and of course, those under him saw no reason to argue. Not that such a challenge would be tolerated, they were Norton’s lessers, all of them, and he’d surely have them flogged at but an iota of dissonance. So, instead, they slogged through the wet mud and dug trench after trench until the fields were scarred with wounds bleeding muddy brown into the grass. Even if the siege failed - it wouldn’t - the Marquess of Winchester must surely have lamented his properties.

Cryptic Crossword No: 97 Solution

HIT	27	ACID TEST	29
CAR	25	STRAYS	28
GLEE	23	DELIAH	26
AMBLE	21	CACTI	24
IDENTIFY	18	APPENDECTOMY	22
ACER	17	LEAF	20
FAIR	14	AERODROME	19
APPEARANCES	12	ENNERDALE	16
NICKELODEONS	10	PEAR	15
DISCONNECTED	8	BEACHCOMBERS	13
TRANSFER FEE	7	LIBYA	11
EBB	6	NONAGON	9
CALAMARI	5	ACCEPT	4
EAGLES	3	MACKEREL	1
CANE	2		
MAN	1		

Down

CodeWord No: 83 Solution

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

To advertise in the classified section and reach 2100 homes in and around Bramley for as little as £2 per line, contact: Rick Askin
 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

Disclaimer: Bramley Magazine is intended to provide readers with information they may find useful and of interest. We take all reasonable steps to keep this information current and accurate, but errors can occur. The editor reserves the right to make changes to any contributions. Bramley Magazine is not responsible for and does not endorse any advertising, products, or opinions expressed in this publication and shall not be liable to any party as a result of information published herein. All photographs are included with kind permission and may not be reproduced.

Sherfield-on-Loddon

GARDEN CENTRE & CAFÉ

Everything you need to enjoy your garden



From plants to furniture, lighting and accessories, we've got everything you need to enjoy your garden.



Taking Bookings Now!

www.capitalgardens.co.uk/golf

Brand new adventure golf course with 18 holes of fun for families, friends, and groups of all ages.

Opening Monday 30th March



Use code
LOCAL2026
to get
20%
Opening
Discount*



*T&Cs apply - see website for details

Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Nr Basingstoke, RG27 0HL

**34 Years
serving the local
community**



**RAINBOW
DOUBLE GLAZING LIMITED**

1992-2026

Your truly local double glazing company

34 successful years



Energy Window	
	A
Energy Index (Uw) (kWh/m ² /year)	0
Thermal Transmittance (Ug) (W/m ² K)	1.6 W/m ² K
Solar Factor (g) (%)	8.85
Effective Air Layer (L) (m ² K/W)	2.00 m ² K/W
The climate zone is:	UK

**Windows • Doors • Roofline
Conservatories • Orangeries
Entrance Porch • Garage Conversions
Rainbow Warm Roof Conversions**

- No deposit**
- No hassle**
- Energy 'A' Rated**
- 10 year Guarantee**
- Payment on completion**



For a free no-obligation quotation please call FREEPHONE:

0800 026 46 42 or 0118 970 1770

www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk