

July/August 2026

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Anniversaries for Bramley Scout & Guide Groups**
- **Bramley Show schedule**
- **Updates from our schools**

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**July/August 2026**

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## Editorial

Welcome to the July & August edition of the Bramley Magazine!

Believe it or not, summer is here, and as such, the end of the academic year is rapidly approaching. Many children will undoubtedly be looking forward to 6 weeks of freedom. For others, it may be a more emotional time, leaving primary, secondary, and even further education behind to progress onto their next stage in September. Either way, it is a great time to reflect on learnings and memories made in the past year. For those of us not in education, I find mid-year is the perfect time to think back to those new year's resolutions and goals we set back in January. I wonder how many of us have stuck to them, or on the contrary, forgotten about them! Whether you relate to the latter or former, I hope you'll take a moment to celebrate all your individual and group achievements so far this year.

On that note, if you're looking for some celebration inspiration, our Bramley Scout and Guide Groups have recently shown how much fun you can have, whatever the Great British Weather brings, when they celebrated not one, but three milestone anniversaries. You can read all about the activities they got up to on page 10 for Scouts, and page 18 for Guides. A big happy birthday to all the groups - the smores certainly looked delicious!

For the parents and guardians reading, the 6 week-long summer may feel like an eternity. Luckily, Bramley is home to a whole host of clubs and activities you can get involved in. Check out page 28 for more information on what's on in the village and how to get involved. If you fancy a bit of reading over the summer, we have some wonderful authors in the village who regularly contribute to our magazine. Paul Sterry's Nature of Bramley article can be found on page 25, where he tells us all about summer hedgerows and verges. You may even spot some yourself while out and about! If fiction is more up your street, Jordan Rollinson continues his historic fiction series on page 21, based upon events at the nearby Basing House. For those interested in the arts, The Anvil hosts a variety of shows and performances throughout the year, and you can find their July schedule on page 21.

While the wonderful Bramley Fete has now passed for 2026, it's now also the time of year to start thinking about your Bramley Show submissions. Be sure to head to page 27 to find out more about the categories for this year. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing what entries we get this year from our creative and talented community.

Please note, this month is a combined issue for July and August, with the next issue landing on your doorsteps in September. The only notable date for the next two months is simply one bank holiday right at the end of summer, on Monday 31st August, before we get back into the swing of things in the Autumn.

Have a wonderful summer!

**Holly**

Joint Editor

"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August."

**Jenny Han**

Cover Photo: Hawthorn in Bramley and Little London. Photo ©Paul Sterry.

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

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**Church diary for July...**

<b>5th</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer - St James
<b>12th</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
<b>19th</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>26th</b>	<b>8th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

**... August**

<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer - St James
<b>9th</b>	<b>10th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
<b>16th</b>	<b>11th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>23rd</b>	<b>12th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>30th</b>	<b>13th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House
10.30	No service at St James

**... and into September**

<b>6th</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer - St James
<b>13th</b>	<b>15th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James

**Benefice Services**

**July...**

<b>5th</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.00	Family Service – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
<b>12th</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard’s,, Sherfield
<b>19th</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
<b>26th</b>	<b>8th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Family Service – St Leonard’s, Sherfield

**... August**

<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
<b>9th</b>	<b>10th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
<b>16th</b>	<b>11th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
<b>23rd</b>	<b>12th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Family Service – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
<b>30th</b>	<b>13th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Benefice Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield

**...and into September**

<b>6th</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.00	Family Service – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall

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**From the Registers**

**Funeral**

Audrey ATKINSON

4th June 2026  
St James Church

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## News from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

This month focuses on Dr Ward's Fundraiser. I am sure everyone will be interested in her effort and what the money raised is being spent on and information about the next NHS App training session.

"As many of you know I took on a huge challenge in March 2026 to complete a race set in the Swedish Arctic circle aimed at walking 500km within 10 days whilst pulling a pulk carrying my food, sleeping and safety equipment. I was doing this in aid of raising money for our local frailty team to provide them with additional equipment to help them care for the vulnerable members of our community within their own home and reduce the need for hospital admission or GP appointments. For this population, any journey outside their own home can be a huge outlay of energy and effort, so any measures to minimise this is beneficial.

To this end, I managed to raise £4500 in funds with overwhelming support and good wishes from many of the Clift family of patients. I cannot thank everyone enough for their kindness and generosity and wanted to share what these funds have and will enable.

We have purchased a portable ECG that will ensure we can not only capture issues arising with the heart rhythm but enable us to be more proactive in ensuring medications prescribed are appropriately monitored for side effects (a common reason for avoidable admission). Many disorders of heart rhythm are simple to manage without the need for specialist input, so diagnosing this early will reassure the patient and enable efficient management at home.

We have also purchased a portable bladder scanner that will help determine issues early with catheterised patients, and also help to ensure maximum comfort of palliative patients who may be in discomfort related to their bladder but not be able to communicate this. Having a means to see if their bladder is distended and potentially a source of pain is hugely valuable in providing quick solutions where comfort is a priority.

The remaining money is set aside for iPads for the team to use on home visits to record their notes in the patients' homes and access information on the patient records i.e. medication lists, allergies, significant history. Being able to have information to hand and an efficient means to record their visit without returning to the surgery between visits will create time for further support of housebound patients. This is still in progress, as is always the way with devices carrying important data and the necessary due diligence that applies, but we hope this will be available to the team soon.

Despite not being able to complete the race due to getting a chest infection and having to pull out 185km into the 500km race, I fully intend to honour the commitment and have entered again in March 2027. It will be a huge boost to see the benefit of the money raised in patient care to drive me on in the second attempt and I can't thank you enough for the support shown."

The next drop-in for patients who want to learn more or become more confident in using the NHS App will be on Saturday 19th July from 9.30 – 11.30am at Clift Surgery. Please pass on this information to those who might benefit from this session. You just need a smart phone, tablet or lap top. Any questions please email ppgclift@gmail.com

Don't forget to check out the PPG website [www.ppgclift.org.uk](http://www.ppgclift.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook.

## Bramley Show 2026: Showtime is Coming! – Sunday 13th September at the Village Hall

The **38th Bramley Show** is now just over two months away. The year seems to have flown by, and the strange weather we've all experienced has certainly affected how our gardens and allotments are growing. One moment the soil is soft and welcoming, the next it's like concrete, making summer preparations a real challenge. Still, the garden centres are full of tempting plants, and the colours this year seem especially vibrant.

The show schedule is now ready. A summary can be found on page 27, but if you'd like a hard copy, you can pick one up from **Capital Gardens, Elm Park Garden Centre**, and various local locations. You can also find it on the website: [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk), where entry forms are available to download.

Next month we'll also be announcing the winner of **Bramley in Bloom**. The judges are looking forward to visiting the beautiful front gardens around the village.

August brings the **Scarecrow Trail**, and this year's suggested theme is **Robots**. That could mean a robot gardener, a robot from *Doctor Who* or *Star Wars*, or— if you remember them—the cheerful robots from the old Smash potato adverts. Start planning now so your creation is ready for the end of August. Photographs of all entries will be displayed at the Bramley Show on **Sunday 13th September**, where visitors will vote for their favourite.

And don't forget the **photography competition**. Keep your phone or camera handy and look out for opportunities to capture this year's themes:

- Bramley Trees
- Something Red
- Two of a Kind
- A Photo Featuring an Animal
- A Celebration

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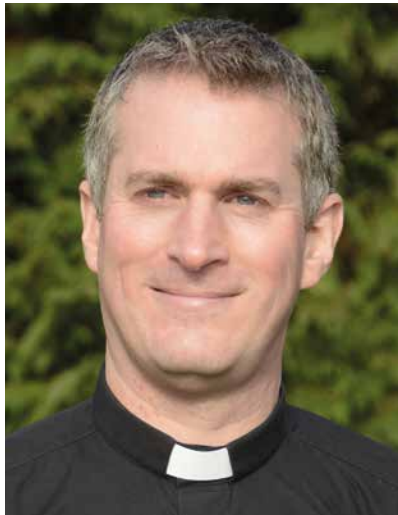
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## Getting the most from sport and from life

If you like sport, especially football, this will be a summer to enjoy. The World Cup is from 11 June to 19 July which, for some, will be a time to watch as much football as possible, and for others, a time to enjoy something away from the stress of watching England (or land of my ancestors, Scotland even!) try to win more than 3 or 4 football matches in a row. Whether it's football, cricket or Wimbledon, a Grand Prix or something else, there's plenty to choose from over the next few months.

Sport can inspire and motivate: the discipline of hard work in training, how to work well with others and the health benefits of an active lifestyle. Learning how to cope with the mental health stresses in sport is a useful lesson in being able to cope with all that life throws at us. Spectators as well as players can be taken on an emotional ride of all the highs and lows that sport presents to us.

I wrote last month about how churches in the nineteenth century set up football clubs to help people do something positive in life. Some of these clubs still exist, e.g. Manchester City, Everton and Aston Villa. Fifty years ago (in 1976), a small group of Christians met with a shared conviction: that God cared deeply about sport, and that he would do things if they prayed. From that meeting, Christians in Sport was established and their story continues. Today, they support thousands of Christians



Rev'd Mark Anderson

involved in sport, working with local churches and providing specialist support to elite and professional athletes.

The Bible uses sport as a metaphor. It says 'All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should' (1 Corinthians 9.25-27). If we can get so much from people simply playing a game, then how much more should we dedicate ourselves to getting the most from life.

Whether we are engaging in sport or watching others play, let's be inspired by those who compete. Let's also be inspired by Jesus, who has shown us a way to live which leads to life in all of its fullness. We may not be learning how to best kick, throw, run or whatever a sport requires, but we can be those who, with God's help train ourselves to be those who have compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We can train ourselves to bear with each other and forgive one another and over all these virtues we can train ourselves to have the strength to love, even when it's not easy to do so and we need to lay down something of ourselves for the sake of others. That's something worth cheering for and worth celebrating.

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## **An update from Butter Daisy**

With half the year already flown by and summer slowly creeping in, we're reminded just how "British" our summers can be. As our pre-schoolers prepare for an outdoor adventure, you can hear the gentle rain's rhythm and the cheerful chatter of children as they put on their wellingtons, ready for a session of puddle splashing, rainfall measuring and rainbow hunting!



It reminds us that every experience a child has at Butter Daisy Nursery is a learning opportunity. Our team of educators are trained to adapt their plans, embracing change and making the most of learning opportunities in the moment. For example, earlier this



month, as temperatures unexpectedly soared, the children became fascinated by our cooling fans and made predictions about how they worked. It also provided the perfect opportunity to explore mathematical concepts through refreshing water activities.

As a setting, we continue to celebrate days and events that are meaningful to our Daisy families, community and the wider world. This month, we have supported learning around World Food Safety Day, including a tasty rainbow challenge. We also reflected on historical heroism while



recognising D-Day and Local History Month, and have enjoyed helping the children create thoughtful gifts and cards to celebrate their father figures ahead of Father's Day.

Looking ahead to July, we'll soon be launching our Summer of Fun programme! This year, we wanted to honour national treasure Sir David Attenborough in his 100th year, so the theme will be all about animals, habitats and the natural world. Then, closing out August, we'll be wishing the oldest children all the best as they head out on their next adventure following our heartfelt School Leavers Festival.

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](mailto:butter@mydaisynursery.com).

## **A busy month at Little Apples**

The children have loved learning about ocean creatures and making some fabulous handprint crabs in our focus craft area. During Space Week, they made and modelled different sorts of spaceships and rockets. For all our themes, we love to explore the information in fascinating non-fiction books.

As part of our mark making provision, we have been using chalks and chalk pens inside and out on a range of different media, including the playground and whiteboards. We also use crayons, pencils, fingers, sand, paintbrushes and any other way we can find to create shapes, numbers and letters.

Our literacy provision benefits from regularly revisiting several set texts, our favourite fiction books for the children. They love using "The Colour Monster" and "The Colour Monster goes to School" to talk about emotions and learn how to express themselves appropriately. Talking about feelings, our own and those of others, is an important part in developing the children's social and emotional health and helping them learn to communicate effectively and regulate their behaviour.



This is a lovely time of year to be playing outside, even in the rain! The children have enjoyed a range of textures and media in the mud kitchen, including lentils, pasta, rice as well as the more traditional mud and sand. They have used herbs and flowers to create some lovely, or at least



interesting, flavour combinations for our picnics in the garden. We also have lots of construction opportunities and maths puzzles like giant connect four available in our outside area, as well as the climbing equipment and gross motor activities. This really does make sure there is something for everyone.

The children heading off to school will be enjoying our Leavers Party in July, complete with our favourite entertainer, Crazy M, and a party lunch. It's sad to say goodbye, but we know they are ready for the next stage in their adventures. We are looking forward to meeting our new starters in September and getting to know lots more Little Apples.

If you would like to find out more about Little Apples, please email [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org), visit [www.littleapples.org](http://www.littleapples.org), or call us on 07598588460.

**Bramley School – Living our School Values**

*Over the last few months, we have had a wide range of extra, enrichment opportunities at Bramley CofE Primary School – here are just a few! Each event has supported learning beyond the classroom, helping children grow academically, socially and emotionally; helping to embed our core values of Compassion, Friendship and Respect. We want to send our children out into the world: being confidently me, showing kindness to all, and making a difference.*

**Falconry Display**

Our Falconry Display was a truly memorable experience, giving pupils the opportunity to see birds of prey up close and learn about their habitats, behaviours and conservation. The speaker was captivating and the children found the event so exciting! The children developed a deeper respect for wildlife and the environment, understanding the importance of caring for living things. This experience fostered compassion and wanting to make a difference in protecting our world, while inspiring curiosity and confidence as pupils asked thoughtful questions.

**Indian Dance Workshop**

Our children in KS1 had a fantastic day taking part in Indian Dance Workshops. The staff even joined in and were exhausted by the end! The children explored a rich cultural tradition through movement, music and storytelling, while learning new skills and developing coordination and confidence. This experience encouraged respect for different cultures and strengthened friendships as pupils worked together and encouraged one another.

**Woodwork Artistry**

Some of our budding artists in Year 5/6 had the opportunity to work with a local artist on a Woodwork Artistry session. Their creations were amazing! The workshop allowed pupils to develop practical skills and perseverance in using new tools. They learned how to safely use tools, were able to get excited about their creativity, and turn their ideas into tangible creations. This hands-on collaborative experience has helped the children to make a difference through craftsmanship and creativity. We can't wait to have them all around our school grounds!



**Visit from Olympic Athlete - Hannah Beharry**

The school was buzzing when we welcomed Olympic athlete Hannah Beharry into school in May. She inspired our pupils with her journey, determination and achievements – and enthusiasm towards the exercise sessions. Through her visit, children learned about goal setting, resilience and the importance of hard work. We raised an amazing £6300 as a school – this will make a huge difference both to us in school to buy sporting equipment and to her fundraising.

We are incredibly proud of how our pupils have embraced these opportunities. We work hard to enrich the children's experiences beyond the classroom learning. Each experience has contributed to their development as kind, respectful and confident individuals who continuously strive to make a positive difference in the world.

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## Bramley Scout Group Celebrates Three Milestone Birthdays

Bramley Scout Group celebrated three significant Scouting anniversaries on Saturday 6 June, marking 110 years of Cubs, 40 years of Beavers and 5 years of Squirrels.

Almost 100 people, including young members, parents, siblings, grandparents, former members and representatives from Bramley Parish Council, came together for an afternoon of fun, friendship and celebration.

The event was originally planned to take place outdoors at Clift Meadow, but the weather had other ideas. Thanks to some quick thinking and teamwork from our volunteer leaders, activities were quickly moved under cover, ensuring the celebrations could continue regardless of the rain.

Families enjoyed a wide range of activities including soft tomahawk throwing, bubble making, crafts and fire lighting. When the rain eased, everyone headed onto the field for one of the highlights of the afternoon, a traditional campfire sing-along around a real fire. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring generations of Scouting families together and celebrate the friendships, skills, adventures and memories that Scouting has provided to young people and volunteers in Bramley over many decades. The afternoon was a fantastic reminder of the important role Bramley Scout Group continues to play in village life and of the support it receives from the wider community.

As our group continues to grow, we are looking for more volunteers to help us offer Scouting to even more young people. We are currently seeking

volunteers to support our Scout Section, as well as someone to take on the role of Quartermaster, helping to manage and maintain our equipment stored at Clift Meadow. For those who prefer a more administrative role, we also have vacancies on our Trustee Board.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering with Bramley Scout Group, please contact Jodie at Jodie.Saunders@bramley-scouts.org.uk.







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**Bramley SpeedWatch**

**Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:**

Four manned deployments were undertaken during May. Police were in attendance during two of the deployments. A total of 9 vehicles were reported to the police from the 301 vehicles checked by Bramley SpeedWatch - hit rate 3%. Top speed recorded: 37 mph. During police checks, a total of 11 Intention to Prosecute Notices were issued to offending drivers. A top speed of 42mph was recorded.

**Hampshire Police Safer Roads Initiative:**

This scheme is now in progress; Bramley had its first police attendance at a manned deployment on 1st & 31st May, in all the police issued 11 Intention to Prosecute Notices. These were the first in a series of police visits to undertake roadside monitoring in Bramley and is part of the Hampshire Police Safer Roads Initiative. The police recorded multiple vehicles speeding and will be processing the offences through their normal channels.

**Bramley Fete: The Bramley Community SpeedWatch Great Run Off:**

It was great to see so many at the Bramley Fete again last month. The kids had a lot of fun testing their speeding credentials. I do believe that the “big

**Camera Data May 2026:**

Verified speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle*	Fastest hour	Illegal vehicles
2635	10	5am	69

\* **Persistent offenders:** The police are continuing to visit persistent offenders. Don't want a knock on the door- don't speed.



kids” enjoyed it even more and, wow, they are so competitive! Well done to all that had a go, I certainly enjoyed watching. My time, let's just say - must try harder! Congratulations to Joseph for the adults, Julius for the 11-15s and Seth and Eliana for the 0-10s. Looks like

**Run off top speeds (mph):**

	0 -10's	11-15's	Adult
2023	16	18	19
2024	14	16	16
2025	14	16	15
2026	13	16	17

2023 was the vintage year though! Can you do better next year Bramley?

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email: [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com) [speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or visit: [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

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

**SID Data – May 2026:**

SID location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph
Bramley Corner	30	East	63%
Farriers	30	West	32%
The Street	30	East	33%
The Forge	30	West	49%

**Bell Ringing**

We are enjoying ringing the refurbished bells at St James' Church and are pleased to have welcomed two new learners since June. We ring for our Sunday service between 10am and 10.30am and practice on Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 9pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please see page 29 for contact details.

Now that our bells are easier to ring, groups from other churches are keen to try them out, with several asking to ring a quarter peal. This takes about 50 minutes and is quite an achievement. It comprises a sequence of at least 1,250 changes, and each ringer has to memorise a set of patterns and rules so they know exactly when to ring, and which bell they are following. Some of the Bramley ringers regularly ring full peals at other churches – these can take over 3 hours and are the bell



ringers' equivalent of a marathon, requiring immense concentration and stamina.

We now have a new section on the St James' Church website which lists

the dates when we are expecting visiting ringers: [stjamesbramley.org/churchbells](http://stjamesbramley.org/churchbells). The dates for July/August are:

**Friday 24th July from 11am**

**Sunday 26th July from 12 noon**

**Thursday 30th July from 3pm.**

We are very grateful for the positive comments and feedback we receive about the bells; however, we appreciate that not everyone enjoys hearing them. We are therefore looking into installing sound control into the tower which will allow us to significantly reduce the volume of the bells during prolonged periods of ringing. We hope to have sufficient funds to complete this project by the end of the year.

**Rachel Barclay Smith on behalf of the Bramley Bell Ringers**

**A**n update from Bramley Parish Council Vice Chair, **Malcolm Bell**

We hope everyone enjoyed the very hot weather, followed now by cold winds and rain. The weather patterns are certainly changing. This has not helped Thames Water with the update to sewage infrastructure. Over the years, we have been in contact with Thames Water who have completed modelling of Bramley sewage infrastructure. Houses in North Row, with the increase in dwellings, have experienced sewage overflow in their gardens, and new houses in Centenary Fields have had bubbling in their sinks and toilets when we have had heavy rain. Thames Water came up with the solution to overcome this problem by laying a pipe from the pumping station on Sherfield Road to the larger sewer near Campbell Road. This was agreed nearly 4 years ago but has only now been actioned. Completion is expected the middle of July. It is the work going on in the field adjoining Centenary Fields. It is nothing to do with the application for 650 houses as has been suggested in the media.

Coming onto the Application for 650 houses on the fields adjoining Centenary Fields and opposite Campbell Road, Bramley Parish Council has responded to this application asking that it be rejected. We engaged ONH, Planning for Good, to prepare our response. They are specialist Planning Consultants who can respond in a manner that Planning Officers understand and appreciate. Bramley PC will be following this application closely over the next months and doing everything possible to have this application rejected. The residents have in the main showed their disapproval to this application, wanting Bramley to remain as a village and not become an urban housing estate. The Duke, who in conjunction with 3 West Builders have put in this application, says if built, the 650 houses will be a legacy which he is leaving to the village. We must thank all those volunteers who helped the Parish Council get information to residents concerning the extraordinary meeting held in the village hall concerning the 650-housing application.

We have had the yearly litter picking parade organised by the Scout Group and refreshments supplied by the Wednesday Coffee Morning Ladies. It rained but still a few braved the weather and collected 6/8 bags of rubbish. It would be so much nicer if we took rubbish home rather than dumping. The village would then look so much more appealing. That was followed by the birthday party celebrating 5 years of the Squirrels, 40 years of the Beavers and 110 years of the Cubs. What a sterling job the leaders do with all these different aged children. Happy birthday to you all.

With all the building going on, the present housing at Stocks Farm, the proposed housing of 50 down Vyne Road, house building down Cufaude Lane which falls into the Bramley Parish, then we are collecting CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money. For every built house, then the builder must pay to the Borough Council CIL Money, which is used to improve the infrastructure, not necessarily allocated to Bramley. However, because Bramley had a neighbourhood plan produced in 2017, Bramley Parish Council gets 25% of that money to use on projects which benefit the village and the community. Some of that money has been used on projects benefitting the community and those projects are listed on the Bramley PC website. If you as a community group or resident have a project in mind that would benefit the village and the community, please put that in writing to the Parish Clerk (clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk) and we can examine it and see if it fits into the acceptable criteria.

Parish Councillors are Elected Volunteers and put in hours working for the community. We find it rewarding trying to

improve the facilities in Bramley and keeping it a pleasant, happy place to live. We don't always succeed with our limited powers, but we try!

The team (and it is a team effort) are

- Anthony Durrant at the helm as Chair and Borough Councillor
- Malcolm Bell as Vice-Chair and on Planning
- Chris Flooks as Chair of Planning and Representative to Clift Meadow
- Iain James who deals with Wilder Bramley looking after the environment of Bramley
- Sue Howell who looks after the Allotments and Burial Grounds
- Jan Wright who does Community Engagement and Planning
- Alan Munday, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan update and Planning,
- Keith Oborn Village Hall Representative, and Borough Councillor
- Chris Tomblin on Planning as well as Borough Councillor on the Cabinet for Climate and Ecological Emergency

These are individual responsibilities, but we try to cover all aspects affecting the quality of life of the community of Bramley, our RURAL village and so may it remain!

Thank you for your support. We hope you have a good summer and get set up for the long winter days.

Finally, our next upcoming meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 14th July for Planning Committee, and Tuesday 21st July for Full Council. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend. More details will be on the Bramley Parish Council website.

We wish you all a pleasant summer.

**Contacts**

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

**Bramley PC:** Website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk  
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BramleyPC

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council**

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

**Hampshire County Council**

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

**0771 721 4521 - 01256 412723**

**e: info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk**

**www.jcooklandscapes.co.uk**

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### Bramley Fete Saturday 16 May 2026

For the first time in over a decade we had some weather to contend with on Fete Day. We have been so fortunate to have had amazing weather for most years, so we were due a change. However, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm and will of so many villagers to come and enjoy themselves. We kicked off the Fete with over 100 children participating in the Bramley Mile. Alex Brewer, our local MP, did a valiant job of handing out the finishers' medals while being swarmed by the energetic participants. Our thanks go to all those who made the day such a success. To single out a few is inviting trouble, but I shall mention the ATC, always the first to arrive and the last to leave; all those volunteers on the buckets and manning the stalls tirelessly; the bakers and cake-makers; and the grounds team at Clift Meadow for presenting the meadow so impeccably. The vintage cars and bus kindly brought and put on view are all 'residents' of the village, as were the clubs who performed in the arena which always bring energy and a chance for the children to demonstrate how hard they have been working.

The final thank you goes to all of you who turned up and spent time with family and neighbours enjoying Bramley's community spirit. If any of you are moved to help out, whether volunteering on the day and/or planning through the year, we would really appreciate hearing from you, and the position of Committee Secretary is currently vacant! Feel free to email on, [simongillcmt@gmail.com](mailto:simongillcmt@gmail.com).

**The Fete Committee**



## Little Apples of Bramley Your local charity pre-school



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Call Jo on **07598 588460** or email: [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org)  
Visit [www.littleapples.org](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/get-childcare)

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## Quiet Day

What an amazing day we had at St. Leonard's. 20-30 people gathered for our first Quiet Day, led by our curate, Revd Barbara Irving.

It was a gloriously warm sunny day. We started at 9.30am with coffee & pastries, an introduction, a reading, a time of worship & a brief chat on how to pray in different ways, all set out in a lovely booklet with encouraging ideas. The main theme was

'I am the vine & you are the branches'.

We had beautiful prayer stations with tables of flowers, fruit, and cards, a trellis to tie a ribbon on if we wanted to grow and bear fruit, a tree with lights to represent Jesus as the vine and ourselves as the branches. We could write our names on a tag with a little heart on and hang it on the tree as a family coming together in Christ. We had an art table full of ideas for creative painting or collage, a LECTIO 365 session, and a walk around our beautiful churchyard, sitting under magnificent trees. Taking an hour and a half out, to be, talk, pray, listen to the whispers of our Heavenly Father, to take the hand of Jesus and be led wherever, to stop and listen to the birds and to be open to the Holy Spirit taking us on the journey. Even two greenfinches sounded as though they were calling us to come more closely into the presence of Jesus.

I have never known an hour and a half go so quickly, and that was just the morning!



We shared a deliciously simple lunch together around tables inside and out, chatting about the wonders of the morning.

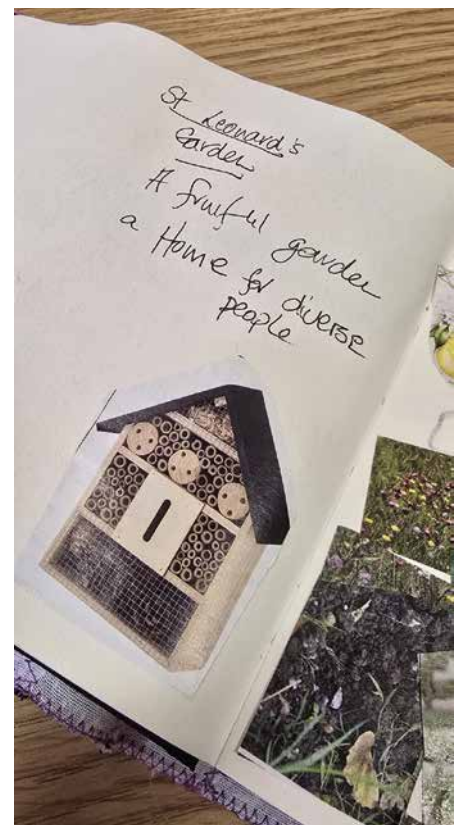
The afternoon started at 1.30pm with a choice of a complete walk, praying in small groups or continuing quietly in any of the prayer stations of the morning. We then gathered in church and had a time of worship. This was followed with a talk by Hazel Marchmont on pruning: showing us how the hard or gentle pruning of plants, trees and shrubs brings stronger growth and produces better fruits, just as our Heavenly Father in the right seasons of our lives prunes us, to bear the best fruits in each one of us, and so bring glory to our amazing God. Following this, we had a short time of sharing our experiences of the day and brought our artwork or anything we could show what God had been speaking to us about and placed it on the Alter.

To close, we shared and celebrated a short communion service where again we met with God, thanking Him for Jesus & for leaving us with His Spirit to bring us closer in the ways of Jesus.



There is no doubt we were refreshed, restored & full of joy as we had been guided on how to spend quality time with God our Father.

**Rev Barbara Irving & Anne Hemmings**



**Bramley & Romans Floral Society**

Our June meeting, entitled “Beyond Innovation,” was a great success. We had the pleasure of hosting Sally Hardy, a NAFAS National Teacher, Area Demonstrator, and seasoned competitor. Despite travelling through the monsoon squalls to get to us, Sally delivered a wonderful demonstration, sharing her wealth of design experience and practical flower arranging tips.

Throughout the afternoon, Sally used a broad range of flowers while discussing their attributes and conditioning techniques. She also demonstrated sustainable, non-floral foam techniques and shared resources for purchasing alternative mechanics. Her designs followed an “intergalactic” theme, using planetary and stellar imagery to create everything from exotic formations to modern, restful meadow-style compositions. It was a fun and informative afternoon for everyone!

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd July at 1:30pm at Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall, where Caroline Golding will bring us a demonstration entitled ‘From the Bookshelf’.

All are welcome to join us whether you’re a seasoned flower arranger or just fancy an afternoon out with tea and homemade cake. Membership is £48 per year, and visitors are always welcome for a fee of £10 per meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Ruth Brooker**



North Hampshire  
Repair Cafe



Coming to:  
Sherfield Village Hall  
27<sup>th</sup> June 10am till 1pm

and our first visit to  
Bramley Village Hall  
25<sup>th</sup> July 10am till 1pm



For more information see:  
our website - [nhrc.uk](http://nhrc.uk)  
[facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe/](https://facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe/)

Part of the [repaircafe.org](http://repaircafe.org) network.  
Supported by HCC, BDBC, Hart Rotary & others

**Young Carers Supported by Freemasons**

Basingstoke & District Young Carers has received a welcome boost thanks to a £1,000 donation from the Elvetham Masonic Lodge. The charity supports more than 120 local children and young people who provide regular care or emotional support to family members living with illness, disability, mental health conditions, or addiction. Nationally, around 700,000 young people take on these responsibilities, often juggling household tasks, medication support, and childcare alongside schoolwork and the pressures of growing up.

The cheque was presented by Michael Whittaker, Worshipful Master of the 106-year-old Elvetham Lodge, to Colette Bibby, Youth Team Leader for the charity. Young carers attend weekly sessions at The Warren, part of the Hatch Warren Community Centre, where three age-group clubs offer respite, friendship, and understanding—things many miss out on when their peers cannot relate to the challenges they face at home.

Colette Bibby expressed her appreciation for the support, saying

the donation will help subsidise a packed programme of summer activities and fund transport for those who would otherwise struggle to attend. “It ensures they can be part of our close-knit community and enjoy time with others who understand their experiences,” she said.

This year’s summer programme includes parties, BBQs, and trips to the Hawk Conservancy, New Forest Wildlife Park, and the Railway Control Room, followed by a train journey to London. Young carers will also enjoy

an overnight stay at the Gordon Brown Centre, two nights at Magdalen Farm in Somerset, a canal trip, and visits to Paulton’s Park and Hayling Island.

The autumn term will bring a family Halloween celebration and festive outings, including a pantomime trip and a large Christmas party.

For more information, contact Basingstoke & District Young Carers at The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF, or visit [www.basingstokeyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeyoungcarers.org.uk).



**Hampshire Open Studios event: 22 August-31 August 2026**



**Artists -Jenny Kennish and Len Murrell**

Jenny - Wildlife and Landscapes in acrylic or coloured pencil.  
Len - Sea & Landscapes, in oils.

**Directions** -Off the A340 turn into Bramley Road (opposite the “Queens College Arms”) . Take first left into Silchester Road. After half-a-mile Wychwood is on the Right just before “The Plough”.

**Opening times:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August: 11am to 5pm ( Note: closed 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>)

Wychwood, Silchester Road, Little London, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 5EP

Tel: 01256 850778 Mobile: 07768 804642 Email: [jennykennish4@gmail.com](mailto:jennykennish4@gmail.com)



**The Priory  
– Priory Community**

Whilst the immediate community surrounding The Priory consists mostly of fields, trees, squirrels and birds, our actual school community is varied, equally lovely and widely spread to the edge of the catchment area and beyond. Our school is a hub of the school community in the middle of nowhere! This makes the need for great community events all the more important, and we have had some superb events so far this year that a) bring people together, b) raise funds for the school through the PTA, and c) complement our curriculum learning.



**Summer Update from 1st Bramley Guides**

The first half of this term focused on Skills Builders. These are basically what they say on the tin – they are designed to build skills!

About half of the Guides have been working on skills focusing on camping. They have been planning how a campsite should best be set up, creating a campfire songs playlist, and planning menus for a week from which each group decided on a meal to cook, organising who should bring what – including firewood - and then cooking on open fires.

The other half of the Guides have been working on communication. This included trying to influence each other's decisions on a range of scenarios using persuasive arguments, deciding on and discussing their bucket-list wishes, and then presenting these on

our noticeboard, making items out of newspaper, challenging planning skills, and discussing each other's hard and soft skills (learnt and innate).

The second half of this term is planned to make use of the better weather. A trip to Go Outdoors was enjoyed, picking up lots of tips, and the favourite

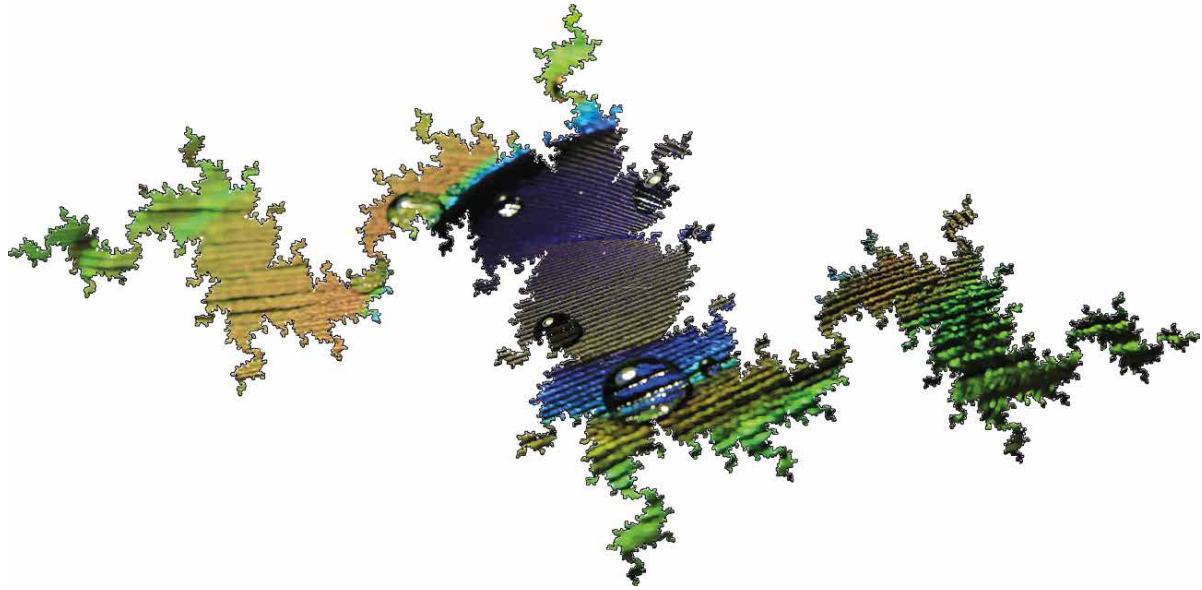


activity: putting up tents. Cooking camp doughnuts on open fires was fun, if a bit messy. If you don't know what camp doughnuts are, you will have to join Girlguiding to find out!

We are looking forward to a visit from Wilder Bramley to tell us about the projects around the village and inform us on birds' nesting preferences, and then the following week building bird boxes ourselves with the help of members of the local Men's Shed. Of course, more tent pitching is planned, a walk in Pamber Forest, and the term will finish with a barbeque and campfire (fire and food – of course!).

Many of the Guides, and the Leaders and Helpers, are looking forward to Camp in the Summer – please keep your fingers crossed for good camp weather – not too hot, not too wet!

**Unit helper, Woodpecker**



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## Ladies' Probus - 'What did you do last night? Save a life?'

At their May meeting, the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club listened in awe to Rob Harris, a volunteer blood driver, detail the service of Service by Emergency Rider V Wessex (SERV Wessex), the voluntary emergency rider charity better known as "Blood Bikes".

Operating 365 days a year across East Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire, SERV Wessex provides an essential out-of-hours courier service for NHS hospitals and healthcare providers. Staffed entirely by unpaid male and female volunteers, the charity transports vital medical supplies between hospitals, dialysis units, laboratories and emergency response teams, including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA). Items carried include blood, plasma and platelets, pathology samples, medication, frozen donor human milk and essential medical equipment.

Originally formed in 2019 to support Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth, SERV Wessex received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021 in recognition of its support to the NHS during the pandemic. Today, around 95 volunteers — riders, drivers, dispatchers, fundraisers and administrators — give their time free of charge. Most use their own vehicles,

supported by a small charity fleet of marked motorcycles and cars. Volunteer dispatchers work from home coordinating deliveries, monitoring weather and road conditions, and liaising with hospitals and partner Blood Bike groups when inter-county transfers are required.

In 2025 alone, SERV Wessex covered more than 139,000 miles, completed around 2,300 delivery jobs and transported approximately 3,800 medical items, saving the NHS an estimated £185,000 in courier costs. Annual operating costs are approximately £50,000, with an additional £25,000 required every four years for vehicle replacement and fleet renewal. The charity relies entirely on public fundraising via community events, supermarket collections and local group talks, grant applications and online donation schemes to maintain its life-saving services.

As the leaflet asks: 'What did you do last night?'. The Ladies Probus Club felt very humbled...

Yet another fascinating monthly talk, combined with the BCoT restaurant's delicious lunch offering.

If you are interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme, please contact: The Admin Secretary  
 – reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk  
 – 07754 296994.



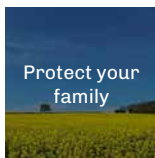
## Are you looking for more control over your finances?

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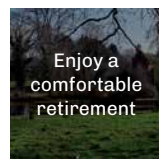
Using years of experience, and with the help of specialist software, we can develop a cashflow model to forecast what you'll need to do to achieve your financial goals, and how much you might need to save to reach financial independence.



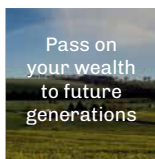
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### To find out more

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 Cricket Green, Hartley Wintney,  
 Hampshire RG27 8PS



## 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@basingsstoke.cats.org.uk](mailto:welfareteamleader@basingsstoke.cats.org.uk) or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.

## Jordan Rollinson continues his historic fiction series, with the next installment, entitled 'Nettles'

Months had passed. Frost had come, frozen its deep and fractured veins in the tortured ground, and split the trenches across their perpendicular. Remnants of cage-wire and iron pegs in the thawed soil showed scabbish growths of rust - burning orange mingled with muggy browns. Samuel traced his fingertip across the roughened edge of a pitchfork still embedded in the rut. Once, it had been a supporting beam for an uninspired tent. Samuel had slept in it. Snowdrops had begun to pierce their way through the slurred, ruined earth, and fresh blades of grass too tried their roots at an existence in the roundhead-made wasteland. He was far enough from the walls to do little but spook them, Samuel knew. Musketballs couldn't reach so far and even if they could, his leather jerkin would dud the blow.

He wasn't really sure why he had come to Basing's Green - deer still

refused to risk the cacophony of *cracks* and *bangs* that had plagued the air until November, so there was no hunt to be had. Convoys of precious cargo had learned, much like the cervine locals, that travelling the lands bode only misery and fear. Whether they were loyal or traitor, the Marquess had sent frequent forays out to ride down and lighten caravans of perishables, all to better stock his own larder. Starvation had gripped in Basingstoke's streets, and children's lips were stained green from chewing spring's nettles.

Royalists had returned to Basingstoke's streets. They were beginning to grow fatter, though not so long ago they had been just as emaciated as the townspeople were. Samuel leaned against a mossy, dishevelled wall, eyeing them from the dark. They walked the pathways as if they owned them once again, no longer fearing the parliamentary sympathisers that Samuel knew still lingered in shadows like his. The cavaliers' belts betrayed their fear though. Leather loops and sheaths seated sharpened blades and the clubbed wood of pistol butts.

Basingstoke's people gave them a wide berth. If the garrison of Basing House wanted something, they took it. Merchants and farmers had surrendered their stock at a matchlock barrel too many times to even try to resist any longer. Samuel curled his fist. It was unfair.

"Sweep the streets," yelled a royalist, mouthier than the rest. "See if we can't find any rats hiding in the walls."

Samuel took his queue, and slunk deeper into the alley. This happened sometimes, between drinks, where the paranoia of the survived siege still ate at their minds. With their enemy having been so close to their walls, they saw them everywhere - bursting into random spats of violence at hair that had been trimmed too close to the scalp or the wrong bible sunk in a pocket. Hoods helped. They really feared any with too *round* a head. Samuel remembered that many had shared the crop-cut style within the trenches around Basing House; though only a few had retained it, many let it grow to fade into the background once again.

## Anvil Arts – 01256 844244 / [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)

Proforca Theatre Company presents

### STEVE STEINMAN'S ANYTHING FOR LOVE

Friday 3 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £39.50, £29

Steve Steinman is back with a brand-new production, featuring over 25 Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman's greatest hits including *Bat Out of Hell*, *Dead Ringer for Love*, *Total Eclipse of the Heart* and many more. With an incredible stage set and ten-piece band combined with Steve's well-known sense of humour and stage presence, the show can only be described as awesome.

### THE FUGITIVES

Friday 3 July, 7.45pm, The Forge, Tickets: £22

A Canadian folk staple, The Fugitives have been nominated for a JUNO as well as seven Canadian Folk Music Awards, including Best Vocal Group, Best Ensemble and Best Songwriter. They've performed at Glastonbury and have earned a reputation for unforgettable live shows.

### THE RAT PACK

Saturday 4 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £37.50, £34.50, £30.50

Get ready to swing into the Golden Age of Hollywood and experience the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. With outstanding attention to detail, the talented ensemble of singers and musicians take you on a musical journey through the smooth vocals, infectious rhythms, and unforgettable melodies that made The Rat Pack a global sensation.

### BEN PORTSMOUTH - THIS IS ELVIS

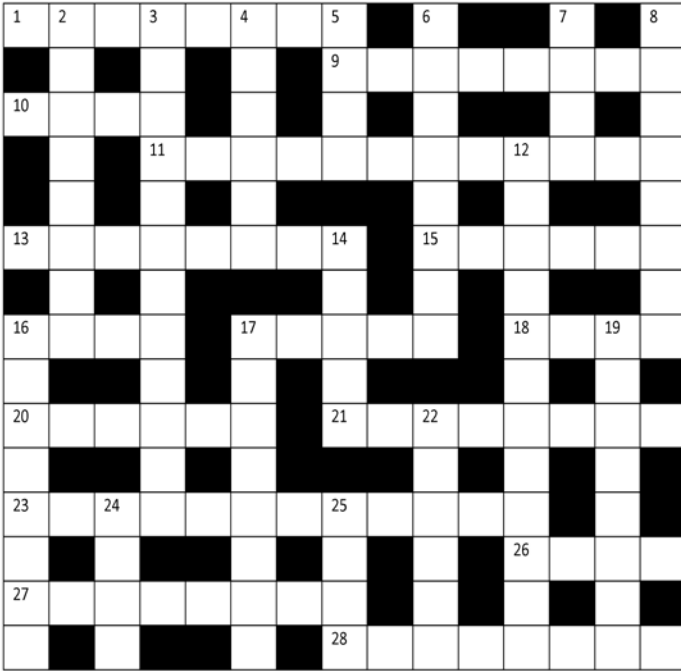
Friday 17 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £36

Ben Portsmouth brings the ultimate Elvis experience to The Anvil. Not just a tribute artist, Ben is regarded one of the best Elvis Presley performers, becoming the first European to be crowned Worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist.



**Cryptic Crossword No: 100**

See page 30 for the answers.



**Across**

- 1 Seen arty arrangement for a decade. (3,5)
- 9 Bean reed seen as a Scottish city. (8)
- 10 Fight expected to be large at the end. (4)
- 11 Depth of water furniture useful for team positions perhaps. (6,6)
- 13 Marshals drew and sat around pole. (8)
- 15 Ravioli very good at hiding one who wanted some more. (6)
- 16 Start a really exciting adventure for region. (4)
- 17 Smoke it or place in America. (5)
- 18 Bacteria or the start of an idea. (4)
- 20 Sailor mean as could be. (6)
- 21 Geometric shape but mysterious when related to Bermuda. (8)
- 23 Relating to artful reading of stars. (12)
- 26 Leave out the fact that Naomi tried to cover it up. (4)
- 27 State that can be grand when racing. (8)
- 28 Moving an instrument away from its standard, get dun' in, in the process. (8)

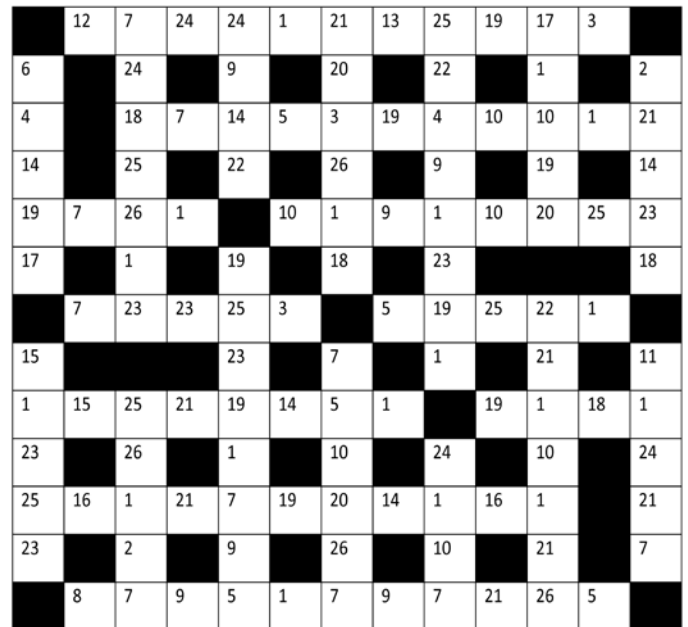
**Down**

- 2 Driving around cute road led to teacher. (8)

- 3 Bird is cowardly hitter. (12)
- 4 Matter that maybe be business or love. (6)
- 5 Began seeking a better use of time than being the "Thief of Bagdad" actor. (4)
- 6 Sound defeat core to create vegetable. (8)
- 7 Distribute, piece of wood. (4)
- 8 Swedish physicist into waves. (8)
- 12 Temporary measure between mortgages. (8,4)
- 14 Glasses tint suggest time spent doing something. (5)
- 16 Avoids sailor with stigma. (8)
- 17 What you would expect bells to be doing at Christmas. (8)
- 19 Connection or cousin perhaps. (8)
- 22 Inside here, Robin can't chant. (6)
- 24 Hesitate to find gallery. (4)
- 25 Metal, a problem for Midas. (4)

**CodeWord No: 86**

See page 30 for the answers.



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

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

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## Wilder Bramley invites residents to help nature thrive on their doorstep

It's been busy month championing for nature!

In May, residents visiting this year's Bramley Village Fête were invited to discover how small local actions can make a big difference for wildlife, as Wilder Bramley welcomed visitors to its community stall. Volunteers shared practical ideas for supporting nature at home and across the village, from wildlife-friendly gardening to joining larger local conservation projects. We even enjoyed chatting through ideas with our local MP, Alex Brewer, who stopped by! Also in May, we had a great time meeting new people at our river walk. Around 20 people braved the heat to enjoy local wildlife on Wildmoor and learn about how we can protect rare chalk streams and conserve water.



In June, we took part in the annual village litter pick. We focussed on the cinder track and the woodland beside it (designated a SINC, Site of Interest for Nature Conservation). We collected over 3 bags of rubbish! We hope people will continue to keep this well-loved green space clean to protect vital wildlife habitats for mammals and birds such as the rare willow warbler and firecrest, and keep it welcoming for people too.

Did you know Wilder Bramley has also been working with local experts on a nature-friendly proposal for Bramley Meadows? This has received support from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The proposal was submitted as part of an objection to the planned housing development, reflecting the group's view that the village needs more space for nature.

This month, wildlife surveys brought excitement for local naturalists, with two notable moth records made in Bramley. During a butterfly survey, volunteers recorded the village's first Common Swift moth alongside the distinctively named Mother Shipton moth. The Common Swift is known for its rich, chestnut-streaked wings, while the Mother Shipton is famous for the unusual marking on its wings that resembles an old woman's face.

We believe that there is still so much to discover right on our doorstep, and everyone can play a part. We are keen to hear from new volunteers, whether experienced naturalists or complete beginners. Anyone interested in moth trapping, butterfly surveys, wildlife recording or other local nature projects is encouraged to get in touch and help make Bramley wilder, together.

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[againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://againstbreastcancer.org.uk)

## Royal British Legion, Bramley and District Branch Attend Horseguards Parade in London

On Saturday 6th June, members of the Bramley and District Branch of the Royal British Legion attended the Colonel's Review of the Trooping of the Colour at Horseguards Parade in London.

While the weather was not kind, the Guardsmen from the Grenadier Guards and supporting incremental companies were immaculate and unphased by the conditions - the discipline and standards on show were remarkable. It is also really fun to bump into serving members of the Army and meet up with old friends.



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I have to say that it always amazes me how good the quality of music is from the massed bands of the Household Division, and especially those musicians that play on horseback. Of note, the horses of the mounted cavalry did not behave as well as the Guardsmen, one tipping off a rider and another insisting at one point to walk backwards through an advancing column of guards! You would have thought that this would be a disaster but in true form the Grenadiers gracefully held back, opened ranks and then came back together again seamlessly. For something that is not rehearsed it looked a rather polished manoeuvre.

For those interested in attending next year please get in touch at [bramley.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:bramley.secretary@rbl.community)



Hawthorn is a classic hedgerow shrub in Bramley and Little London. Photo ©Paul Sterry.

## Hedgerows and Verges in Summer

– by Paul Sterry

Hedgerows and the verges that frame them are wildlife-rich habitats and despite significant losses the area is still blessed with excellent examples. By summer, good quality hedgerows comprise dense and impenetrable cover and verges beside them are full of life, or at least they are if managed sensitively. The significance of these two habitats for biodiversity is two-fold. Firstly, they are valuable habitats in their own right, not only hosting wildflowers and shrubs but also an array of creatures from invertebrates to small mammals and birds: just think of the number of plants and animals that have the word ‘Hedge’, ‘Hedgerow’ or ‘Bank’ in their English names. Secondly, their role in ecological connectivity across the landscape cannot be understated, linking larger pockets of wildlife-rich habitats in an otherwise disconnected landscape.



The Dunnock is known to country folk as the Hedge Sparrow.



From left to right, Upright Hedge-parsley, Hedge Woundwort and Hedge Bindweed, just three species of many with the word ‘Hedge’ in their name that grow in the area. Photos ©Paul Sterry.

The aesthetically pleasing appearance of hedgerows belies their original practical function: that of defining boundaries and containing or excluding livestock. Some hedgerows are in essence tree-belt remnant borders of lost woodland, sites where historically this habitat existed for centuries before being cut down and replaced by another land use; woodland indicator plants such as Wood Anemone and Greater Stitchwort point to this historical connection. Others mark ancient byways and many we see today would have been planted historically to define boundaries. There is a strong correlation between hedge-planting and Enclosure, the statutory process of consolidating land and enlarging farms that began in the medieval period and picked up pace from the seventeenth century onwards.

Sadly, not everyone appreciates and respects the value of hedgerows and verges. Some treat them as an inconvenience while others regard them as wholly expendable. The problems faced by hedgerows range from brutal and environmentally insensitive flailing to wholesale removal and grubbing out. Although in theory hedgerows are protected by legislation – Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in particular – I am not aware of any instances where Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (tasked with implementing the legislation) has used its powers. Furthermore, there are countless examples where the local planning authority has allowed the removal and destruction of wildlife-rich hedgerows to facilitate housebuilding, thereby destroying their role in ecological connectivity. Verges are often similarly blighted by council (borough and county) policy, namely cutting flowering plants at a time that is expedient for contractors, or in

response to pleas from members of the public. While there is certainly a case to be made for cutting verges where road safety is an issue, cutting to appease a tidy-minded, environmentally ignorant section of society should not be a valid reason for habitat destruction.

As a rough guide, the least environmentally damaging time to cut a hedgerow is in late winter, when autumn fruits, berries and nuts have dispersed or been eaten by birds and mammals. Hedgerow maintenance is prohibited during the bird nesting season, between 1 March and 31 August, by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. When it comes to verges, the most environmentally friendly approach is to cut in late summer when most native flowers will have set seed and when most grassland invertebrates will be least affected. The worst thing you can do is to cut regularly in spring and summer because few plants will get the chance to flower and set seed, butterfly life cycles will be destroyed and you will diminish biodiversity across the board. Leaving cuttings where they fall only serves to promote the growth of vigorous plants and diminish the diversity of smaller, less competitive species.



The traditional name for the Gatekeeper butterfly is Hedge Brown. Photo ©Paul Sterry.



**Probud Club of Basingstoke Celebrates its 46th AGM**

Founded in 1979, the Probud Club of Basingstoke has elected a

new president and committee at its 46th AGM.

As the Probud name suggests its membership is made up of retired professional and businessmen who enjoy meeting regularly for lunch where they have a range of interesting speakers as well as a social monthly pub lunch accompanied by wives or partners. Mixed specialist lunches are taken several times each year and organised outings are arranged to interesting venues. The next, later in June, will be to the Bovington Tank Museum.

The new president is Sherfield on Loddon resident, Paul Klinger, a retired solicitor, while the other officers are a mix of working experiences. In fact, the glue holding the club together is the spread of members working across the spectrum of all the local commercial and industrial employers as well as medical, nuclear, police and military services.

Visit [www.probudbasinstoke.club](http://www.probudbasinstoke.club) for more information.



Outgoing president Stephen Thair hands over the chain of office to Paul Klinger



President Paul Klinger with his committee.

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**Nearly time for the Bramley Show – Sunday 13 September at Bramley Village Hall.**

Now is the time for you to be thinking about what you can enter. It is a friendly competition where you can enter gardening, cookery, art, photography, craft and even creative writing.

The Scarecrows will be judged totally by our visitors so come and choose your favourite. There will be a scavenger hunt, a raffle and delicious tea and cakes will be served all afternoon.

There is something for everyone to enter, including fun classes including colouring.

There are lots of children's / junior classes and they can also take part in the flower arranging and photography sections.

There is plenty of time to take photos for the photographic competition and some new cookery classes.

**Entry forms can be found at [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk)**

Closing date for General entries Thursday 10th September 8pm online at [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk) or by email to [entriesbramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:entriesbramleyshow@gmail.com) or a paper entry to 8 Jibbs Meadow, RG26 5DZ

Closing date for Photography Competition Friday 21st August 5pm by email to [photoentriesbramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:photoentriesbramleyshow@gmail.com)

**THE SCHEDULE**

**NB** Please ensure entries are in the correct classes. The first number on each line is the class number and this is the number to quote on the Entry Form.

**FLOWER SECTION**

Annuals and Perennials

1. A vase of mixed annuals, a minimum of four varieties, grown from seed
2. A vase of mixed perennials, including shrubs, any kind, or kinds
3. Three to 5 stems of any annual, all of one cultivar

**Dahlias**

4. Three dahlias same type and colour

**Roses**

5. Stems of any rose of same variety – Three stems
6. Specimen Rose – one stem

**Potted Plants**

7. Flowering pot plant – maximum pot size 25cm
8. Foliage pot plant – maximum pot size 25cm
9. Cactus or succulent Plant
10. Fushia in a pot.

**VEGETABLE SECTION**

11. Potatoes – Five white
12. Potatoes – Five red
13. French Beans – dwarf or climbing – five
14. Onions – Three prepared for show, to pass through a 3 inch / 7.5 cm ring
15. Long Carrots – Three
16. Short Carrots – Three
17. Runner beans – Five
18. Beetroot – Three of one variety
19. Tomatoes – Five with calyx
20. Dish of 5 small, plum or novelty tomatoes with calyx
21. Courgettes - Matched pair not exceeding 8 inches / 20 cm
22. Collection of 5 vegetables within a seed tray
23. A pot of chillis
24. A bulb of garlic
25. A misshaped vegetable
26. The Heaviest squash/pumpkin/marrow
27. Any vegetable not included on the list above

**FRUIT SECTION**

28. Eating apples – 5
29. Cooking apples – 3
30. Raspberries – a dish of 12 with calyx
31. Any fruit from a tree – 3 (excluding apples)
32. Dish of any three fruits not covered in classes 28-31

**FLOWER ARRANGING**

No Florist foam or single use plastic to be used. Bought flowers may be used.

33. A miniature arrangement (max 6 inches / 15.5 cm) in an egg cup
34. Arrangement using two colours only
35. An arrangement using "What's In My Garden Now"
36. **CHILDREN ONLY.** An arrangement using two colours of flowers only in a jam jar

**CRAFT**

Items must not have been previously exhibited. You can submit two items per class – 50p for each item. NB. If submitting a large item, i.e. over 12" x 12" / 30 x 30 cms – please contact the Show Committee at least 24 hrs before so arrangements to display your entry can be made.

37. An item of Jewellery – using any material
38. An item made from yarn/fibre, including knitting, crochet or felt
39. Sewing – an apron
40. An item made from hard material (glass, clay, metal, beads etc)
41. An embroidered picture
42. Men's class – an item made for the garden

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Amateur photographers only.* Photographs must not have been previously exhibited. Photographs to be submitted digitally *no later than 8pm Friday 21st August.* Entries are limited to 2 photos per class. 50p per photo.

43. Bramley trees
44. Something red
45. Two of a kind
46. A photo featuring an animal
47. A Celebration

**ART – PAINTING OR DRAWING**

*Amateur artists only.* Exhibits must not have been previously exhibited. Each entry must state which class is being entered. Maximum size A2 due to space constraints.

48. An abstract picture – any medium
49. A watercolour
50. A picture using coloured pencils
51. An acrylic or oil painting
52. A black and white picture

**COOKERY**

53. A Victoria Sponge – with raspberry jam and dusted with castor sugar
54. A fruit loaf
55. A lemon drizzle cake – recipe on the web site

56. A loaf of bread
57. 6 macarons
58. \*Jar of jam, jelly or curd
59. \*Jar of chutney or pickle
60. \*Jar of marmalade
61. Men's Class – 6 chocolate muffins – recipe on the web site
62. A decorated birthday cake for a child – decoration only to be judged

\*Classes 58, 59 and 60 up to two different entries allowed per class. Please use unbranded lids

**FUN CLASSES**

63. Adult: Colouring Bramley – Picture to be downloaded from web site
64. Junior: Colouring Bramley – Picture to be downloaded from web site
65. Adult: A model made using a cereal box
66. Junior: A model made from a cereal box

**CREATIVE WRITING**

To be submitted by email by Friday 28th August or paper copy as per entry form instructions.

- A poem – maximum 20 lines; or  
A piece of prose – maximum 750 words
67. Adult: title: "Lost"
  68. Junior: title "Something lost"

**JUNIOR CLASSES**

- (2 age groups 10 years and under, aged 11-16 must be stated on the entry form)
69. A Lego model (not a kit) – maximum base 40 x 40 cm
  70. 4 decorated cup cakes
  71. A wooden spoon, decorated as a character
  72. Robot made from recycled item (max height 40cms)
  73. A superhero mask
  74. Junior Art:  
*Age 10 years and under:*  
An animal that doesn't exist yet!  
*Aged 11 – 16 years:*  
A multimedia picture (e.g. using paint, paper string, buttons, wool, sand etc)

<b>Mondays</b>	
<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</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates for Sport 7pm</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

<b>Tuesdays</b>	
<i>Parish Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's 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

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>NHS Health Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 - 10.15am and 12.30 - 1.15pm</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

<b>Thursdays</b>	
<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</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 &amp; 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

<b>Fridays</b>	
<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>Post Natal Pilates 1.45-3.15 (Pure Performance)</i>	Village Hall
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<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

<b>Sundays</b>	
<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley</i>	
<i>Wee Kicks Football 8.30-11.00am</i>	Village Hall

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

### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Bookings Team	01256 260270	bookings@cliftmeadow.org.uk	Bookings
Cross House	Anne Smith	01256 880327	admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley 0-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985		
Bramley and Romans Floral Society	Stephanie Cornell	07808 078188	s.cornell@aplin.plus.com	
Bramley 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 <a href="https://www.loddonsportsfc.com">https://www.loddonsportsfc.com</a>	
Dance Vibes	Louise		misslouise74@gmail.com	
Guides	Viv Salem		1stbramleyguides@gmail.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Nicola Jones		nicola.jones206@nhs.net	
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	
Wee Kicks	Dan Grant	02843 449769	northhants@weekicks.co.uk	
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	

**Silk Mill News**

Whitchurch Silk Mill has been busy sharing its work beyond the Test Valley in recent months. Members of the team attended craft events, including the MADE Festival at Winchester Cathedral and the Bovey Tracey Craft Festival, where they spoke to visitors about silk weaving and the Mill’s long history. Our fabrics were also displayed internationally through a collaboration with textile specialists Spinexpo.

Here at home, there is plenty to see and enjoy. Following a recent Visit England assessment, the Mill achieved a 91% rating as a visitor attraction, reflecting both the quality of the visitor experience and the dedication of the team.

Visitors this summer will find activity throughout the building. On the ground floor, silk continues to be woven on historic looms, while elsewhere you may see bobbin winding, trimming and finishing work in progress. A newly arranged archive area on the middle floor offers insights into over 200 years of the Mill’s history, alongside a space where preparations for finished silk products can be observed.

Like many heritage sites, the Mill faces ongoing challenges in maintaining an historic building. In response to rising energy costs, solar panels have recently been installed on the Welcome Building roof, contributing to a more sustainable future while complementing the Mill’s traditional reliance on water power. In addition, a grant from the Government’s Arts Everywhere Fund will support essential conservation work to the wheelhouse, helping to safeguard it for future visitors.

There are also several events planned in July. On 7 July, Tracey Panek, historian for Levi Strauss & Co., will give a talk exploring the company’s development from its origins in the California Gold Rush to its global influence today. On the same day, a guided Silk Production Tour will offer visitors an opportunity to see the weaving process up close and learn more about the people and skills behind it. A range of workshops continues throughout the month, including weaving, crochet, sewing and silversmithing. These sessions are great for beginners as well as those wishing to develop existing skills and provide a friendly way to try something new.

For those who have not visited recently, the Mill is a distinctive and working part of Whitchurch’s history. Whether calling in for a short visit, attending a talk, or taking part in a workshop, there is always something to discover. We look forward to welcoming local residents and visitors over the summer months.

Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website via the ‘Events’ page. To keep up to date with what’s on at the Mill, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via the link on our website.

Contact: [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)  
[www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) – 01256 892065

**Cryptic Crossword No: 100 Solution**

GOLD	25	DEFUNING	28
TATE	24	NATIONAL	27
INCAIN	22	OMIT	26
RELATION	19	ASTROLOGICAL	23
JINGLING	17	TRIANGLE	21
ABSTAINS	16	SEAMAN	20
STINT	14	GERM	18
BRIDGING LOAN	12	JOINT	17
ANGSTROM	8	AREA	16
DEAL	7	OLIVER	15
BEEETROOT	6	STEWARDS	13
SABU	5	LEAGUE TABLES	11
AFFAIR	4	DUEL	10
YELLOWHAMMER	3	ABERDEEN	9
EDUCATOR	2	TEN YEARS	1

Down

**CodeWord No: 86 Solution**

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

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Thermal Transmittance (U <sub>t</sub> ) (W/m <sup>2</sup> ·K)	1.6 W/m <sup>2</sup> ·K
Solar Factor (g <sub>w</sub> )	0.89
Effective Air Layer (L <sub>a</sub> ) (m <sup>2</sup> ·K)	2.00 m <sup>2</sup> ·K
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