

June 2026

The

BRAMLEY

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Magazine

- 
- All the Fun of the Fete
 - Beating the Bounds
 - Parish Council update

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

June 2026

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

Editorial

A policeman, a dancer and a lady on stilts meet on an English meadow. This may sound like the start of a joke or a bad novel, but in fact it was one of the many scenes you could have come across at the Bramley fete. Where else but a village fete could you find a coconut shy, a man juggling fire and a dog with the waggiest tail? The weather may have been mixed but the traditional Bramley fete drew the usual mixture of stalls, games, music, food and entertainment. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, especially the representatives of Clift Meadow Trust and St James' Church who spent many months organising it. We have a double-page spread of photos for you to enjoy on pages 16 and 17.

This month's magazine seems to have the theme of 'tradition' running through it. Rev Mark Anderson focuses on traditions on page 7 and Sue Howell looks at the history of the traditional Bramley Show on page 11. On page 15 there's a report on the Beating the Bounds walk, a tradition dating back hundreds of years. Even further back than that was the traditional visit of the Bishop to a new church, and you can learn more about this on page 10. The Open Garden at Mill House, now in its fourth year, is fast becoming an annual tradition for cake lovers and keen gardeners alike. Turn to page 9 for more details about that.

Of course this month is the football World Cup, which brings with it all sorts of traditions: calling in sick the day after an England match, singing along to Sweet Caroline and gaining more grey hairs as you watch yet another penalty shoot-out. Let's hope our men's team can finally emulate the women and win a major competition this century. It would be fitting to do it on the 60th anniversary of the last win, as long as we don't then have to wait until 2086 for the next one! England's group games don't start until 9 or 10pm, but spare a thought for our Scottish friends – their first match against Haiti doesn't kick-off until 2am.

If you want to escape the endless chants of 'Football's Coming Home' you could follow Wilder Bramley's advice on page 11 and spend some time outdoors. The children at Bramley School have been enjoying their outdoor space, especially the new trim trail and clamber stack (page 20), but you could prepare your front garden for Bramley in Bloom (see page 13) or just relax with a copy of the magazine!

Best Wishes

Rachel

Joint Editor

"The fact is that no species has ever had such wholesale control over everything on Earth, living or dead, as we now have. That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility. In our hands now lies not only our own future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the Earth."

David Attenborough

Cover Photo: Bramley Fete by Jan Wright

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

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Church diary for June...

7th	1st Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer - St James
14th	2nd Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
21st	3rd Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship - St James
28th	4th Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James

...and into July

5th	5th Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	BCP Morning Prayer - St James
12th	6th Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
19th	7th Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Sunday@9 - Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship - St James

Benefice Services

June...

7th	1st Sunday after Trinity
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
14th	2nd Sunday after Trinity
11.00	Songs of Praise - White Hart, Sherfield
21st	3rd Sunday after Trinity
10.00	Holy Communion - St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service - St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
28th	4th Sunday after Trinity
10.00	Family Service - St Leonard's, Sherfield

...and into July

5th	5th Sunday after Trinity
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
12th	6th Sunday after Trinity
10.00	Café Church - St Leonard's, Sherfield
19th	7th Sunday after Trinity
10.00	Holy Communion - St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service - St Mary's, Hartley Wespall

From the Registers

Baptism

Albert TAYLOR

3rd May 2026
St James Church

News from Cliff Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

Patient Feedback

I am sure all of you at some point will have received a text message or NHS message asking for feedback after an appointment. I know some patients find this irritating and some might ignore it, but have you considered why you get sent this message? This is called the Friends and Family Test and is a national NHS initiative that gives every patient the chance to feed back on the service they have received.

The FFT is a quick NHS question that asks:

“Would you recommend our service to your friends and family?”

You simply choose an answer and, if you wish, add a short comment.

Why your response matters

- It helps the surgery understand what is working well
- It highlights where things could be improved
- It is anonymous, quick, and safe
- Your comments are read every month and used to shape real changes

Your voice makes a difference

Every response helps the practice improve care for everyone in Bramley — including you, your neighbours, and your family.

How to take part

Complete the form sent via phone after your appointment. It only takes a moment.

The GP Patient Survey

The GP Patient Survey is a national questionnaire that asks patients about their experience of their GP practice — things like access, appointments, communication, continuity, and overall satisfaction.

It helps show what is working well and where improvements are needed across England.

Who sends it?

The survey is sent by NHS England, not by the GP practice. It is carried out on their behalf by Ipsos, an independent research company.

How it works

- A random selection of patients from each GP practice is invited.
- Invitations are sent by post, with an option to complete it online.
- Results are published nationally and broken down by practice.

As only a small percentage of patients are sent this survey, do consider taking part. The surgery is not informed when the survey goes out, and it is anonymous.

Patient Voices required

NHS Hampshire is asking patients to feedback about Integrated Urgent Care provision by completing the following survey

<https://survey.ntropydata.co.uk/surveys/JG2026IUC2>

Patient feedback is important so please take part and share if possible

Unfortunately, there is no obvious way of completing a paper version at the moment.

- Website: www.ppgclift.org.uk
- Email: ppgclift@gmail.com

Elections

Congratulations to Rhydian Vaughan, who was re-elected as the Hampshire County Councillor for Calleva ward and Tony Durrant, who was re-elected as the Basingstoke Borough Councillor for Bramley. These are the results of both elections.

Calleva results:

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Outcome
Rhydian Peter Vaughan	Conservative	1994	36	Elected
Lorraine Harper	Reform UK	1506	27	
Jo Slimin	Liberal Democrat	1266	23	
Gary Scott	Green Party	452	8	
Bradley David Phillips	Labour	317	6	

Voting summary:

Details	Number
Seats	1
Total votes	5535
Electorate	12346
Number of ballot papers issued	5565
Number of ballot papers rejected	30
Turnout	45%

Bramley results:

Candidate	Party	Votes	Outcome
COULTHARD Adam James	Labour	132	
DURRANT Tony	Basingstoke & Deane Independents	1188	Elected
EVANS Christopher	Liberal Democrat	434	
HORWOOD Christopher John	Reform UK	768	
JOHNSON Jonathan	Conservative	570	

Electorate: 7169, Turnout: (43%), Spoiled votes: 17

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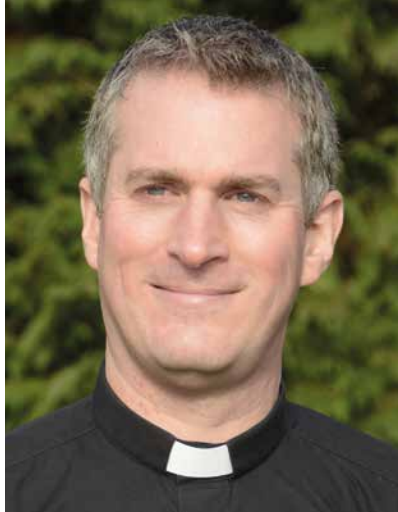
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Are we more traditional than we think?

Summer is here and with it come lots of the traditions we love. BBQs, drinks in (pub) gardens, Wimbledon (plus the eating of strawberries and cream) and so many more great English traditions. I'm writing this on FA Cup Final Day (played since 1871), which is also the day of the Eurovision Song Contest Final - I'm less sure about adding that contest to the list. It's also wedding season when many brides will wear the traditional white dress. So many traditions all around us and I expect you and your family have your own traditions too: things you do on a regular basis, not least birthdays and anniversaries which we keep and celebrate in different ways.

Many traditions have long histories. I'm writing this on the day of the Bramley Fete, which brings the village together and promotes lots of good causes and raises money for charities. Sometimes we do things or think things and we don't always know from where they originate. How did the fete start? Why is there a pub or a church there? How did Manchester City Football Club start in 1880? Why do I believe what I believe or feel these values are important to me? At Bramley Primary School we give importance and prominence to the values of 'compassion, friendship and respect'. I wonder, what values are important to you and what traditions (or things you do) help you keep these values central to who you are?

Many of our traditions we take for granted, so I encourage you to think about why you do or believe certain things.



Rev'd Mark Anderson

was started as a church football club by the local vicar, his daughter and some church members. They wanted to do something to reduce local gang violence and alcoholism by providing activities for young men.

There has been a church in Bramley for around 1,000 years, keeping the tradition of remembering and giving thanks to God for the goodness of the life we enjoy and the place we live in. The life and teaching of Jesus, which we hear about at St James' Church each week, reminds us where many of our values come from. There are some traditions and some values which are very much worth continuing. I encourage you to do what you can to help them continue.

Rev'd Mark Anderson

Vicar, St James Church, Bramley

Songs of Praise

Thank you to everyone who joined us on 17 May for our outdoor Songs of Praise. We sang some lovely well-known hymns accompanied by Tadley Band, and learnt some interesting facts about their authors: did you know that Charles Wesley wrote over 6000 hymns or that Folliot S. Pierpoint was inspired to write *For the Beauty of the Earth* when admiring the countryside from a hillside near Bath?

After all the singing we enjoyed lots of homemade cake, and some warm sunshine!

Rachel Barclay Smith





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In this month's **Meet the Neighbours** we find out a bit more about our new Curate, **Rev. Barbara Irving**.

Barbara, you have recently been appointed Curate in the group of churches that includes St James' in Bramley and St Leonard's in Sherfield on Loddon. What does this role involve?

I am excited to join Mark Anderson in serving the people of Bramley and the wider benefice. Being a curate is a training role and I am enjoying learning from Mark about what it means to care spiritually for the people of Bramley and the wider benefice, particularly at St Leonard's where I will be leading most Sunday services as well as supporting families and conducting services at those precious life moments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Have you always been a Christian?

I hadn't gone to church as a child and didn't think that religion was relevant to my life. However, I became a Christian in my early 30s after the arrival of a home help who, like Mary Poppins, came into our lives and showed us the love and life of Jesus. She would tell me about Jesus and the difference he could make to our lives. She started me on a journey of spiritual exploration. I started going to church and found that it wasn't as stuffy and boring as I imagined. From there, I did an Alpha course which provided a great opportunity to ask all sorts of questions about Christian faith and make friends who were on a similar journey. Through the course I came to encounter the presence of Jesus in my life, which was totally life changing and life enriching.



Barbara getting used to wearing her dog collar



Barbara at Winchester Cathedral on the day of her ordination, with the Bishop of Winchester and the then Bishop of Basingstoke

You became ordained relatively late in life; can you tell us a bit about some of your other roles?

After university, I started my career in 1977 working as an Economist for Shell; I specialised in energy use in developing countries - even then we were looking at alternative renewable energies such as cow dung in India and Alogaz from sugar cane in Brazil. I then moved into Oil Trading, looking to supply oil products in and from the Mediterranean area. My time in Shell was hugely enjoyable and gave me the opportunity to travel widely around the world.

After becoming a mum, I stepped back from a full-time career and found part time work at North Foreland Lodge (now Sherfield School) teaching A-level Economics for 8 years in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After becoming a Christian, I felt led to see how I could come alongside those in our society who were struggling in some way. I initially worked in a local Pregnancy Crisis Centre and trained to support those who were struggling emotionally after an abortion. Then I went back to university to study for a Masters in Theology and Psychotherapy, and trained as a psychotherapist. In 2012, I helped to set up Cedar Tree Counselling in Basingstoke which, supported by Basingstoke churches, offers affordable counselling to the people of Basingstoke, whatever their background or faith. It was very rewarding being able to come alongside others and see lives healed and transformed.

What prompted you to become ordained?

I have always loved studying the Bible and teaching people about Jesus and seeing the difference he makes in

people's lives as they encounter his love and healing. I heard that the Church of England was looking to recruit older people on a voluntary basis so that we could keep more of our precious rural churches open. I returned to study at St Miletus Theological College in London and was ordained in 2024.

You have lived in Sherborne St John for over 40 years. What attracted you to this area?

We moved to Sherborne St John when I was pregnant with my eldest son; we were attracted to village life and the proximity to both the station and the countryside. My parents, Dennis and Vera Colclough, moved to the area in the mid 80s and lived in Oaklea Gardens and more latterly Longbridge Road in Bramley. My father loved working with clay, whether it was pottery or sculpting, and would regularly exhibit his work at the Bramley Show. Both my parents and are buried in the graveyard of St James.

Can you tell us a bit about your family?

I have been married to John for over 40 years and we have two sons, two lovely daughters-in-law and four beautiful, lively grandchildren. They are aged 8, 5, 5 and 3 and love spending the day at Wellington Country Park.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

John and I love walking in the countryside, especially in the beautiful Vyne Woods, with our dog Raffy who is a very hyper-energetic Working Cocker. In the last few years I have also taken up watercolour painting, and I am excited to see how we may make a space in our churches for creativity in worship.

Open Garden – Mill House, Sherborne St John

What is more idyllic than visiting a beautiful garden and enjoying tea and home-made cake in wicker chairs on the lawn? This June you can do exactly that nearby in Sherborne St John.

Mill House is again opening its private three-acre garden - set in a larger private valley. This historic site, with its working water-wheel, is raising money for several national charities and our own local Bramley church. This is a rare chance to roam, see and enjoy the planting, the ponds, streams and the gardens in full. This year you are invited to bring samples of your own garden soil and have it analysed on-site by experts from the Soil Ecology Laboratory.

Parking is free. The gardens will be clearly signed from Vyne Road on the day, and will be obvious as you approach Sherborne St John.

For satnav the postcode is RG24 9HU.

The entrance fee is £6 for adults (children are free) and all receipts go to charity. The dates are: Thursday 25th and Sunday 28th of June. From 2pm to 5pm.

The short drive to this nearby venue makes a perfect afternoon out, and an alternative to the Vyne, should you be planning to have friends or family around that weekend. Full details at: <https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/mill-house-rg24/>



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What is this hole in the wall of St James' Church? **Grahame Mellor** has been doing some investigating.

For a number of years now I have been curious about this decorated hole in the wall that faces you as you walk into St James' Church. It appeared that little more was known about this as a number of others had asked the same question! But just recently, after the 10.30 service, I had an interesting conversation with Lindy Drury who I found to be extremely knowledgeable about this mysterious focal point!

It appears that when the then Bishop of Winchester came to St James' Church in the late 12th century, he placed his crozier (the hooked staff shown in the photograph) in damp mortar to consecrate the church. This left a hole which has survived for almost 1,000 years. In medieval times a bishop would sometimes strike the wall 12 times denoting the 12 apostles. It is possible that this is what happened here as several other crosses were discovered during restoration of the medieval wall paintings, but they were covered up. The decoration surrounding the surviving hole was added during medieval times, presumably when other wall paintings were added.



Further research has shown that Godfrey de Lucy was the Bishop of Winchester in the late 12th century. Considering the distance between Bramley and Winchester, I was interested to know just how the Bishop would have journeyed to Bramley

at that time. It is likely that he travelled northeast along established routes, possibly riding on donkey within a small, slow-moving entourage of knights and attendants. This journey allowed him to manage the extensive Hampshire properties of his diocese, likely passing through his estate at Alresford towards northern Hampshire, avoiding the dangers of the western roads during this period!

Based on typical 12th century travel speeds, a journey from Winchester to Bramley (approx. 20–25 miles) likely took the Bishop and his entourage one full day. Travel by horseback or carriage was slow, usually covering 20–30 miles per day depending on road conditions and the size of the accompanying party. Travelling by donkey would have been even slower, especially by the time you had factored in rest time and shelter from the weather!



Bishop Mounstephen, the Bishop of Winchester, visiting St. James' Church in 2024

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June update from Wilder Bramley

Spring has arrived, even if the weather still feels unsettled, with heavy showers, cold winds and cloudy skies making it seem more like autumn at times. For wildlife, however, the season is clearly underway. Many people will now hear the dawn chorus, cuckoos, and the return of swifts, swallows and martins, while plants and trees are growing quickly all around us. Spring is a time of new life, busy parents and hungry young, and there are reminders everywhere that nature is working hard simply to continue and thrive. At the same time, nature continues to face growing pressure from modern life, including development, pollution and a lack of understanding of its needs. Even so, small actions from individuals can still make a meaningful difference. Residents are encouraged to support wildlife through initiatives such as 'No Mow May' by leaving part of a lawn uncut or allowing a corner of the garden to become a little wilder. These untidy spaces can shelter caterpillars, bees and other invertebrates, all of which play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and pollinating crops. Even if lawns have already been cut, there is still an opportunity to take part later in 'Let it Bloom, June'. Time spent outdoors is also valuable for people, with experts increasingly highlighting the mental health benefits of spending time in nature,

whether that means sitting in the sunshine for a few minutes or taking a short walk.

Our Bee Garden team were surprised and upset recently to discover that someone had dug up and stolen all our mature foxglove plants. Some of these had been donations from local people for the benefit of pollinators and our community. Others had been bought with our own money. We had a number together in a shady area that we had been growing in a beautiful display and now we just have bare earth. As they are biennial plants, if we plant some new seeds now we will have to wait another year before they flower. We are talking with the Clift Meadow Trust about changing the angles of the CCTV cameras in the area.

Alongside caring for habitats, the group also contributes to wildlife surveys to help monitor the health of local nature. Throughout the summer, volunteers record butterfly, moth, reptile and bat activity. Reptile surveys use warmed mats placed on the ground, which reptiles may rest under or use for laying eggs. Unfortunately, some of these mats near St Marks close have been moved, causing disturbance to the area. Despite such setbacks, the message remains clear: enjoy and value the green spaces around us, because connecting with nature is good for wildlife and good for us too.



THE BRAMLEY SHOW

"From our gardens, kitchens, and imaginations – to the heart of the village."

A quick reminder of what makes the Bramley Show special.

The Show began around 1988, created by volunteers who wanted to revive the classic Hampshire

village show – flowers, fruit, vegetables, crafts, cookery, and children's creations. It soon became a place where neighbours met, newcomers joined in, and the village celebrated its creativity.

A Village with Agricultural Heart

For over a thousand years, Bramley has been a farming village. Surrounded by fields, allotments, hedgerows and gardens, it's a place where growing thrives. The Show continues this tradition, honouring the land and the people who care for it.

The Show Through the Years

Nearly four decades on, the Show remains a much-loved annual event featuring:

- Flower arranging
- Fruit, vegetables, and allotment produce
- Home baking and preserves
- Crafts, art, and photography
- Children's competitions

The details evolve, but the heart stays the same: local pride, creativity, and community spirit.

Run by the Community

The Show is organised entirely by volunteers – growers, bakers, makers, families, and newcomers working together.

Part of a Hampshire Tradition

Though relatively young, the Bramley Show stands proudly alongside Hampshire's long history of rural fêtes and agricultural exhibitions, all celebrating skill, creativity, good food, and countryside life.

The Bramley Show is more than an event – it's a celebration of who we are as a community.

The full schedule will be uploaded soon at www.bramleyshow.org.uk and will appear in the next magazine.

Time to start planning your entries!

www.bramleyshow.org.uk

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Thank you to **Cllr Keith Oborn** for this month's update from **Bramley Parish Council**.

Greetings to all in Bramley. I hope you are enjoying the improving weather!

The Parish Council has a number of major concerns to deal with at the moment, taking up much time over a long period.

Housing – You will be well aware of the Stocks Farm development behind the Village Hall, of 140 houses. As you know, this is now well advanced. During the early phases, while the site was being prepared and a temporary entrance was being used along the track to the left of the Village Hall, there were a lot of problems with traffic, made worse because it was winter and the site was very muddy. The planning permission requires all construction traffic to come from the west, but this was itself a problem as large vehicles could not make the tight left turn, so we saw many instances when they reversed into Beaurepaire Close or the MOD entrance lane, to do a “3 pointer”.

We believe this problem is now largely ended, but please do record date, time and (ideally) reg. number of any vehicle causing a problem and report it to the Parish Clerk, who has a very large file of complaints and responses about this and other projects!

The main news, just received as I type this, is that Wellington Estates and 3West have submitted a planning application for their 650 house development on land east of Bramley Lane, behind the school and along to Folly Lane. Many of you will have attended public meetings about this, and the application is not a surprise. The Parish Council will continue to do what it can – given very limited powers – to reduce the impact of this development, but short of a sudden change of central government, the likelihood of stopping it is low. The planning application can be viewed on the Borough Council planning portal at <https://publicaccess.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/> - the application number is 26/00887/OUT. We urge you all to make your views known to the planning officers.

Bramley Parish Council will be holding an Extraordinary PC meeting on 17 June to discuss the application and decide upon its response. This will be a public meeting, as all Parish Council meetings are, held in the Main Hall at Bramley Village Hall. There will be more details on the Bramley PC website in due course.

Roads and Traffic – We have suffered a seemingly endless series of disruptions over the past year or so:

Two (or is it three?) telecom companies dug the roads up one after the other – we had a lot of contact with the main offender here, Gigaclear, but they did little to reduce the impact.

The Stocks Farm development – noted above – has caused a lot of disruption in recent months.

The CERO solar farm has perhaps caused the biggest and longest problem. It is they who have set up the strange not-three-way traffic lights at Minchens Triangle, and have generated the biggest amount of muddy roads and general congestion. This issue has now been partially resolved – the traffic lights are now proper three-way lights and there should be no further issues with the lights being green in both directions on The Street. CERO tell us that the traffic management plan for these lights has been imposed on them by HCC Highways – they are in talks with Highways to see if the need for the lights can be removed. Bramley

PC has regular calls with CERO team – and I think it's safe to say that things are improving. What was most annoying for the PC was that CERO's planning conditions included requirements for site management, wheel washing, etc, which seemed to be ignored, and the Planning Officers took no action. Once again, I think the situation is now rather better, largely due to the dialogue between the developer and Bramley PC.

Finally, and perhaps most annoyingly, the County Highways team has decided – not before time – to make repairs on the C32 to the west of (approximately) Vyne Road. When an outside contractor needs to have a road closed or restricted they apply for a set closure period and are penalised if they exceed it. In this case the “contractor” is HCC Highways themselves: they applied to themselves, got a closure period and then failed to start any work, as far as could be seen. I believe they then simply extended the closure periods, but also failed to clearly enforce the actual closures. The result was residents being uncertain when the roads would actually be closed, but more importantly all those contractors (Redrow and CERO in particular) thought the western route was closed and were forced to send all their traffic from the east across the level crossing. On one occasion Cllr Tomblin and I were waiting at the level crossing to head west, when an HGV came down Bramley Lane, turned in behind us, and then followed us and turned into Minchens Lane for the CERO site. Who knows how long he'd been wandering the lanes? All because Highways could not control their own internal processes and work schedules. Bramley PC has written to HCC Highways highlighting both our concerns and those of the Bramley community. It's probably too late for this set of closures, but will hopefully make a difference moving forward.

Water and Sewage – You probably know about the sewage capacity problem. Cllr Bell has spent several years talking to Thames Water – who handle our sewage – to understand what the problem is, and what could be done. Basically, the pumping station to the east of Bramley is overloaded, as residents on the east side will be all too well aware! However, Thames Water has recently started work near Folly Farm, and this project is now underway. All well and good?

Unfortunately not: this upgrade will not handle the load from the Wellington Estate proposals, or other smaller developments in the pipeline (sorry!). Also, the downstream pumping and treatment systems in the Sherfield area are overloaded as well.

Recently, South East Water (who run our clean water supply) has warned that they have no ability to increase water supply in the BDBC area. Work is now going on to understand the detailed impact, and possible solutions. But that means that the new Borough Council “Local Plan” will be delayed, and that delay means that the period when we are exposed to “speculative” development applications being automatically accepted, will be longer.

So the fact that we do not have enough water and sewage capacity means that the Government's planning rules **increase** the rate of building that is the very cause of the problem!

This is not, by the way, the specific fault of this particular Government. **All** Governments over a very long time have maintained and enforced a “planning” system that is essentially broken by design.

Local Elections – the recent local elections have resulted in Cllr Tony Durrant (Borough Council) and Cllr

Rhydian Vaughan (County Council) both being re-elected. Congratulations to both on successful campaigns.

Local Government Changes – That leads me on to the final item. You may be aware that the Government is requiring some County Councils to re-organise, and for areas within each County to become “Unitary” authorities. The County Councils will be abolished apart from a small “strategic” function – the sort of thing the Mayor’s office in London already does. Hampshire is one of the affected counties. The result here is that Hampshire will be divided into five Unitary bodies, with our area being the combination of Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor districts. All services will be handled by these new bodies, which means that everything that is currently delivered by County and by Borough will come under one roof. It’s going to be a couple of years before the change is complete, but it should make it easier to “join up” all the different services, and easier for residents to find how to access them.

This is not a new idea: London and Manchester have worked this way for years. More locally, so has the former Berkshire. One possible outcome is that Parish Councils may have more responsibilities and control. We shall see.

Upcoming meetings – the next planning committee meeting is scheduled for 9 June, with Full Council on 16 June. These will both be in the Bramley Room at the Village Hall, and as always residents are very welcome to attend. Finally, as mentioned previously, there is an Extraordinary meeting on 17 June to discuss the Wellington Estate proposals for 650 houses. Details of all meetings will be on the Bramley PC website nearer the time – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

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 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.



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2026

We are looking for the best front gardens in Bramley

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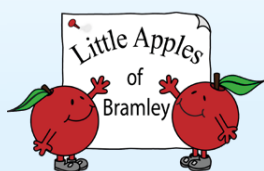
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The ancient tradition of **Beating the Bounds** is alive and well as **Rachel Barclay Smith** reports.

If you read Rev Mark Anderson's *On Reflection* last month, you may recall him talking about the old tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' when people in rural communities would walk around their parish and literally beat the boundaries with branches to show the extent of their ownership.

We may not have carried branches but around 40 walkers and several dogs

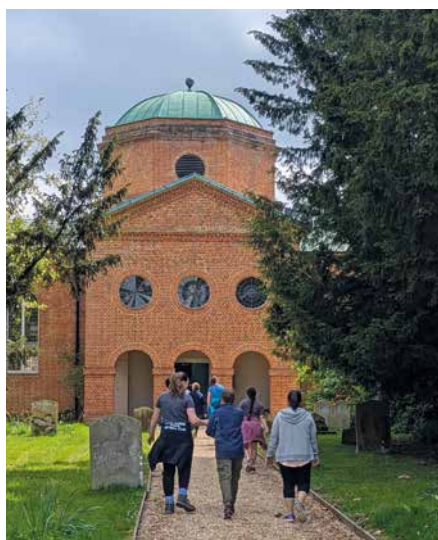
took part in a similar walk around our villages on the first Bank Holiday in May. Ranging in age from 10 to 75, the group included members of all four churches in our benefice, walkers from the local community and visitors.

The event started with breakfast at St Leonard's church in Sherfield on Loddon and followed rural footpaths and quiet roads to St Mary's Hartley Wespall, where welcome cups of tea and coffee were served. During the lunch break a few more walkers joined in and the 12-mile route continued to the church of St Mary's Stratfield Saye. Situated in the grounds of the Duke

of Wellington's Estate, some of the participants were visiting the church for the first time. The final stretch took us along parts of the St James' Way pilgrimage route and into Bramley, where a well-earned BBQ awaited the walkers at St James' Church.

As Rev Mark Anderson commented, *"This walk brought together people from the churches and the wider parishes and was a lovely way to spend time walking, chatting and eating together."*

Here are a few photos of the day taken by some of the walkers.



Bramley Fete

There was something for everyone at the Bramley fete on Saturday 16 May. Here are a few of the photos from the day, taken by Jan Wright



Bramley SpeedWatch

Recent Local SpeedWatch

Activity:

Three manned deployments were undertaken during April. A total of 13 vehicles were reported to the police from the 463 vehicles checked: 3%. The top speed recorded was 43 mph.

Hampshire Police Roads Policing Inspectors and Safety Camera Van Team pilot scheme.

This scheme is now in progress; we had our first police attendance at a manned deployment on 1 May. This was the first in a series of police visits. The police recorded a number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit and these will be processed through their normal channels. The police also noted that several drivers were not wearing seat belts and several number plates did not conform to regulations.

The laser speed detector used by the police was an impressive piece of equipment. It not only detected the vehicle's speed but also took a video recording of the vehicle. On return to base the data is downloaded, processed and, where applicable, a Notice to Prosecute issued. It was interesting to note that the definition of the camera

Camera Data April 2026:

Verified speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle*	Fastest hour	Illegal vehicles
2116	14	5am	47

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



was sufficient that it could show if the driver was using a mobile phone or wearing a seat belt. If you don't want a ticket then don't speed, don't use a mobile device and wear your seatbelt.

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 – April 2026:

SID location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph
Bramley Corner	30	East	73%
Farriers	30	West	30%
The Street	30	East	31%
The Forge	30	West	50%

FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT 2026



WOW – WHAT AN AMAZING DAY!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and made the event so special. We are also incredibly grateful to all the exhibitors who brought their fantastic vehicles, the stall holders, the food vendors, and the motor dealers – your support helps us raise vital funds while still keeping the event free for everyone to enjoy.

A massive shoutout too, to our brilliant volunteers: our regulars and some newbies who signed up, the Scouts and their leaders, Army cadets and our Rotary colleagues from other clubs. They all give their time so generously to help us set up, run, and pack down the event, and we simply couldn't do it without them. And of course, our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful partners at the Hants and Berks 4x4 Club for their invaluable support, and to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

It's a great free day out for families; yes, we do make a modest charge for car parking – but that goes to the charities we support.



Do you love to sing? We do.

All members of Hampshire Harmony love to sing together; songs ranging from pop and jazz and folk songs to songs from shows and even choral sacred music. There's something for everyone at a concert by Hampshire Harmony.

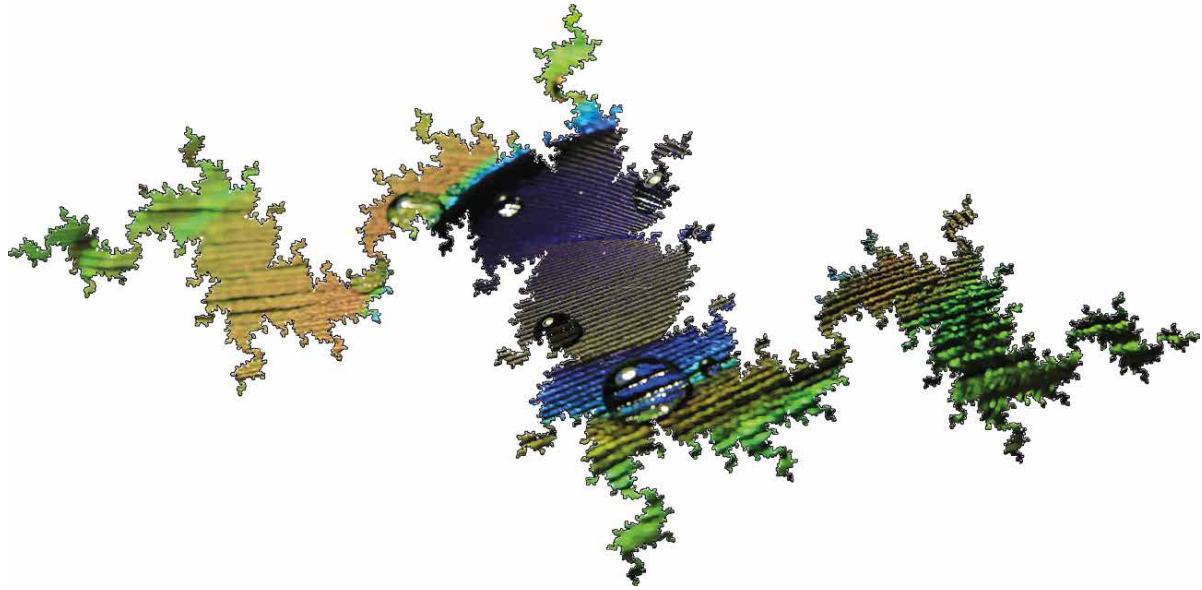
We are an upper voice choir based in Basingstoke, with a growing reputation across the county. We have just returned from the Fareham Music Festival, where we competed in four contrasting sections ranging from Songs from the Shows to Single Voice Choir. We achieved honours grades in all four sections, winning the cup again this year for Choral Sacred Music.

You can hear us as we sing alongside Tenors Unlimited at The Lights, Andover on Thursday 11 June and also on the afternoon of 12 July at Costello School, Basingstoke, for our annual concert, 'A Summer Serenade'. Tickets and more information are available via the website at hampshireharmony.org

We have lots of fun together; we run workshops and have training days in addition to our regular practices on Monday evenings. Our MD, Clare Oliver, is a wonderful leader and voice coach, who is ambitious for our future. We shall be singing at the Tower of London this Christmas!

If you are thinking of joining a choir and you are an adult who sings Alto, Mezzo or Soprano, contact us via the website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you can keep up with what's on.

You can also meet us at St Bede's Summer Fair on 5 June and at the Oakley Village Show on 8 August.



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Outdoors at Bramley School

As the warmer weather arrives, we are reminded just how fortunate we are to have such wonderful outdoor spaces for our children to enjoy. Our school grounds provide so many opportunities for learning, play and exercise: it has been fantastic to see the children making the most of them every day.

The new trim trail has quickly become a favourite with pupils across the school. Children have loved challenging themselves as they balance, climb and move across the different sections. It has been lovely to see the children's excitement towards it re-ignited.

Our clamber stack is also still extremely popular. The children enjoy testing their climbing skills, supporting one another and developing their strength and teamwork through active play. It is challenging and confidence building for the children – as well as great fun!

We are incredibly proud to have a mile run track around the outside of our field, encouraging the children to stay active and healthy. Every afternoon, classes have the chance for a brain break and time to improve their fitness while enjoying the fresh air. We also use it for our Mile Run challenges - by running 6 laps, the children can run a



mile – we see how many laps they can do in 20 minutes, the competition is hot to complete as many as they can.

Just before the Christmas holidays, we had the first stage of upgrading our EYFS outdoor area. The new balance course is a favourite! It really helps the children develop their coordination and physical confidence through play. There is also a lovely storytelling chair and wooden stools, a great space to retell tales or have a book shared. Seeing the children sharing stories, role-playing and learning together outdoors has been a real joy.

We truly are lucky as a school to have such fantastic outdoor facilities, especially during the summer months. These spaces provide our children with opportunities to explore, learn and thrive beyond the classroom. Let's hope the warm weather and sunshine continues so we can continue to enjoy them so fully.

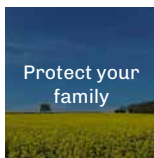
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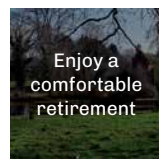
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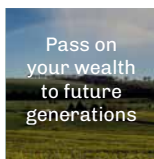
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Basingstoke Cats Protection is currently inundated with cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

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



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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.

Here is the next installment of **Jordan Rollinson's** historical fiction series.

Each of the trenches were scars on the land, their edges scabbed with frost and the frozen rhyme of winter's coming. Men walked idly, aimlessly, like fat flies in their darkened cuirasses and helmets; their metals shining like chitin. Beneath those exoskeletons of iron though, their skin hung from their bones and their teeth chattered in the chill. Above the entrenched agents of Parliament, the royalists put on a good show, spooling their stories of lavish feasts from their plentiful reserves and their merriments long into the nights. They all knew it was a lie - those atop the wall hungered the same as those below, their stomachs perhaps groaning louder for their unused to being so without their appetites. Samuel knew hunger. Samuel knew cold, knew the bite of the serpentine frost as it slithered its way through the cracks in the walls. Samuel also knew that they weren't getting paid.

He sharpened his knife's blade on a small whetstone, the edge occasionally keening with sparks. They lit the men's fragile faces before fading as soon as they flared. Worse still, they brought no warmth.

Grind after grind, the edge tightened sharper.

The siege was going nowhere. Sapping trenches led to no real progress, and the cannons were beginning to eat into their emplacements, chewing at the ground that they sat on. Every explosive kick dug them deeper into the frozen, fragmented earth, and they were growing inaccurate because of it. The royalists were impossible to hit with the small-arms muskets, not least because they ducked beneath their ramparts the moment any movements came from the ground below. It was, all told, a miserable and draining stalemate. The roundheads' hunger extended beyond their gut; so frustrated were they with the stalled progression that they lashed out at each other, the locals and the house itself. Few of Basingstoke's residents were willing to donate to the cause

any longer, and all knew to give up their meagre possessions without a fight, lest their last thoughts be of gunpowder's sour tang. Sorties rode out from the house on occasion, their stallions stampeding across the common, some even making it as far as the village beyond the besiegers' noose. Such cavaliers were frivolous in their searches, many not making it beyond the first source of alcohol or meat that they found before they were shooed away from their gluttony by the populace or Parliamentary patrols. Samuel finished whittling the blade's edge, dropping the stone with a *thud* on soil that sounded like cobbles. Many were planning to leave, to rid themselves of the misery that bore no compensation or thanks for having suffered. Samuel, too, was ready to leave. Sheathing the hunting knife in its leathers, he slung his carry-sack over his shoulder. It felt heavier than it had so many months ago, but held less. If there was to be another attempt on the house, another bout of fencing between two ideologically opposed groups, he would come. But this one was spelt.

Mission Aviation Fellowship provide Help, Hope and Healing to Isolated Communities

Who would have believed that a charity founded in 1945 at the close of the Second World War would today fly regularly to more destinations than any commercial airline in the world? However, Murray Kendon, a New Zealander and former pilot in Coastal Command, and Stuart King, a 25-year-old with many years war time service as a senior aircraft engineer in the RAF, opted to give up their assured futures to found Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Experienced MAF speaker John Ledger highlighted to the meeting at the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group how this Christian charity continues to provide aviation services to isolated communities. From those early beginnings it now operates 140 aircraft in 23 countries with a plane taking off or landing somewhere in the world every five minutes.

John summarised the key activities MAF is involved in:

- Health and education: flying in medical staff to remote places and evacuating sick or injured individuals;
- Disaster relief, such as involvement after the 2004 tsunami and bringing in supplies after the Nepalese earthquake in 2015;
- Development: aiming to improve agriculture and irrigation, as well as helping local people start their own businesses and thus gain independence;
- Mission work: flying in Bibles and transport to help with their distribution.

The first aircraft used by MAF was a twin engined 4-seater Miles Gemini, which undertook a very challenging survey

flight across Africa in 1948. They learnt a lot about the plane and the challenges of operating in higher altitudes. Two years later a used De Havilland Rapide was purchased. This design of plane was larger, more powerful, well proven and, crucially, had wider tyres for operating out of grass strips and other poor surfaces, making its first service flight with MAF in Sudan in 1950. These days the charity uses planes like the Cessna turboprop Caravan and Pilates aircraft.

The charity has a number of pilot training centres around the world, with emphasis on the discipline and experience of the challenging conditions they will later experience. Training of each pilot typically costs about £80,000. John explained that if MAF had the funds to fill all of its current vacancies it would be able to undertake 60% more flights, resulting in many more lives in isolated communities being saved. Normally a pilot will serve for four years, with the possibility of a second four-year term, often accompanied by their family.

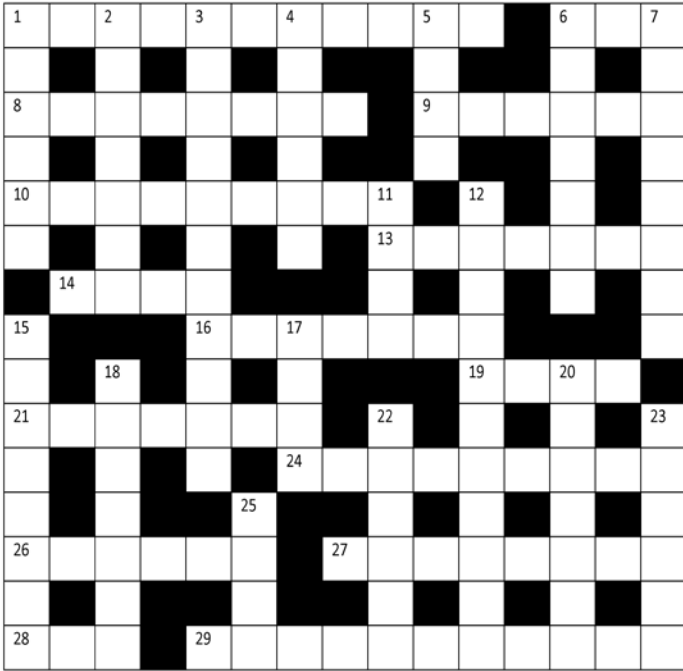
John explained some of the challenges for the pilots, often operating in flooded areas and sometimes in rebel-controlled regions. Runways can be challenging, and John showed a slide of a steep-sloped humped mud road which had been used as a runway. To illustrate their life-saving healthcare flights (Medevacs), he highlighted the story of Ruth, a 12-year-old girl badly injured by eight bullets through her bowels. She undoubtedly would have died had she had to endure the challenging overland journey from the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea to the nearest hospital, but was saved by the short four-hour medivac flight that MAF were able to provide.

For more information:-

www.maf-uk.org info@nhpcsg.uk.org www.nhpcsg.org.uk

Cryptic Crossword No: 99

See page 30 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Tail on barmy arrangement led to anomaly. (11)
- 6 Very exceptional disguise for cereal used for whiskey. (3)
- 8 Very remote having been thrown such a distance. (8)
- 9 Area seen in Paris having so many churches. (6)
- 10 Changing ion meant a result leading to effluent. (9)
- 13 Affront or crime. (7)
- 14 Shop where delicious food can be found. (4)
- 16 Harry, the one known for flimflam, bet he could find London area. (7)
- 19 Group just the same backwards. (4)
- 21 Topsy-turvy, but chic to a way of looking. (7)
- 24 See 1 down.
- 26 Seer as confused as a rubber. (6)
- 27 Stumble as would a fish. (8)
- 28 Attach or equal. (3)
- 29 Family sound like they are climbing down from somewhere. (11)

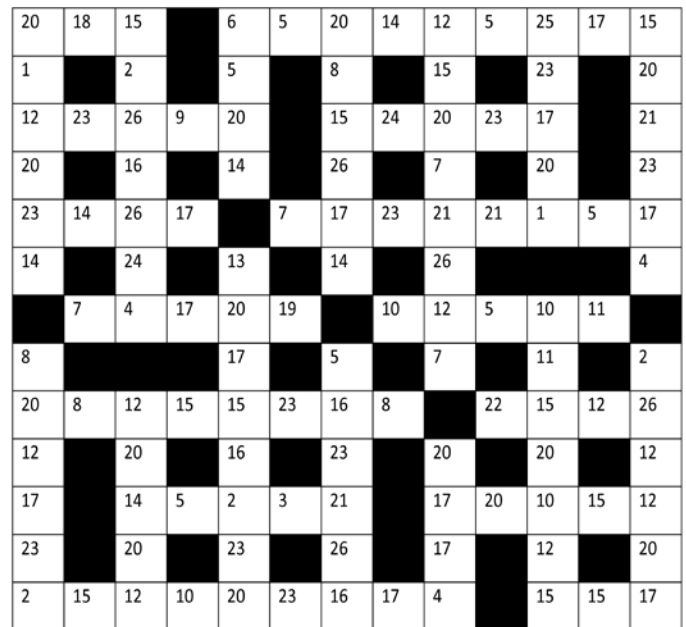
Down

- 1 Film director, great king, snag, male bird (1 down and 24 across). (6,9)

- 2 Tell a tale as a tear ran awry. (7)
- 3 Certainty, regarding accountability perhaps. (11)
- 4 Relation, the BBC perhaps. (6)
- 5 Kind or hit the keyboard. (4)
- 6 Weather event ruling on the radio. (7)
- 7 Are there always hidden ways to be heavenly. (8)
- 11 Knob no demon can disguise. (4)
- 12 Hah ! Nag found to be dog breed. (6,5)
- 15 Mishap by chance. (8)
- 17 Small word meaning a lot. (4)
- 18 Lamb and a genie hid wrapping. (7)
- 20 The effect on one's mind when travelling. (7)
- 22 Prime Minister can rattle everybody inside. (6)
- 23 Attire that goes round. (6)
- 25 First tall round evergreen entity. (4)

CodeWord No: 85

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.

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Butter Daisy

Celebrating the achievements of our Daisy children is always a joy. As April came to an end, our practitioners welcomed families to Parent Appointments, where we shared each child's strengths, challenges, and the progress they have made. Together, we discussed next steps to support their ongoing development before our next meeting. These parent partnerships are invaluable in helping us provide individually tailored education and care in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

With our eldest children now receiving their school places for September, we continue to carefully support them through this important transition. This term, we hosted a Parent Information Evening focused on school readiness and what this looks like at Daisy. Our guest speaker, an experienced local reception teacher, shared helpful tips and guidance to support a smooth move from nursery into "Big School." Families also gained insight into how this journey begins even in babyhood, as we nurture the foundations for

confident, secure children ready for school and beyond.

This month, we also celebrated a variety of exciting global events. For International Dance Day, the children expressed themselves through movement, turning every space into a dance floor. Some proudly showcased skills learned at external clubs, while our babies joyfully moved to different styles of music. Props and bubbles added even more excitement and wonder to the experience. We also celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday by exploring his contributions to our understanding of the natural world. The children learned about animals great and small, explored oceans and skies, and deepened their curiosity about our planet through language, discovery, and shared learning experiences.

We look forward to what next month will bring too.

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



Little Apples

Hi everyone, welcome to our latest article.

The last few weeks at Little Apples have been all about the natural world. We celebrated Earth Day by learning about recycling and protecting the oceans. The children participated in activities encouraging them to remove plastics and man-made items from the oceans and support recycling projects. They also studied the animals and birds of our planet and learnt about where on the globe they live.

We have had a project running where we fed 10 tiny caterpillars and watched them grow as they munched away happily. It was fascinating for the children to see their progression to great big caterpillars, chrysalises and finally beautiful butterflies. Setting them free in our garden was the exciting culmination of this. Alongside this, the children enjoyed the book "The Hungry Caterpillar", which is one of our standard texts, as well as dressing up as butterflies and completing puzzles and crafts of this theme.

Unplanned, but no less exciting, was the arrival in our garden of a pair of nesting bluetits. We saw how hard the parent birds worked as a team to

build their nest, keep their eggs warm and then feed their brood. When the chicks were bigger, the children watched them learn to fly and sit on our roof line as their parents brought them delicious worms and other morsels. Once the young birds had left, we examined the nest. The whole experience taught us lots about the behaviour of bluetits and brought opportunities for the introduction of wonderful vocabulary and an appreciation of the world around us.

Finally, we had a visit from Millers Ark farm, who gave us a fabulous opportunity to meet their wonderful animals. We met Brian the naughty drake, Cinnamon and Nutmeg, the gorgeous pigs who love a back scratch and Lilly the sheep, a star of the big screen! Lilly can currently be seen at cinemas in "The Sheep Detectives". We also met donkeys, goats, ducks and chickens and learned about caring for them.

We are currently allocating sessions for the next academic year and take children from their second birthday. If you're interested in finding out more about Little Apples, please contact Jo on 07598 588460 or manager@littleapples.org



Bramley & Romans Floral Society

In May, although a bit later in the month due to local elections, we all enjoyed a workshop, making a foam free arrangement using a mantle vase or similar. Photographs of the beautiful designs are included with this report. After the workshop we enjoyed tea and homemade cake and reviewed all the designs.

It is a joy to work with so many talented members and to watch those less confident develop their skills. As a club we are always revisiting the tried and tested methods of arranging flowers, for example, by not using floral foam and looking and researching new mechanics and materials.

Like to join us? You would be more than welcome. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 June starting at 1.30pm at Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall, RG27 0EZ. The talented demonstrator, Sally Hardy, will be giving a demonstration entitled 'Beyond Innovation'. New members (£48 per year) and visitors (£10 per session) are most welcome – and don't forget the tea and homemade cake!








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Swift – the bird that does almost everything on the wing, by **Paul Sterry**.



Swifts are masters of the air. Photo ©Paul Sterry.

Common Swifts *Apus apus* are truly remarkable birds. They spend virtually their entire lives on the wing, feeding, drinking, mating and sleeping while in flight. Given that individual birds can live as long as 20 years, the distance they fly in a lifetime is incalculable.

Swifts are migratory birds that spend the brief breeding season (May to early August) with us before heading south to Africa for the rest of the year. In flight, they are easy to recognise by their scythe-like wings and forked tail. In moments of social excitement, they utter their distinctive and iconic screams, a sound that is redolent of towns and cities in southern Europe. In my youth, it was also the soundtrack to late spring in Basingstoke. Sadly, no more. Swifts have declined in Hampshire, as elsewhere in the UK, by more than 50% over the past 23 years.

The decline in UK Swift populations is largely a result of the actions of people. However, not only are humans responsible for their waning fortunes but they also have the power to aid their recovery.

The one thing Swifts cannot do on the wing is nest, and traditionally they used roof spaces, gaining access via eaves. Hermetically sealed new-build houses and retro-fitted insulation projects now exclude the birds from most homes. However, the answer is simple and cheap. Nesting opportunities can be provided through the installation of nest boxes and the inclusion of Swift Bricks with cavity nest-spaces in new-build homes and buildings.



A Swift nesting in a roof space. Photo ©Paul Sterry.

When the solution is so obvious and cheap to implement, you might hope that government would act on behalf of nature. Recently, Scotland became the first UK country to make it a legal requirement to install Swift Bricks into new buildings, thanks to Scotland's Natural Environment Bill. Let's hope that despite their opposition to the idea, the current English government can be shamed into following suit. In the absence of action, however, you as individuals can do your bit by installing Swift nest boxes on your own homes.



A House Martin starting the process of making its nest, constructed from mud and saliva. Photo ©Paul Sterry.

The charity, Hampshire Swifts, coordinates much of the action and can supply and install boxes when asked. They also provide artificial nest boxes for another species whose fate is inextricably linked to the actions of people: the House Martin. In the past, House Martins built their cup-shaped mud nests under the eaves of houses and as recently as a few decades ago were a common sight in English villages. Their population declined by 75% in England from 1967-2018 and the downward trend continues. Problems include the slippery plasticised nature of many roofing materials, to which their mud nests will not stick. However, the attitudes of homeowners can be a problem too. I recall with sorrow the actions of a neighbour whose first action on moving in was to scrape all the House Martin nests from the eaves of their home in their first winter in residence. Unsurprisingly, the birds have never returned.

Use the QR code to visit the website of Hampshire Swifts to find out what you can do to help Swifts. You can also follow the progress of Natural Basingstoke and Wilder Bramley as they join forces with Hampshire Swifts to save Basingstoke's Swifts and House Martins.





The group had perfect weather for their trip



Probus Club Cruise the Basingstoke Canal

A relaxing afternoon spent cruising the Basingstoke canal was enjoyed by Probus members and their spouses. Organised by Probus member Chris Perkins MVO, a retired RAF officer, he

explained: “We boarded at Odiham and travelled a return journey to Church Crookham with an on-board galley serving snacks and drinks and commentary by “Skipper” Tony Webb, who pointed out places of interest and wildlife en-route”

The group travelled on the boat John Pinkerton, which was named after the original contractor. The canal was opened in 1794, connecting Basingstoke with the River Thames at Weybridge via the Wey Navigation. Over the years there were tunnel collapses, bankruptcies, falling demand and constant limited water supply, which all conspired to ensure the canal was never a commercial success. A planned connection from Basingstoke to meet the Kennet & Avon canal at Newbury never came to fruition.

By 1950 the lack of maintenance meant the canal was derelict and it took fifteen years of restoration, until 1991, for the canal to be opened as a fully navigable waterway for 32 miles.

Today, the Basingstoke canal provides a superb facility for water activities, a haven for wildlife (it is an SSSI), an



All Aboard!

amenity for recreation and wellbeing and a heritage asset, thanks to the team of volunteer restorers of the Basingstoke Canal Society. It is run by the Basingstoke Canal Authority, financed by Hampshire and Surrey County Councils and local councils along its restored length.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see www.probusbasingstoke.club or email their secretary secretaryprobusbasingstoke@outlook.com or phone 07814 937202.

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WHAT'S ON - Anvil Arts, Basingstoke

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PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Wed 3 June, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £46, £42, £35, £27, £18. Under 25s and f/t students £12

The Philharmonia Orchestra's 80th birthday celebrations end in spectacular style with a complete reconstruction of a celebrated concert from 1947, when the 83-year old Richard Strauss conducted pieces that he particularly loved. The programme includes the exhilarating *Don Juan*, the fleet-fingered and witty *Burleske*, performed here by Benjamin Grosvenor, the *Sinfonia domestica*, and what was the encore in 1947, superb waltzes from Strauss' most famous and heartwarming opera *Der Rosenkavalier*.

AN EVENING WITH HARRY REDKNAPP

Thu 4 June, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £44

After two sold out tours, Harry Redknapp returns with a new show to regale us with stories from his football and TV career, including his *I'm A Celebrity* win in 2018. This will be his funniest and most entertaining talk show yet!

Ballet Cymru's

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Sat 6 June, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £22.50. Over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £20.50

Ballet Cymru reimagine the well-known fairy tale of a young princess spellbound by a curse.

Touching on the themes of love, acceptance and what it means to be different, the ballet is swept along by Tchaikovsky's beloved score. *Sleeping Beauty* features innovative choreography, exceptional dancing, distinctive costumes and immersive projections.

ABBA Mia - starring Kerry Katona

Fri 12 Jun, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £40. Under 25s £37

Starring Kerry Katona, *ABBA Mia* is an SOS to anyone who might *Have a Dream* of a great night out. Grab your platform boots and sequined jumpsuits, and join the dynamite cast for this all-singing, all-dancing show that will blow you away. *Take a Chance* and grab your ticket for a fabulous night of non-stop hits, non-stop energy, and non-stop fun!

K-POP ALL STARS TRIBUTE

Sat 13 June, 3pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £38, £34, £32

Get ready for K-POP All Stars, the high-voltage tribute show capturing the sensation that's taken over charts and stages across the world. Expect massive hits, killer moves, spectacular visuals, and a cast delivering every moment with heart-pounding precision. From Blackpink to NewJeans, BTS to Itzy, Stray Kids to Twice, plus Jung Kook and heaps more – the show bursts with fan favourites and fresh surprises. It's a full-throttle celebration of today's biggest sound and style.

THE CORY BAND

Sun 14 June, 3pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £28. Under 25s £18

Be prepared to visit distant galaxies, meet superheroes, and witness the magic of wizards, as the Cory Band presents a musically mouth-watering line-up of John Williams' most thrilling film themes, including music from *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park*, *Harry Potter*, *Indiana Jones*, and *E.T.*, as we pay tribute to one of cinema's true greats.

JUKEBOX IDOLS

Thu 25 June, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £49, £42.50, £39

Non-stop hits from the idols of the '50s and '60s starring the UK's leading platinum-selling vocal harmony group, The Overtones, *Strictly Come Dancing's* Nadiya Bychkova, and Olympic gymnast Louis Smith. Get ready to swing, bop, and jive, as we reminisce about the heroes, heartbreaks, and happiness captured in the hits that once poured from jukeboxes. Together, fall in love, dance, and dream to the unforgettable soundtrack of our youth.

MARK WATSON - Before It Overtakes Us

Sat 27 Jun, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £26.50
Suitable for: ages 14 and over

Mark Watson - 20 years in stand-up for the *Taskmaster* cheeky texts icon, multi-award-winner, YouTube cult figure, Radio 4 favourite, and recently *Baby Reindeer* actor. An encounter with a stranger caused Mark to spend time pondering the uncertain future facing humanity. He explores this, along with equally pressing matters like the worst word he has ever said in public, and the current state of the UK sausage industry, in a typically frantic and fun-packed new show.

Do you have a leaky loo?

Saving water is an environmentally sound thing to do, but it can also decrease your water bills.

Thames Water has calculated that even a small trickle in your toilet bowl can waste up to 200 litres per day. This is the equivalent of a large bathtub, four washing machine loads or 800 cups of tea! More importantly, at the end of the year, this trickle would add over £160 to your water bill.

As a result, if you have a leaking loo, the cost to repair it should be less than the cost of the water you are wasting.

Check your toilets now with either a leaky loo strip or follow this cheap method:

1. Wait 30 minutes after flushing, dry the back of the pan with toilet paper
2. Place a new, dry sheet of toilet paper on the back of the pan
3. Leave it there for at least 3-hours (or overnight) without using the toilet
4. If the paper is wet or torn in the morning, you have a leaky loo

Want to talk to someone about other ways you can save money? Get in touch with Citizens Advice Tadley & District. We're an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for local people, to help them find a way forward.

You can either drop in to our office on Franklin Avenue (RG26 4ET) during our opening hours (Weekdays 10am to 1pm, Mon + Thurs till 3pm), call our free Adviceline on 0808 278 7987 (leave a voicemail), or fill in our form at: <https://www.catadley.org/email>

Alternatively, if you'd like to support the work we do, you can find out more about volunteering and donating here: <http://www.catadley.org/support-us>



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 – 1.15pm</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

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>Dance Vibes - adult fitness class 5.30-6.15pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays	
<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>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

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>	
<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

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 https://www.loddonsportsfc.com	
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	

What's all the Buzz about?

Have you been to the Willis Museum, Basingstoke Bee exhibition yet? If not, do go as it tells you so much about our bees and pollinators, their history, their importance to us, honey production, our natural world and what we can do to keep them thriving. It is indeed a fascinating 'Bee Story'.

There are three main types of bees: the **Solitary Bee**, the much loved **Bumblebee** and the **Honey Bee**. This article focuses on the Solitary Bee and will finish with a few key pointers about Bumble Bees and Honey Bees

Solitary Bees have a very short life-cycle as they emerge from a 10 - 11 month pupae 'sleep' between March and May. Their priorities are to mate, find a nest, lay eggs and provide for the emerging larva. Solitary Bees are the most important bees for our fruit farmers



as the Bumblebees and Honey Bees take longer to get going and, without the Solitary Bee, we wouldn't have our orchard fruits, soft fruits and other foods which depend on April - May pollination.

The egg-laying task is hard work as she creates a single chamber per egg, often in a long tube like structure as you see in the bug hotels, sealing it up before she starts on the next egg. Once she's done (after 4 to 6 weeks), she's worn out and dies.

The size and variety of Solitary Bees is huge. There is no need to be nervous around these bees as most are stingless and those that have very mild stings are certainly not that interested in us humans – they are far too busy trying to fill their tubular nests with as many eggs as they can for that short active life.

With Bumblebees it's all about the big buzzing furry Queen setting up her nest! With a distinctive droning buzz, she flies in a low zig-zag around wood tree roots and hedgerow banks, searching for a nest. By May she should have found and built her nest and will then focus on raising her first brood colony, who thereafter become her workers so she can rest and get on with egg laying.

Honeybees are busy busy busy!! The Queen lays the eggs and the workers raise the young and gather nectar and pollen for the honey harvest. If you see a cluster of bees don't worry, they are just waiting for the scout bees to come back to tell them where to find their new nest. That said, if you don't want them near you call up Basingstoke Beekeepers swarm number and they will come and collect (07580 528482).

Kenneth and Barbara Robson
on behalf of CB400 Foundation

<https://www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk/>

Please contact us on 07725 832964 if you want to know more about bees and how to help them & our natural environment.

Cryptic Crossword No: 99 Solution

1	ABNORMALITY	1	RYE
2	NARRATE	2	FARFLUNG
3	RELIABILITY	3	PARISH
4	AUNTIE	4	EMANATION
5	TYPE	5	OFFENCE
6	RAINING	6	DELI
7	ETHEREAL	7	LAMBETH
11	NODE	11	ABBA
12	AFGHAN HOUND	12	CHAOTIC
15	ACCIDENT	15	HITCHCOCK
17	MUCH	17	ERASER
18	BANDAGE	18	FLOUNDER
20	BROADEN	20	TIE
22	ATTLEE	22	DESCENDANTS
23	SKIRTS	23	
25	TREE	25	

CodeWord No: 85 Solution

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

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bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

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