

March 2026

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



- Restoring the church bells
- Dr Ward's Arctic fundraiser
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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**March 2026**

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## Editorial

Welcome to the March edition of the Bramley Magazine. As we look forward into March, I notice the evenings getting lighter and it feels as though we are progressing out of those cold, dark, winter months. March is the coming of new beginnings, welcomed with the warmth of an old friend. From the sprouts of daffodils I see in neighbours' front gardens, to the gliding wings of our red kites soaring in the cold blue of the skies above.

As we head into spring, more of us start to head outside, tidying and tending to our gardens. For me, nothing beats a lunchtime walk for some fresh air and to refresh my mind. There's a lot of natural areas in the village to enjoy and explore, as the coming months birth diverse ecosystems, providing great habitats for wildlife. On page 18, you can read more about our village's own native hedgerow and bee-flies in Paul Sterry's second article on the nature of Bramley.

Just as the sun hangs higher and longer in the skies, I am looking forward to hearing the ringing tolls of our newly restored church bells. Fellow editor Rachel Barclay Smith shares an exciting and interesting article about the restoration journey on page 9, with some wonderful photos to accompany. The bells will begin their eight-day re-hanging process on Monday 9th March.

This is my first editorial as joint editor, although like that very turning clock of the seasons, I have been working behind the scenes in previous months editing an array of insightful articles from the people of our community. A demonstration of real community spirit in Bramley was presented at the Parish Community Showcase last month, with many local organisations coming together to present and promote their work in the local area. You can read more about the success of the event on page 10.

March will be another busy month for many of us. Notable calendar dates include St. David's Day on the 1st, and Mothering Sunday on the 15th. With all this talk of spring and longer days, I should also feel obliged to remind you of the Spring Equinox, and when the clocks will 'spring' forward an hour on Sunday 29th. While I personally will be disappointed to lose an hour in bed, I will be equally as excited to welcome in the new season.

Wishing you all a wonderful month,

**Holly**

Joint Editor

*"But the true nature of the human heart is as whimsical  
as spring weather. All signals may aim toward a fall of rain  
when suddenly the skies will clear"*

**Maya Angelou**

Cover Photo: Welsh Dragon – Rhydian Vaughan

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

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**Benefice Services**

**March...**

<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>
10.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	BCP Matins – St James	10.00	Family Service – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
		10.30	BCP Morning Prayer – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
<b>8th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	10.00	Café Church – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	<b>15th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday</b>	10.00	Mothering Sunday – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
8.00	BCP Holy Communion – St James	10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
10.30	Mothering Sunday – St James	<b>22nd</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>	10.00	Family Service – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House	<b>29th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
10.30	Holy Communion – St James	10.00	Benefice Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
<b>29th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		
9.00	Sunday@9 – Cross House		

**...and into April**

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

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**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

Susan Shirley Locke	15th January 2026
	St James Church

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**A**n update from **Cllr Alan Munday** from Bramley Parish Council: Looking back and looking forward

In the spring of 2020, before the COVID pandemic, Bramley was facing a planning application for homes at Tudor Farm. Despite numerous objections and an initial rejection of the final application, the bungalows at Tudor Farm were given planning permission following a planning appeal. Six years later there are a few of the units still unoccupied. Looking forward in 2026, hopefully without the pandemic, Bramley again is facing the prospect of planning applications to support the lack of overall housing across the Borough. We have recently seen applications next to Centenary Fields and at Bow Brook Farm receive planning permission, and of course there is the current building work going on at Stocks Farm. It seems that Bramley is always confronted by ongoing planning applications, and this includes Land West of Cufaude Lane, which is included in the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan, as well as other applications potentially arriving in the coming months.

Bramley Parish Council has provided our official response to

the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, seeking to gain clarification as to why we have been allocated 85 houses over the next 15 years and whether the existing approved developments are covered within the 85. We have also challenged why Bramley has been given such a high number given the number we have provided in the last 10 years (well in excess of the approved number in our Neighbourhood Plan), as well as the 800+ houses that are in the Vyne Park area development which is part of the parish boundary. We await a formal response from the Borough Council to our questions and challenges, and we will keep the parish updated when we hear more.

So, looking back and looking forward, it seems that some things never change, and one thing is certain, the Parish Council will continue to challenge areas which we believe are not in the best interest of our parish, and at the same time continue to support our many local groups that make life in the village better for many of our residents. The “Parish Community Showcase” event held on the 7th February 2026 where Bramley PC were joined by over 14 local groups was testament to the support provided by the parish council and the good work undertaken by so many volunteers in the village. It was good to see the

vibrant volunteering community in the Parish all coming together, and there is more on this event in this edition of the Bramley Magazine.

Upcoming meetings – the next Bramley PC Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th March 2026, with full council on Tuesday 17th March. Both meetings will be in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall. For more details, please see the Bramley Parish Council website nearer the time.

**Contacts**

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

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**Hampshire County Council**

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

**Sherfield & District Gardening Club**

Our next meeting is **Monday 16 March 2026** when we are delighted to welcome local resident **ANDREW CLEAVE MBE** on the subject “Coastal Wildflowers”

An excellent and highly experienced speaker, Andrew took early retirement from his job teaching and running an Environmental Education Centre to enable him to concentrate on writing, photography, lecturing and tour leading. His published work covers a wide range of natural history and environmental subjects. They include field guides to trees, wildflowers, seashore life and birds, biology revision guides and many articles in magazines and journals.

Andrew is a frequent lecturer to National Trust and RSPB groups and has also run courses on dormouse conservation and ecology. A committee member of the Lundy Field Society,

he is presently involved with a survey of the island’s flora. He has travelled extensively, especially in Europe, and led tours in the Mediterranean region and Galapagos. Andrew was appointed MBE in 1995 for services to Environmental Education.

New members and guests are very welcome. Sherfield Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm: talk starts 7.30pm, followed by Q&A, refreshments and our gardening-themed raffle.

Just £2 for paid-up Club Members. £5 for non-members and guests (annual membership is only £10 if you wish to join and save money through the year).

**BOOK NOW!** This event is not just for gardeners!

**NICK BAILEY, known to millions from the BBC programme Gardener’s World has accepted our invitation to speak on Monday 20 April.**

His topic is “Confessions of a TV

gardener”, so we can expect lots of information on gardens and plants, insights into the world of TV, anecdotes and humour.

The cost is just £2 for paid-up current members of Sherfield & District Gardening Club. £10 for all guests. The hall seats 150 maximum. Tickets are available at Gardening Club meetings or via our website: sherfieldgardenclub.wixsite.com/sherfieldgardenclub

Doors open 7.30pm. Talks starts at 7.45 for 45 minutes followed by questions, refreshments, and our gardening-themed raffle.

**ADMISSION FOR THIS EVENT IS BY TICKET ONLY. Please don’t turn up without a ticket. We expect this event to sell out very quickly.**

Happy gardening and let’s look forward – we’ll soon be enjoying spring!

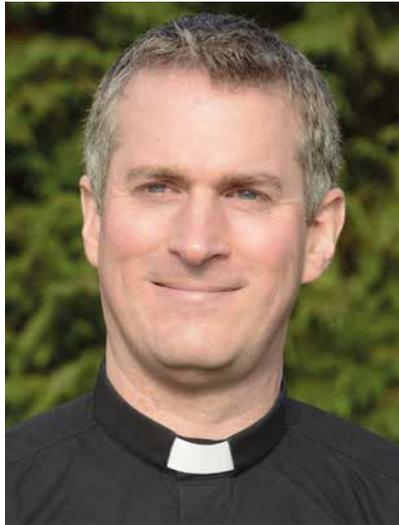
Sherfield & District Gardening Club.

## What's important in life?

I find it very easy to get distracted these days. There's so much going on, lots of things trying to get my attention. Then there's the temptation to keep scrolling or getting immersed in that season of a good TV programme and watching all the episodes one after the other. Checking my social media feeds... you get the idea. And when we have a moment, we realise we haven't had time to do those important things we've been meaning to do.

In our world of endless opportunities and ways to occupy our time, it's easy to forget or at least neglect what we really think is important; or perhaps we don't even have time to think about what is actually important to us. When we do consider what is of value to us, it is often to do with relationships. When we look back over the last year or years or even a whole lifetime, it's how we have related to others (for better or worse) that I expect has had the most profound effect on us.

There's a parable (a short story with a meaning) that Jesus told about a person who was looking for fine pearls. When one of great value was found, that person went away and sold everything and bought it. That one pearl was so important, was of such value, nothing could compare and all the money and resources were devoted to getting hold of it. I wonder, what's your pearl of great value? What is of such value to you



Rev'd Mark Anderson

that you dedicate all (or a significant amount of) your time, energy and resources to making it an important part of your life? If it's a relationship, then what am I doing to prioritise, nurture and strengthen my relationship with that person? For where my heart is, there my treasure (time, resources, energy) will be also.

For some of February and all of March (18 February - 4 April), the church has the season of Lent. It starts on the day after Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday), beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Day. It's a time when we give up things, sacrificing something of what we want and desire, in order to focus on and strengthen relationships, not least our relationship with God.

We give up things which distract us from giving attention and time to the things and people which are important to us. For me, one of the most important parts of life is the spiritual part, and so this Lent, I will be thinking about what I can give up/lay aside/sacrifice so that I can spend more time with God. For it is then that I will find the peace and contentment not found in other places which can so easily distract me away from that which is of value to me.

**Rev'd Mark Anderson**

Vicar, St James Church, Bramley

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## News from Clift Surgery Patient Participation Group

### Dr Ward from Clift Surgery is raising money for Clift Surgery's Frailty Team.

We all know there is not enough money to cover what can make care more accessible. In line with the NHS 10-Year Plan - From Hospital to Community - she is raising money for a portable ECG machine and a bladder scanner that the Frailty Team at the Clift Surgery can use when visiting older patients. This could save unnecessary journeys to hospital.

If you would like to contribute, please read the information below.

#### Roisin's story

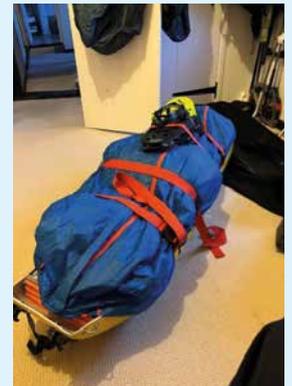
"I work as a GP in Bramley and serve a population that has a high proportion of frail and housebound patients. We have a frailty team that works extremely hard to support these patients and keep them well cared for and as safe as they can at home when they are ill. To do this, they rely on portable equipment to clinically assess them, but when they need an ECG or bladder scan to see if there is an issue, this currently cannot be done in the patients' homes'. A portable ECG machine and bladder scan would provide a simple solution to enable better care for the most vulnerable in our community and ultimately prevent unnecessary hospital admission.

I am undertaking the Bright Equipment Lapland Arctic Ultra in March 2026 with a fundraising goal of £3000 for this personal cause that I know will positively impact my local community and a population that often struggles to access efficient healthcare.

This race will involve me dragging a 20-30kg pulk within 10 days, over Swedish Arctic terrain for 500km with temperatures often reaching below -20C. I have put in many hours of training pulling a tyre and developing winter survival skills to prepare in the hope of completing this mammoth challenge. Supporting this much needed initiative will be a huge motivation and thank you in advance for any support you can give."

[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/roisin-ward](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/roisin-ward)

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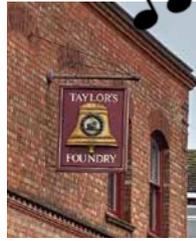
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♪ Didn't we have a wonderful time the day we went to.....Loughborough ♪

**R**achel Barclay Smith reports on the **Bramley Bell Ringers'** trip to see how the refurbishment of their bells was progressing

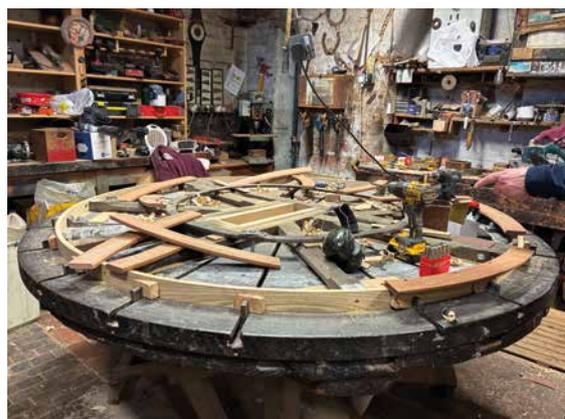


It was over five months since the eight bells had been removed from St James' Church and taken to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, so the ringers thought it was time to see what was happening to their bells. Were they still sitting in a corner somewhere gathering dust? Had they been thrown into the furnace by mistake? Fortunately, neither of these scenarios were true, as the group found out when they toured the only remaining bell foundry in the UK.

Before visiting the museum and learning about the history of Taylor's, we were able to ring the 12 bells in the C19th tower. We were amazed to see a plaque on the wall commemorating a band who rung continuously for 17 hours and 58 minutes in 1963! Our fascinating behind the scenes tour of the working bell foundry started in the Victorian covered yard where the bells arrive for restoration and depart for their new homes. It was here that we were relieved to see our own bells, now fitted with new cast iron headstocks, shown in white on the photo below. These will be painted in the Taylor's trademark red before they are returned.



It's not just our bells that are receiving some TLC. The bell ropes wind around large bell wheels made of wood, and when we visited the joinery shop, we actually saw our largest wheel being restored. You can see it on the table here, together with the other wheels.



One of the most technical parts of the foundry is the Tuning Shop, where a large standing lathe is used to shave metal out of the inside of the bell to give it that distinctive sound. This has to be done slowly and methodically as removing too much metal can ruin the sound. These bells had just been tuned.



For me, the most interesting part of the tour was watching the casting process. A mixture of copper and tin had been gradually heated up during our visit and by 3pm it had reached a temperature of around 1200°C. We could feel the heat from the viewing platform above the casting floor. The furnace was tilted so that the molten metal could flow out into a ladle and be transported to the waiting moulds. Sparks flew as the red-hot liquid was poured into the moulds which were buried in sand to help slow down the cooling process; it would be several days before the metal had cooled.



The Bramley bells will be returning to St James' Church on Friday 6 March and will be stored in the bell chamber until the following Monday. If you would like to see the bells, do come along to our 10.30am service on Sunday 8 March when Rev Mark Anderson will bless them. If you have been kind enough to donate to our bell appeal there will be a special event in the afternoon when you will be able to view the bells up close before the eight-day process of re-hanging them in the tower begins the following day.

**Parish Community Showcase a Great Success**

The Parish Council’s Community Showcase on 7th February proved to be a resounding success. As a Parish Council initiative, the event brought together more than 15 local organisations for what many described as one of the most valuable networking opportunities the village has seen. The Showcase was attended by both Parish Councillors and Ward Councillors, who were able to meet volunteers and residents throughout the day.

Almost all of the groups represented had received grant support from the Parish Council, and the majority are run entirely by dedicated volunteers who generously give their time to support others in the community.

Despite the poor weather, the hall remained busy throughout the day,

with visitors continuing to arrive until just 15 minutes before closing. The Community Café, which has itself benefited from Parish Council support, kindly organised refreshments for the event. By the end of the afternoon, more than 100 cups of tea and coffee had been served, accompanied by an impressive number of biscuits.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the wide range of projects and initiatives that have successfully secured Parish Council funding, demonstrating the positive impact grants of varying sizes can have across the village. It also provided councillors with the opportunity to see first-hand how community funding translates into real benefit for local residents.

One Parish Councillor involved in organising the event said:

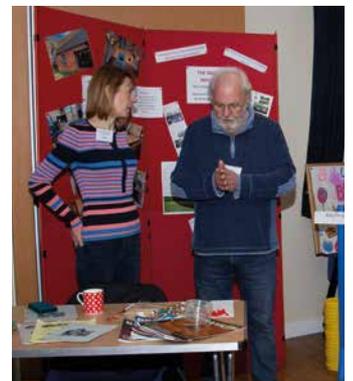
*“The feedback has been extremely positive. Everyone who had a table*

*commented on how useful it was to meet other volunteers and make new connections.”*

Another added:

*“As councillors, we approve grants but don’t always see first-hand the difference they make. This event gave us the opportunity to witness the impact and the enjoyment these groups bring to our community.”*

Early feedback suggests there is strong enthusiasm for making the Showcase a regular event in the village calendar. There is also interest in expanding it further, potentially inviting all volunteer groups, not just grant recipients, to take part. Such an event would provide an even greater opportunity for networking, volunteer recruitment, and celebrating the many organisations that help make our village such a special place to live.



## **Bramley & Romans Floral Society February Meeting**

This month we held our 48th Annual General Meeting which was very well attended by our members. We then enjoyed tea and homemade cakes before listening to a most enjoyable talk by Pip Bensley - an extremely talented and gifted florist and horticulturist.

Pip has won three RHS Chelsea Gold Medals as an individual and been involved in producing 23 Chelsea Gold Medal winning exhibits as part of the Hillier Nurseries Staging Team. She is a NAFAS accredited National Judge and Speaker. Her talk was entitled 'Garden Snippets' and she shared her knowledge and love of plants, specifically plants with interesting foliage for flower arranging, which can be grown in our own gardens (soil type allowing) or pots.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March starting at 1.30pm at Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall, Reading Road, Hook, RG27 0EZ. The talented Master Florist, Melanie Smith will be giving a demonstration entitled 'Beauty in Bloom'. New members (£48 per year) and visitors (£10 per session) are most welcome. Don't forget this includes tea and homemade cake.

### **News from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group**

#### **Health Awareness Day in January**

People braved the awful weather to attend a very interesting and helpful day about prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes.

Dr Ward and Dr Champion gave an excellent talk on what diabetes is and what happens in your body. This included a practical demonstration using a large number of coloured balls! I hope they re-create this for YouTube. Such a fun yet clear explanation. The second session explained about the impact of exercise and nutrition.

Several organisations also attended including Better Gym in Festival Place, Diabetes UK, the Red Cross Social Prescriber and the Podiatry Team who had lots of hints and tips on how to look after your feet.

Look out for similar events locally.

#### **News from the dispensary**

The dispensary is working hard to prepare prescriptions on time, and the turn around has improved greatly. However, there are occasions when patients forget to submit their repeat prescription in time. This results in an emergency prescription having to be issued and that pushes back requests that were made in the appropriate time scale. To help everyone concerned, please make a note of when you picked up your last medicine and write in a diary or calendar when the next request should be submitted. Thank you to all the staff in the dispensary who work so hard to make sure patients receive what they need for a healthy life.

## **T**his month, **Jordan Rollinson** switches from his usual historic fiction series to share **an exciting grimdark sci-fi story**

Soot-stained grilles of metal wrapped the engines' exhausts, the steel stained in a descending rainbow from the oily heat. Greasy smoke belched from the shivering ports, stinking the space with the tang of chemicals and burning. Overworked capacitors coughed a deafening rhythm that Emi felt through her bones. Her gloves came up to her elbows, a hood pulled over her hair in an attempt to deaden the worst of the noise. It didn't work. At least, such an oppressive sound might deaden her footfalls. Rigging was looped around the mezzanine above, and dust fell as workers made their way to and from their duties. Phosphor lights illuminated the engine room, casting long shadows that waxed and waned in second-long intervals, pulsing as the electric struggled through their lumens.

It had to be around here somewhere... across the engine's hangar, the suggestive shape of a porthole could be spied through the trailing smog. There it was. Air-filtration was a service conducted throughout the factory; the worker's exhalations were recycled alongside their waste, returning to them through water fountains and fans. Emi resolved to intake as little of that repurposed filth as possible, and hurried between the shadows. Ramming her back against the flat of the wall, Emi twisted open a spiracle in her belt, loosing a thread to weave between her fingers. Deftly, she caught and knotted the string, wrapping it around a padlock that docked the doorway to the outside in place. With the lock still there, she was going nowhere. What followed was nothing more than physics, adapted to a microcosmic scale. Rubbing the taut thread to and fro, the padlock's ring was bisected once, twice, popping off with a light *chunk*, caught just before it hit the floor. One by one, Emi undid the heavy metal latches that seated the doorframe firmly in place. Slowly, she swung it open, but no matter how careful she was, air pressure had its own plans.

A great sucking force pulled her from her feet, yanking her into the open space beyond the porthole. Emi sailed through the air, her dark hair splaying in her face, the loose fabric of her coat flapping around her. Then she landed, turning a splattering fall into a wheeling roll just by the luck of half-remembered instinct. Clean air filled Emi's lungs; it didn't taste like chemicals and cancer out here. A good sign. She was creeping closer. Far above, the skies of the botanical garden she had landed in were tinted with neonesque tones of blue and acidic pink. Emi blinked away the retina burn from such a sudden and vibrant change in lighting. Did those on the other side of the concrete wall, those in the energy farm, even know this delicate garden was here? Surely not, if they did, they would kill each other for but a breath. Magnificent and shocking as the change was, it was simply another barrier of entry to Emi. Somewhere, beneath layer-upon-layer of freakish changes, lay her enslaver.

**Bramley SpeedWatch**

**What is Community SpeedWatch?**

Community SpeedWatch is an educational scheme run by community volunteers and supported by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary with the aim to reduce speeding and educating motorists of the dangers of excessive speed across the roads of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Community SpeedWatch (CSW) was established in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2008 because speeding had become one of the biggest concerns raised by residents throughout our communities. Residents expressed a wish to be able to take ownership of speeding issues that affected their communities. This resulted in Community SpeedWatch being launched and becoming part of a national initiative being operated by many police forces across the country.

**How does it work?**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary operate a tiered approach to speed enforcement, starting with education via the Community SpeedWatch scheme, escalating through to Camera Partnership camera van enforcement as appropriate.

**‘Tier 1’ Road** – Education: Community SpeedWatch Volunteers

**‘Tier 2’ Road** – Enforcement: Neighbourhood Policing Team

**‘Tier 3’ Road** – Enforcement: Roads Policing Unit

**‘Tier 4’ Road** – Enforcement: Static & Mobile Cameras

Bramley Community SpeedWatch is a community scheme that takes place on

**Camera Data January 2026:**

Verified speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest hour	Illegal vehicles
581	4	9am	17

30mph roads in Bramley. The scheme is supported by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and coordinated by the Bramley SpeedWatch volunteers. We use roadside equipment to monitor the speed of passing vehicles at approved locations within the village. If our calibrated equipment detects a vehicle travelling above the speed limit, note of the vehicle details is taken and passed onto Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary. Educational Letters are then sent to the registered vehicle keepers drawing the drivers’ attention to the dangers of speeding and how it is a contributory factor in road traffic incidents.

**Recent Local SpeedWatch**

**Activity:**

1 manned deployment was undertaken during January. A total of 2 vehicles were reported to the police from the 149 vehicles checked – hit rate 1%. Top speed recorded 38 mph. The police have

paid visits to vehicle owners who have been recorded speeding multiple times on the camera. Don’t be on the list for a visit next month!

**We need your help!** If you’re interested in becoming a member of the SpeedWatch Group and contributing to making Bramley roads safer, please reach out to Bramley SpeedWatch at [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com). Your support is crucial for the scheme to continue functioning. Don’t worry, full training will be provided by Hampshire Police. Thank you for considering joining us!

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

[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 – January 2026:**

SID location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph
Bramley Corner	31	East	65%
Farriers	31	West	39%
The Street	31	East	30%
The Forge*	31	West	65%

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

**The Bramley Show 2026**

Hello and welcome to the 38th Bramley Show

**Dates for your diary**

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

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

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

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

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

**The Bramley Show Day** – Sunday September 13th at the Bramley Village Hall.

**Many thanks to Clift Surgery for supporting the Bramley Show**

**BRAMLEY WI**

This month at WI we had a questions and answers evening on gardening.

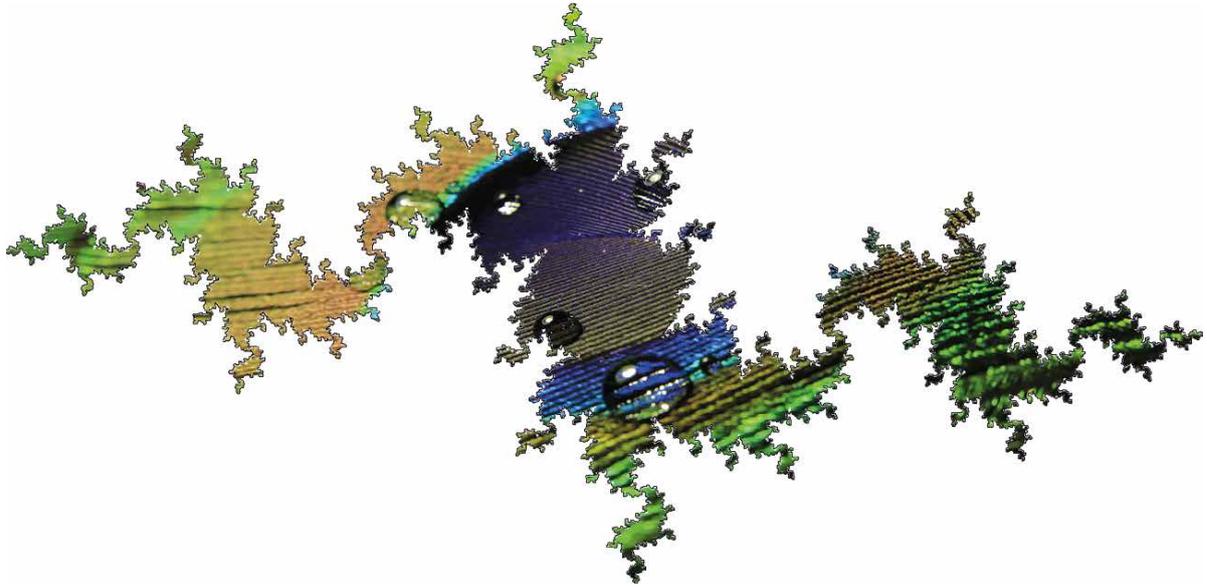
The panel consisted of three members of Sherfield Gardening Club Richard, Andy and Terri.

We asked lots of questions about vegetables, house plants, flowers and shrubs etc. And we got answers to all of them. Hopefully this year it will be a better year for gardening as I expect most of you had burnt lawns last year although most of it has grown back – not surprising with all the rain! And the vegetables and flowers will flourish.

The evening ended with the usual refreshments and raffle.

The March meeting is a craft evening where we are going to decorate tote bags.

**Jane Matthews**



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## Probus Hears About Military Medicine Improvements

The impact of weapons technology on combat injuries forced the evolution of military medicine technology and such changes occurred over the centuries. It was during the English Civil War when Oliver Cromwell repurposed an existing building to create the Savoy Hospital in 1642, realising that the previous system of camp followers tending to the wounded no longer suited wounds from firearms.

David Wiggins, the curator of the Museum of Military Medicine, outlined the medical advances and health care since the time of Cromwell. The museum is currently in the process of transferring from the Keogh Barracks in Ash Vale near Aldershot in Hampshire to be near the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The real improvements emerged with the recognition that many combatants survived their initial surgery but died due to general conditions and disease. Regiments had their own small medical teams, but it was in the Peninsular Wars of 1808-14 that the medical services of the army were organised more formally.

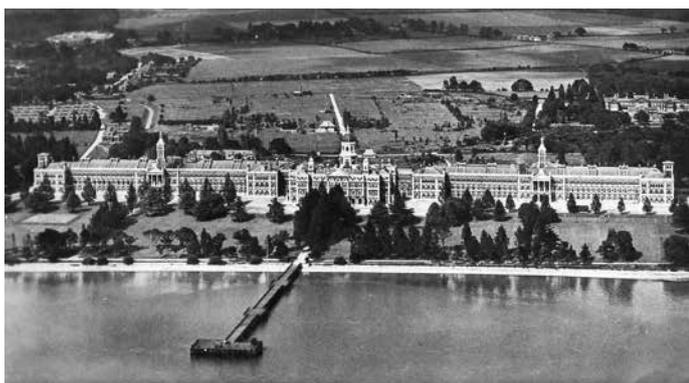
Records show that during the Crimean War (1853-56) there were 4,600 combat injuries yet 20,000 died through typhus/typhoid. Enter Florence Nightingale with her disciplined approach to medical care that started a reversal of such statistics so that during the Boer War (1899-1902) with 22,000 wounded that only 7,400 died from dysentery or typhoid fever.

The industrial scale of WW1 (1914-18) brought in new wounds due to advances in military equipment. There was an equalisation between combat deaths and disease and a recognition that it was imperative to remove casualties from the battlefield to proper recovery settings.



Tented casualty clearing stations then led to casualty evacuation by various methods. Motorised ambulance, some made by Thornycroft in Basingstoke converted from the order for 5,000 of their J type 3-ton vehicle, inland

canal barges, hospital ships and trains were used. The Royal Victoria Hospital was built at Netley with its own jetty on the Solent and on a branch line ambulance trains brought casualties directly to Park Prewett hospital in Basingstoke used for Canadian troop casualties.



Royal Victoria Military Hospital Netley

Blood transfusions, X-rays, gas masks for men, horses and dogs, improved designs of splints and the introduction of the Brodie steel helmet in 1916 all helped to reduce deaths by 80%.



Park Prewett Hospital

A medical officer, Harold Gillies introduced skin grafts to maxillo-facial reconstruction that became known as plastic surgery with patients at Park Prewett hospital. Today a general medical practice surgery in the town is named after this famous surgeon.

WW2 (1939-45) saw further use of field surgical and transfusion units positioned close to the point of injury. In 1943, Alexander Fleming's earlier discovery of Penicillin was developed into a usable medicine, becoming a game changer in recovery outcomes.

Post 1945 the helicopter became crucial to the recovery of battlefield casualties with the popular later TV programme, MASH, demonstrating the joined-up thinking with the connection of emergency evacuation with a mobile army surgical hospital during the Korean war (1950-53).

Helicopter use was necessary during the Falklands conflict of 1982 transferring casualties to hospital ships while the Afghan campaign (2001-2021), saw great use of various helicopters in casualty evacuation. Many casualties received medical support at Headley Court near Birmingham that become famous for the increasing use of prosthetics.

Peacetime also sees military services in demand under 'hearts and minds' policies both for medical and dentistry work in foreign countries. The Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa needed their intervention and at home the Covid-19 pandemic saw the construction of temporary hospitals.

2024 saw the amalgamation of three historical medical sections into one cohesive unit called the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS). These were the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) founded in 1898, the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADDC) founded 1921 and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) founded 1902. The aim is to provide full medical and dentistry services to our military for use in peacetime and during conflict to a level matching that of the NHS.

## Butter Daisy

As we continue our journey into 2026, the children at Butter Daisy have been actively investigating and exploring the world around them. Through a variety of sensory experiences, the children have been developing their understanding of sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. These opportunities have included venturing out into the community to take part in the Big Schools' Birdwatching Month; exploring cause and effect through painting on ice; and participating in pineapple tasting sessions as part of our 'Taste Education', supporting children to try new foods and express preferences.

Despite the dreary skies and wet weather, the children have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm and curiosity within their learning. It has been wonderful to observe their creativity flourish, friendships strengthen and collaborative play develop, whether this has been through shared outdoor experiences such as puddle jumping or engaging in imaginative play together.

The children have been confidently leading their own learning by creating props and crowns using loose parts and creative materials, as well as drawing wildlife and sea creatures to reflect their current interests. Even our youngest babies have been making fantastic progress, showing increased confidence in their physical development and communication skills, including interacting with others through gestures such as high fives.

We have also supported children's understanding of the wider world by participating in a range of nationally and internationally recognised awareness events. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in 'Inspire Your Heart with Art Day', 'NSPCC Number Day' and 'Children's Mental Health Week'. These events provided opportunities for children to express themselves through singing, dancing, painting and yoga, supporting their emotional wellbeing and self-expression.

We are looking forward to further learning opportunities and celebrations over the coming weeks as we begin to welcome the signs of spring.

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)



## Little Apples

A very warm welcome to 2026 from everyone at Little Apples.

Our big news is the publication of our most recent Ofsted Inspection which took place on the 26th November 2025. This was one of the very first inspections carried out under the new framework, which has been highly publicised. Instead of a one word judgement, the new Ofsted Inspection produces a report card which gives a grading in each of six key areas of provision, as well as confirming whether or not the setting meets its safeguarding requirements.

We are thrilled to say that Little Apples was graded as "strong standard" in both the categories of: **Behaviours, attitudes and establishing routines & Inclusion**, as well as meeting all the other standards well.

The inspector commented that the care and support in place for children who have barriers to their learning is highly commendable. She noted that every family is treated with respect and that staff build trusting relationships with children's parents and carers. The opportunities for outdoor play and the development of important physical and life skills was also observed, as staff "offer high levels of reassurance, which develops children's confidence and self-esteem." The impact of our targeted language and listening support on communication skills was also a feature the inspector noted.

Usually, as in this case, settings are notified of an inspection the day before it takes place. This inevitably puts staff and management under a lot of additional pressure. We are so grateful to our staff, families and committee for their



support, which contributed to a very positive experience for everyone.

Our full report can be viewed here <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/507965>

Moving into this year, we have had a very busy first half term of 2026, including establishing an Instagram profile for the first time. Do have a look at this and our Facebook to enjoy photos of some of the wonderful activities the children have enjoyed so far this year.

After half term, the children will be learning about Chinese New Year – this year will be the year of the Horse. Using chopsticks and counting coins will help their Maths and fine motor skills for example.



If you have a child who you wish to start Little Apples in the academic year from September 2026, we will start to allocate sessions after the Easter break. It is never too early to register your child, so please don't hesitate to contact Jo on 07598 588460 or [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org) if you would like to have a visit or a chat.

## A Day in the life of Reception Class at Bramley School



It is wonderful to spend time in the Early Years environment. Our youngest children are nearly halfway through their first school year at school and are thriving! They are fully engaged in their learning, settled into routines and have made so many new friends. The change in children when they start school (as we are sure many of you know from experience) is dramatic, they almost 'grow up' overnight. They are also exhausted when they get home from the busyness of learning and social interactions.

In our Ladybird, Puffin and Tiger classes, the children started the year exploring the topic of 'Where do I belong in my community?' They have painted portraits of themselves, used 'bricks' to build houses and enjoyed the role play kitchen where they use real household objects to 'make meals'. In our EYFS area, we use as many real items as we can, so the children feel different textures, materials and weights as part of their continuous play.



This term, they have been sharing books about different roles that are out there, understanding who helps us and thinking about what jobs they might like when they are older. The children have particularly enjoyed role-playing as doctors, vets and performers.

Within all the fun, it is astounding the progress children are already making with their basic skills. First thing in the morning, children take part in phonics lessons guided by our Little Wandle scheme. Listening to the children practising how to make accurate sounds for each letter and then blending to build words has been great to hear – they are also delving into the 'tricky words' that we just can't sound out!

Their numerical knowledge has also been growing; a key skill they are becoming confident with is being able to quickly recognise how many is in a group of objects without having to count them one-by-one. They also know different ways of making numbers.

Over the Christmas holidays, we had a revamp of our outdoor area. It has been a long time in the planning and now that it's in, the children are loving it! There is a new trim trail and balance area – our current cohort love obstacle courses so this was right up their street! We have a story-telling chair and audience area for the children to tell stories, read books or act out little plays – developing both their imaginative play and confidence. We are thrilled with our new additions!

As you can see, it is completely understandable why our children come home so tired from school – so much learning and so many interactions taking place all day.

Like I said, spending time with our youngest children is great! Watching them learn so many new skills – academic and social – through their play is wonderful!



## The Priory

At The Priory Primary School in Pamber End, science learning comes in many forms. Year 5 pupils used datalogger devices outside to find out about the most effective thermal insulators. When learning about irreversible changes, the class voted to make extraordinary muffins. Extraordinary, because each group were allowed to add a secret ingredient - some chose chocolate chips, some chose gherkins!!

**The Priory  
Primary School**  
Inspiring a Love of Learning



**I**t may not feel like it, but we are on the cusp of spring.

Signs of vegetative life are beginning to appear in the Bramley countryside, and hedgerows in the parish are fertile hunting grounds for those with a botanical eye. Adding a splash of colour, there are even some early-flowering native wildflower species to look out for.

Many of Bramley's native hedgerow flowers are associated with ancient woodland. There is often a clue to this association in the names of these plants: Wood-sorrel and Wood Anemone, for example. Their presence indicates the ancestry of the hedgerow in question and a connection with a past, more wooded landscape.



Dark-edged Bee-fly, found on hedgerow banks and rural gardens. ©Paul Sterry.



Wood Anemone carpeting a hedgerow bank. ©Paul Sterry.

Some hedgerow plants can be recognised by their leaves alone, long before they flower. Good examples are the distinctive arrowhead-shaped leaves of Lords-and-ladies or Cuckoo-pint and the heart-shaped leaves of violets, several species of which are found in the parish.

Here and there, clumps of Primroses are a cheery sign of better things to come and on sunny days keen-eyed observers may spot a furry-looking insect called a Dark-edged Bee-fly visiting their flowers in search of nectar. Recognised by its incredibly long proboscis, this fly has an interesting natural history.



Early Dog-violet, a harbinger of spring in Bramley. ©Paul Sterry.

Female bee-flies monitor the activities of hole-nesting bumblebee species, queens of which are also active in early spring. When a nest is located, the bee-fly flicks eggs down the burrow entrance. Upon hatching, each bee-fly larva feeds initially on pollen and honey (provisioned by the bumblebee for its own larvae) before developing predatory tendencies and slowly eating a host larva alive. Although this may be little consolation if you are a bumblebee, the presence of bee-flies is something to be celebrated and indicates a biodiverse environment and a healthy, inter-connected web of life.

The aesthetically pleasing appearance of well-maintained hedgerows belies their original, more practical functions: defining boundaries and containing or excluding livestock. Some hedgerows are tree-belt remnant borders of lost woodland. Others mark ancient byways, and many we see today were planted centuries ago to define boundaries linked to *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.

Today, hedgerows are important wildlife habitats in their own right, mimicking woodland edge – the most biodiverse zone of any wooded area. They support a great abundance and diversity of invertebrates; their dense cover is used by nesting birds; and the seeds, nuts and fruits they produce are food for all manner of creatures. With the right component species (notably Hazel and Honeysuckle) hedgerows are home to Hazel Dormice and Bramley is an epicentre in southern England for this protected species.

Stating the obvious, removal of veteran hedgerows results in loss of irreplaceable habitat. Hedgerows are also important for connectivity in the wider landscape. A consequence of removal (or even just cutting through) is isolation of those species that cannot cross open land. Ultimately, this leads to genetic as well as physical isolation and the increased likelihood of local extinctions.

Countryside hedgerows are subject to Hedgerow Regulations 1997 with Local Planning Authorities (in our case, BDBC) administering the legislation. Anyone wishing to destroy an important hedgerow needs permission from the LPA. Removal and destruction without permission is a criminal act and in theory unlawful destruction can be prevented. However, the reality as I have experienced it is disappointingly different.

As a further plea on behalf of hedgerows, the wording of our new Local Plan needs to incorporate minimum 5 metre Environmental Buffer Zones (EBZs) for hedgerows in the context of planning; along with minimum 20 metre buffer zones for Tree Belts and Woodlands. This would then reflect and retain EBZs already defined in BDBC's own Supplementary Planning Document - Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees.

## Wilder Bramley

Wilder Bramley have been enjoying the changing of seasons from winter to spring; the birds are singing, amphibians spawning, snowdrops flowering. This winter, we were treated to large flocks of Winter thrushes (redwing and fieldfares) that migrate from Scandinavia around Bramley. We've also been on a wild goose chase following reports of rare geese arriving from the Arctic at The Vyne; both white fronted geese and tundra bean geese, the first sightings since the 80s! Scarlet elf cups have been sighted in the woody areas of Bramley too. This fungus can be found across Britain but is uncommon; it thrives with high rainfall and rotting wood. Wood elves would drink water from the cups in European folklore. Perhaps you may have noticed the elves or the fungi during one of your walks in the village?



Scarlet elf cup



The newly cleared pond area near St Marks Close

Winter is also an important time in conservation for clearance work that minimises impact to nature and plan for the year ahead. In 2026, one of our goals is to forge stronger links with other local nature groups, experts and organisations such as Natural Basingstoke and work more closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Last October, in partnership with the Borough council, Wilder Bramley started coppicing around the pond near the St Marks close play park. After some initial volunteer work, the Council Ranger team cut the “big stuff” we could not manage, cutting back willows so the light is now able to come in. The wood logs left will create a habitat for around 40% of woodland wildlife who relies on deadwood (insects, fungi, mosses, birds etc). The cleared area is large enough to create a mini wetland, and we can't wait for the spring to see the first flowers there! The water is starting to accumulate creating a refuge for wildlife during the summer. This project is part of a wider goal to restore local ponds, once an important feature in Bramley in the 19th century.



Our stall at the Parish Community showcase

We also attended the Parish Community Showcase in February. We loved meeting other hero volunteer groups, councillors and chatting to villagers keen to make space for nature. We even met a few newts and toads thanks to the Toad patrol who brought some friends along!

Lastly, our Annual General Meeting is 22nd April (evening); we hereby give notice to our members. Venue/time to be confirmed.



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

**What's on at Anvil Arts**

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk

**ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW**

Sun 8 Mar, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Andy Fairweather Low came to prominence as the lead singer in Amen Corner. Hits such as *Bend Me Shape Me*, *Hello Suzy*, and (*If Paradise is*) *Half As Nice* are remembered to this day. Andy's solo path has seen 10 albums released, with 2025's *The Invisible Bluesman* entering the Official UK charts at Number 1.

**THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN****- 40th Anniversary Tour**

Fri 13 Mar, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, who, from their humble beginnings in small rooms above old pubs, took the world by storm with their off-beat humour and four-stringed virtuosity. Buckle up for a helter-skelter ride through every kind of musical genre with plenty of laughs along the way in an evening of classical, pop, punk, funk, disco, bluegrass, and metal.

**NIGEL KENNEDY - Virtuoso Concert Performance**

Tue 17 Mar, 7.30pm The Anvil, Basingstoke

Virtuoso violinist Nigel Kennedy returns for his first and biggest UK tour in over ten years. Celebrating his 70th birthday in 2026, he is as fresh and entertaining as ever. Accompanied by his great friends Alec Dankworth on double bass, and Peter Adams on cello, this is a rare opportunity to witness one of the greatest musicians this country has ever produced.

**ERIC BIBB - One Mississippi UK Tour 2026**

Wed 18 Mar, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

With an award-winning career spanning five decades, Bibb has become one of the most respected voices in roots and blues music. On his brand-new album *One Mississippi*, Bibb continues his late-career renaissance, blending blues, folk, soul, and Americana into songs that speak to our shared past and present.

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA UKRAINE**

Thu 19 Mar, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

The National Symphony Orchestra Ukraine begins its concert with what is believed to be the first symphony written by a Ukrainian composer, completed while studying in Italy and recently discovered in an archive there, while later including Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony*, along with Delius' *On Hearing the First Cuckoo of Spring* and *Summer Night on the River*.

**SUSIE DENT - Word Perfect**

Sat 21 Mar, 2pm, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Susie Dent celebrates the joys of the English language with a collection of facts and stories from the wonderful world of words. With funny, insightful, and head-scratching examples, Susie will entertain and educate us with her pick of language's greatest hits.

**PETER ANDRE IN THE VERY BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS**

Sat 28 Mar, 8pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

Peter Andre leads a spectacular celebration of music from one of the biggest selling groups of all time. This nostalgic musical journey pays tribute to the life and career of those four boys from Jersey, who started singing under a streetlamp but soon went on to become one of the most recognised groups ever.

**What's on at Whitchurch Silk Mill****Embroidery Workshop, 7 March,****10.30am to 1pm**

Explore the art of embroidery with Abigail of Abigail Rose Creative in a calm, hands-on session. You'll be guided step by step to create a nature-inspired keepsake. Suitable for beginners and experienced stitchers alike. All materials plus tea and coffee provided. Spaces are limited, so pre-booking is essential. Tickets £65.

**National Lottery Open Week: Free Entry to the Mill on 7 & 8 March and 10–15 March**

Come and see our world of heritage and craftsmanship: our three-storey Georgian building, weavers at work using our original Victorian machinery, the fascinating bobbin-winding machine, the amazing engineering of our waterwheel, and more. All for free!

**Beginners' Crochet Workshop, 14 March,****11am to 2pm**

Learn essential stitches and techniques to create beautiful granny squares. Heather, our expert instructor, will guide you step by step. All materials and tools provided. Perfect for newcomers and those wanting a reintroduction, this session offers hands-on practice in a friendly, creative atmosphere. Tickets £45.

**Whitchurch Silk Production Tour, 24 March,****11am to midday**

This exclusive guided tour with our weaving team takes you behind the scenes of silk production in an authentic Victorian setting. You'll see looms in action, hear the fascinating stories of weavers past and present, and be able to immerse yourself in the artistry that keeps our Mill alive. You must wear sensible footwear. Please check for specific access requirements as not all areas are wheelchair accessible. Tour duration approximately one hour. Advance bookings are essential. Tickets £25.

**The Story of Levi Strauss & Co., 24 March,****6.30–8pm**

Levi Strauss historian Tracey Panek will share stories from their archives, including the invention of blue jeans and the cultural impact of denim across many generations, and how the archive continues to shape the brand's identity today.

**Family Easter Trail, 31 March and 2 April,****10.30am to midday**

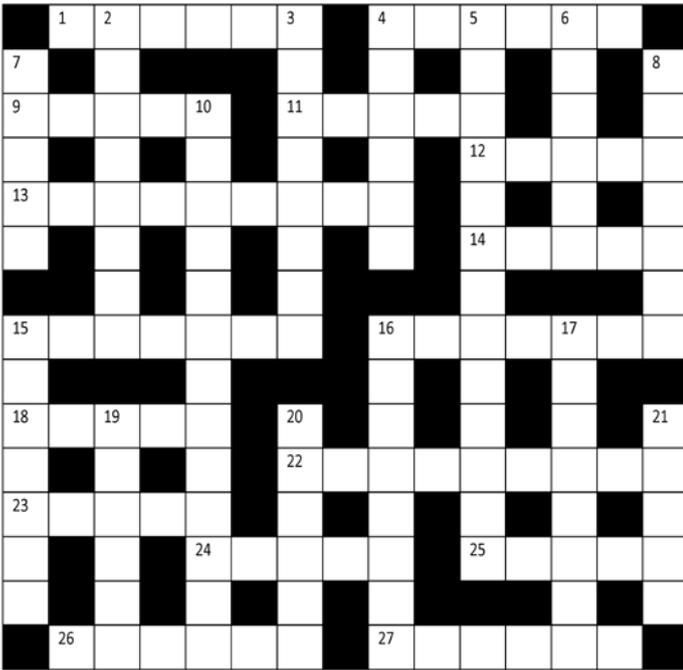
Collect your trail sheet and all the things you need to make a pair of bunny ears at the Mill reception in the shop and set off to have an adventure through our historic Mill and its beautiful riverside grounds. Along the way you'll find Easter-themed checkpoints and take part in fun activities. When your trail is complete a chocolate treat awaits you (options for vegan, dairy- and allergen-free diets will be available). Tickets £7.50 per child and an accompanying adult goes free.

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 Twitter, 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: 96**

See page 30 for the answers.



**Across**

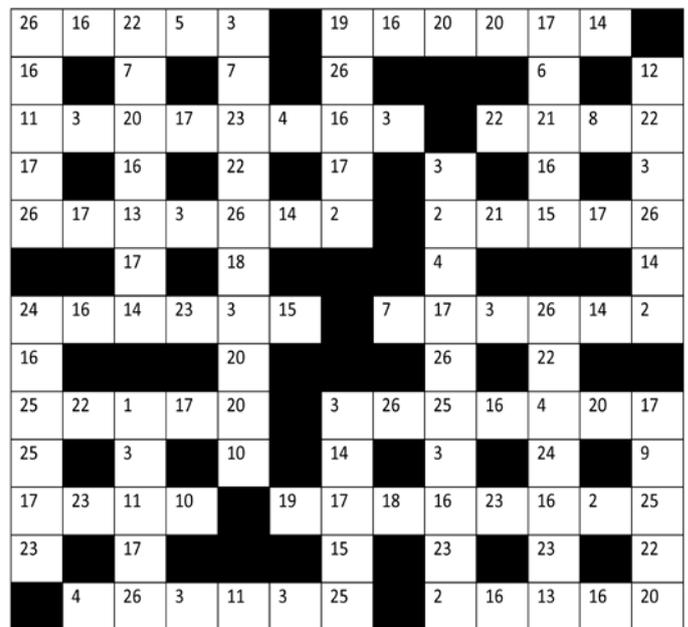
- 1 Dignified month. (6)
- 4 Be a constant puzzle to find a source of light. (6)
- 9 Change later. (5)
- 11 Roughly, there or there ..... (5)
- 12 Sodium chloride always hides something admirably suited. (5)
- 13 A carol is missing something for Scrooge's story. (9)
- 14 Musical composition needs to be well known. (5)
- 15 I'm clear this has become a marvel. (7)
- 16 Glasses need one point to be replaced by another to be eternal. (7)
- 18 Time of day sounds like one wearing armour. (5)
- 22 Arrange to bat a lot in military unit. (9)
- 23 Fluid map perhaps. (5)
- 24 I found I'd a home in this state. (5)
- 25 Appetite satisfied thanks to a mix of dates. (5)
- 26 You can use this for time allowed for payment. (6)
- 27 This is as far as I arrange an expedition. (6)

**Down**

- 2 Devious motive perhaps. (8)
- 3 Group friend one expects to be on the same side. (8)
- 4 Skim the internet perhaps. (6)
- 5 Need to record a game to see these. (6,7)
- 6 Entity or oppose. (6)
- 7 A month to walk. (5)
- 8 All dues concocted for hints. (7)
- 10 I cite rust as on metal setup for restoration. (13)
- 15 Island feline that has no end. (4,3)
- 16 Sells, to the highest bidder hopefully. (8)
- 17 Bet timer becomes sour. (8)
- 19 Rags Ed wears marks. (6)
- 20 A jacket almost on fire. (6)
- 21 An ode to a battery part. (5)

**CodeWord No: 82**

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	23	24	25	26

C

R

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



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

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

This is a free event for children, their parents or  
 carers. For more information please email  
[admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk)

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# CELEBRATE EASTER AT CHURCH

## HOLY WEEK EVENTS



**2nd April - Maundy Thursday**  
 7pm - Community Supper in Cross House  
 8pm - Holy Communion in St James Church

**3rd April - Good Friday**  
 10am - Easter Crafts in Cross House  
 2pm - An hour at the cross: music, meditation & prayer in St James Church

**5th April - Easter Sunday**  
 10.30am - Holy Communion in St James Church

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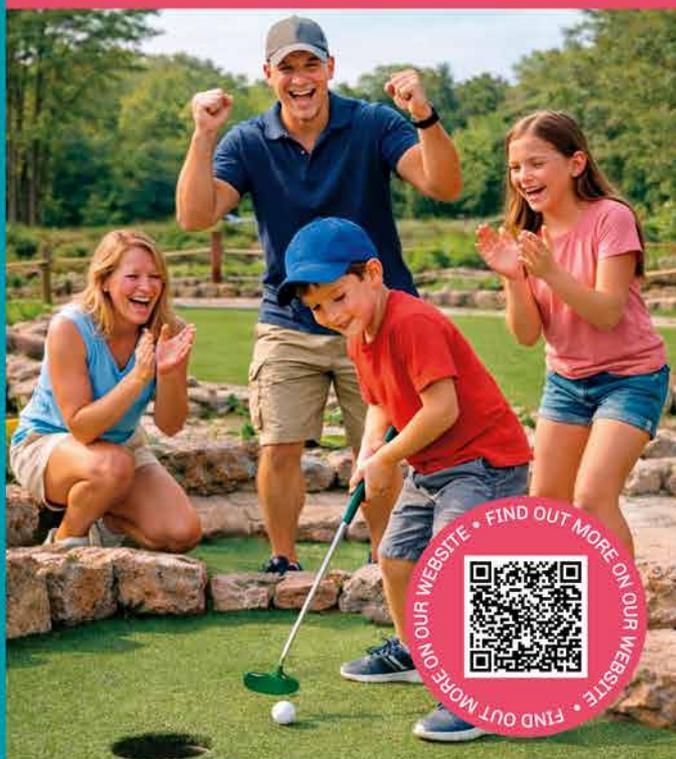
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Opening Spring 2026



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### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ROYAL MARINES CONCERT AT THE ANVIL

The afternoon of Sunday 25th January saw us hosting the The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines for our annual concert, with an audience of nearly 800. Both the band and the audience were on great form. We were treated to an excellent and varied programme that showcased solos and groups of their very talented band members. A truly varied programme.

### Microfinancing

6 years ago, Basingstoke Deane Rotary made their first microfinancing loan with LendWithCare. Microfinance is widely recognised as a long-term, sustainable way to support people on low incomes in third world countries. Rather than providing a one-off donation, it offers what many describe as a "hand up, not a handout." By

giving individuals access to small, affordable loans, microfinance empowers them to work, build their own livelihoods, and move toward greater self-sufficiency. Our first loan was to a Philipino widow who bought some pigs and cows to rear, sold them for a profit and repaid the loan.

LendWithCare brings together entrepreneurs in low-income countries with the people that have the power to help them - people like you. Run by CARE International UK, one of the world's leading poverty fighting organisations, LendWithCare is a revolutionary way for ordinary people to help these entrepreneurs to work their way out of poverty with dignity. From launching a scrap recycling business, a café, a retail business such as a grocery store, to a farmer diversifying crops and everything in between. Entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas - all they need is a helping hand to get started. This is where LendWithCare comes in.

The entrepreneur requests a loan - you, and others, lend to an entrepreneur, sharing the risk, you choose from a list of entrepreneurs available for funding and choose which promising business idea you'd like to support.

The entrepreneur's business grows. Your loan is repaid. You look for your next entrepreneur and off you go again. The Entrepreneur is lifted out of poverty, they can afford to send their children to school, lives are improved. It's a win-win!

### SAVE THE DATE

### BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 11th May 2025

Join us for another fantastic day in the Memorial Park! We were blessed with wonderful weather and a brilliant turnout last May, with hundreds of vehicles on display and thousands of happy visitors enjoying the sunshine. A fantastic community day out.

Rotary can't wait to welcome you back on Sunday 11th May 2025 for another FREE family event (£5 charge to park on the Common).

To register to display your vehicle, please visit our website [bstokefot.co.uk](http://bstokefot.co.uk).

Last year, we were incredibly grateful to the 100 amazing volunteers who helped make the event such a success. Whether you can spare just a couple of hours or join us for the whole day, we'd love to have you on the team.

If you'd like to get involved and be part of the fun, please contact Paul via the details below.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to [www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Mike [mike.lakin@gmail.com](mailto:mike.lakin@gmail.com) or Paul [tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com) to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

### What's on at Sandham Memorial Chapel

Opening times: Thursday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 11am to 3pm Admission adult £12, child (5-17) £6.60, Family (2 adults up to 3 children) £30. Entry free with National Trust Membership

This world-famous chapel containing Stanley Spencer's visionary paintings will be welcoming visitors again when it opens for the new season on Thursday March 5th at 11am.

Three walls of the Chapel are home to 19 oil paintings and are considered by many to be the artist Stanley Spencer's finest achievement. The artwork was inspired by Spencer's own wartime experiences as a medical orderly at the Beaufort Hospital in Bristol and as a soldier serving on the Salonika front

### Things to see and do in March

Daily Quests exhibition - 5th March to 3rd May

This new exhibition honours the 'quiet intensity of ordinary life' in Stanley Spencer's paintings. Hampshire artist Ed Saye's new exhibition, Daily Quests, brings together a new body of work created in response to Sir Stanley Spencer's epic paintings inside the chapel.



### Poetry and Paintings - 7th March

Come and join us for an immersive deep dive into a Stanley Spencer painting, followed by a reading of poetry from the First World War. Each talk and poetry reading lasts approximately 15 minutes.

Everyday Wonders: Nine Objects from Stanley Spencer's Burghclere Paintings - 14th & 15th March

Join us for a series of object-led talks that explore Spencer's wartime paintings through the humble items that shaped his daily war time experiences – this month's object a scrubbing brush

Sandham Memorial Chapel, Harts Lane, Burghclere, RG20 9JT

Email: [sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk) or call 01635 278394



**Basingstoke Ladies’ Probus Club – ‘Elementary, dear Ladies’!**

The Basingstoke Ladies’ Probus Club kicked off their first meeting of the year with a fascinating talk by Dr. Stephen J. Goss, a former lecturer in history at Queen’s University Belfast, a published academic lecturing in history and politics at City Lit, and an Expert Tour Guide at the Imperial War Museums.

As a life-long admirer of Sherlock Holmes, Stephen explained to his very attentive audience how Arthur Conan

Doyle drew from his experiences and the tumultuous events of his time to craft the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, a character who embodies logic, deduction and justice.

Doyle came to writing after studying medicine in Edinburgh from 1876, signing on as a ship’s doctor on a whaler in 1880 for a year which he thoroughly enjoyed but sadly not so the next sea journey on a ship to West Africa as he was frequently seasick, was subsequently a GP in Southsea and ultimately an eye specialist with a Harley Street address, as well as a renowned sportsman. Having married in 1891, the same year as his first Sherlock Holmes short story ‘A Scandal in Bohemia’ was published, he gave up medicine and wrote full-time which he found more remunerative. Tragically, after just 2 years of marriage, his wife died of consumption while they were on holiday in Spain. But his stories kept coming.

More than just mysteries, Stephen showed how the tales of Messrs. Holmes and Watson delve into politics, history, morality and human nature, making them relevant even today.

Once again, the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club were treated to a very interesting and educational speaker and all subsequently enjoyed a delicious 3-course lunch offering from the best of BCoT’s catering department.

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme of future speakers, contact:

The Admin Secretary: [reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk), 07754 296994

**BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND**  
presents a  
**SPRING CONCERT**  
**‘Around the World in 80 Minutes’**  
Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall  
Saturday 25 April 2026 – 7.30-9.30pm  
Tickets costing £10 (U16 free) can be purchased from band members, at the door or visit:  
<https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/37529#/>  
Join us for *Around the World in 80 Minutes* and experience music from across the globe – all without leaving your seat

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## Cllr Rhydian Vaughan shares some updates from Hampshire County Council

### The brutal truth about Hampshire's potholes and why we can't just "spend more"

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them.

Here's the blunt truth: we simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.

- Cost to bring roads up to the standard we'd want: £600 million
- Highways budget this year: £60 million
- £540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support
- These services are legally required. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.

And now Government 'Fair Funding' is removing almost £40million from our budgets and sending it to mostly Labour run councils in London and the midlands and north.

### Council tax reality

Band D Council Tax paid to Hampshire: £1,609

Surrey: £1,846

West Sussex: £1,800

Oxfordshire: £1,911

We've had lower Council Tax for years — but that means less money for roads.

You can't run a high-maintenance network on a low-tax budget.

### Why repairs feel slow

Here's how the system actually works:

1. Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.
2. Safety defects come first — A roads and B roads before residential streets and country lanes.
3. Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.
4. Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.
5. Non-safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please rereport them. We've had 156% of our average January rainfall. February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone. We've had repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Some potholes appear overnight while others worsen within hours.

### The national picture

Hampshire faces a £500 million highways funding gap. Government funding this year is £30 million. We've matched it but it's still nowhere near enough. Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance.

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the South East — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.

### What we're doing right now

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers
- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)
- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white-lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve. We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.

### What's coming next?

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10 million extra for summer repairs.

And we've launched plans for a lane-rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes which encourages shorter, better-planned works. This could raise up to £5 million a year for road maintenance.

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes> (hants.gov.uk in Bing)

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

Finally, huge thanks to all our highways staff, they are doing an amazing job in really terrible conditions. Please remember that when you come across them.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

### Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Calleva Division  
Hampshire County Council  
Fb.com/tellrhydian



<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 (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

<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
<i>Table Tennis - 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

<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 - 1.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Community Cafe
<i>Squirrels 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

<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>Bath Babies 10.30 &amp; 11.30</i>	Village Hall
<i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Dance Vibes - adult fitness class 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>Meditation Circle session 10.15- 11.30 (from 9 January 2026)</i>	Cross House
<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Craft Group (4th Friday) 1pm-4pm</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall

<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>	

**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		
Bath Babies	Katie Loosley	07921 158495	info@babyserenity.org	
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley 0-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985		
Bramley and Romans Floral Society	Stephanie Cornell	07808 078188	s.cornell@aplin.plus.com	
Bramley Craft Group	Anne-Marie Jones	07922 528155	anajonesuk@yahoo.co.uk	4th Friday of each month
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Jane Kettridge		jk.cmcc@btconnect.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.walsh59@outlook.com	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	
Classical Pilates	Naomi Baker		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	John Huntingdon		John.Huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfsecretary@outlook.com <a href="https://www.loddonsportsfc.com">https://www.loddonsportsfc.com</a>	
Dance Vibes	Louise		misslouise74@gmail.com	
Friendship Walks			ppgclift@gmail.com	
Guides	Viv Salem		firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Meditation	Jennifer Duke	07764 293757	jennifer2duke@gmail.com linktr.ee/jennifer_duke	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Nicola Jones		Nicola.Jones@SouthernHealth.nhs.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise@petiteschoolofdancing.com	
Pure Performance Pilates	Hannah Travers	07711 206043	info@performanceuk.com www.performanceuk.com	
Body Control Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Rainbows	Christina Wilson		bramleyrainbows@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	Judy Foyle	881821	stevefoyle@hotmail.co.uk	
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	07818 280041	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley			wilder.bramley@gmail.com www.wilderbramley.org or Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	



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

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