

December 2024/
January 2025

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- 
- **Bramley Fireworks**
 - **Remembrance**
 - **Win tickets to the panto!**
 - **Three years of Friendship Walks**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

**December 2024
– January 2025**

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

Editorial

A man went to the library and asked, "Do you have a book about pantomimes?" "It's behind you" said the librarian. If you found that funny then you have definitely been reading too many cracker jokes and need to get out more! Perhaps you should turn to page 9 for a chance to win tickets to the pantomime at the Anvil. Pantomimes are an odd form of theatre when you think about it: men dressed as women, women dressed as men, risqué double entendres, lots of booing and hissing from the audience and animals played by two actors in a single costume. Traditionally the good fairy enters from stage right and the villain enters from stage left. This convention goes back to the medieval mystery plays, where the right side of the stage symbolised heaven and the left side symbolised hell.

Remembering Guy Fawkes night is another annual tradition, and November saw an amazing firework display at Bramley School. We have lots of photos for you on pages 18 and 19 – can you spot yourself in the selfie stand? It was a lovely atmosphere walking to school that evening; it seemed that half of Bramley was heading the same way – a real community event. Hopefully there will be a similar feel to the Christmas light-up event at Clift Meadow on 6 December. Lights, carols, mulled wine and mince pies – it should be a lovely start to the Christmas celebrations. There will be lots going on at St James' Church too including our Christingle Service on 15 December and the fun, if chaotic, nativity on Christmas Eve. All the details are on page 7 and in the Christmas cards which our deliverers have kindly posted with this magazine. And when the festivities are over and you are looking guiltily at the tubs of Heroes and Celebrations you have consumed, don't forget to turn to page 9 to find out how the tubs can be recycled. You may also want to consider joining the walking group featured on page 13 to shift a few of those Christmas pounds!

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a very happy New Year

Rachel

Joint Editor

New deliverer required

Can you help? We are looking for someone to deliver the Bramley magazine to Wallis Drive, St James' Close, Sims Close and Officer's Row. It is currently one round but we are looking to split it into two.

If you can spare an hour or so a month, please email editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk Perhaps you can deliver with a friend or it can be part of a New Year's resolution to get more exercise! There are only 10 deliveries a year so it's not a big commitment, but it is very much appreciated.

A big thank you to Sharon Hancock who has been doing this round for a number of years. As I have said before, there would be little point in producing this magazine if it wasn't for our wonderful deliverers!

Thank you

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Charles Wesley

Cover Photo: Fireworks by Elza Cooper

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

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Church diary for December...

1st	Advent Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
8th	2nd Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
16.00	Light in the Darkness – St James
15th	3rd Sunday of Advent
9.30	Make your own Christingle – Cross House
10.30	Christingle Family Service – St James
22nd	4th Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
24th	Christmas Eve
16.00	Nativity Service – St James
23.30	Midnight Communion – St James
25th	Christmas Day
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
29th	1st Sunday of Christmas
10.00	Benefice Communion at St Leonard's in Sherfield

...and into January

5th	Epiphany
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
12th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
19th	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James

Benefice Services

December...

1st	Advent Sunday
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.00	SERVICE CANCELLED – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
8th	2nd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Café Church (Christingle) – Sherfield Park Community Centre
17.30	Carol Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
15th	3rd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
18.30	Carol Service – St Leonard's, Sherfield
22nd	4th Sunday of Advent
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard's, Sherfield
17.00	Carol Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
24th	Christmas Eve
16.00	Nativity Service – St Leonard's, Sherfield
23.30	Midnight Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
25th	Christmas Day
9.00	Holy Communion – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Holy Communion – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
29th	1st Sunday of Christmas
10.00	Benefice Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield

...and into January

5th	Epiphany
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.00	NO SERVICE – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
12th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield
19th	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall

White's Animal Rescue

I am writing this article to raise awareness of my new rescue venture that I have started in Bramley. I am a Registered Veterinary Nurse and am only too aware of the demand on rescues, especially since the COVID pandemic.

We are a small, family run rescue primarily set up to help cats at the moment. We are a not-for-profit organisation and rely totally on donations. All of the money raised from adoption fees and donations goes back to helping more cats. We have a Facebook page called White's Animal Rescue, with a website coming very soon.

Foster carers play a huge role in the animal's journey and foster homes are always needed to be able to rescue more cats. Whilst we do carry out home checks and ask everyone to complete an application form to match cats to suitable homes, we also want to rehome to as many people as possible. This includes people who work, have young children and other pets. Of course, not all cats may be suitable, but we consider every application on an individual basis.

If anyone would like to adopt or foster there is an application form on the Facebook page. If you are not able to access this then please give me a call on 07568 391434. I am always happy to answer any questions or give advice. Thank you all for your kind support.

Sam White

ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

A huge thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for our annual appeal. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our local community who help spread happiness to children who have little. 857 shoeboxes from our club, full of warm hats & gloves and children's toys etc. are on their way, to deprived and displaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine (All countries currently are supporting displaced Children from Ukraine) Boxes are accompanied by Rotarians from our Rotary district and will be delivered into the hands of Rotarians in those countries to be distributed. In 2023 our Wessex Rotary District delivered 18,779 boxes and 25 cartons of woollen items and other clothing.

CONTACTS: Helen Ricketts: - helen@highpathway.co.uk
or Paul Temple:- tempaul45@gmail.com

Christmas Poem

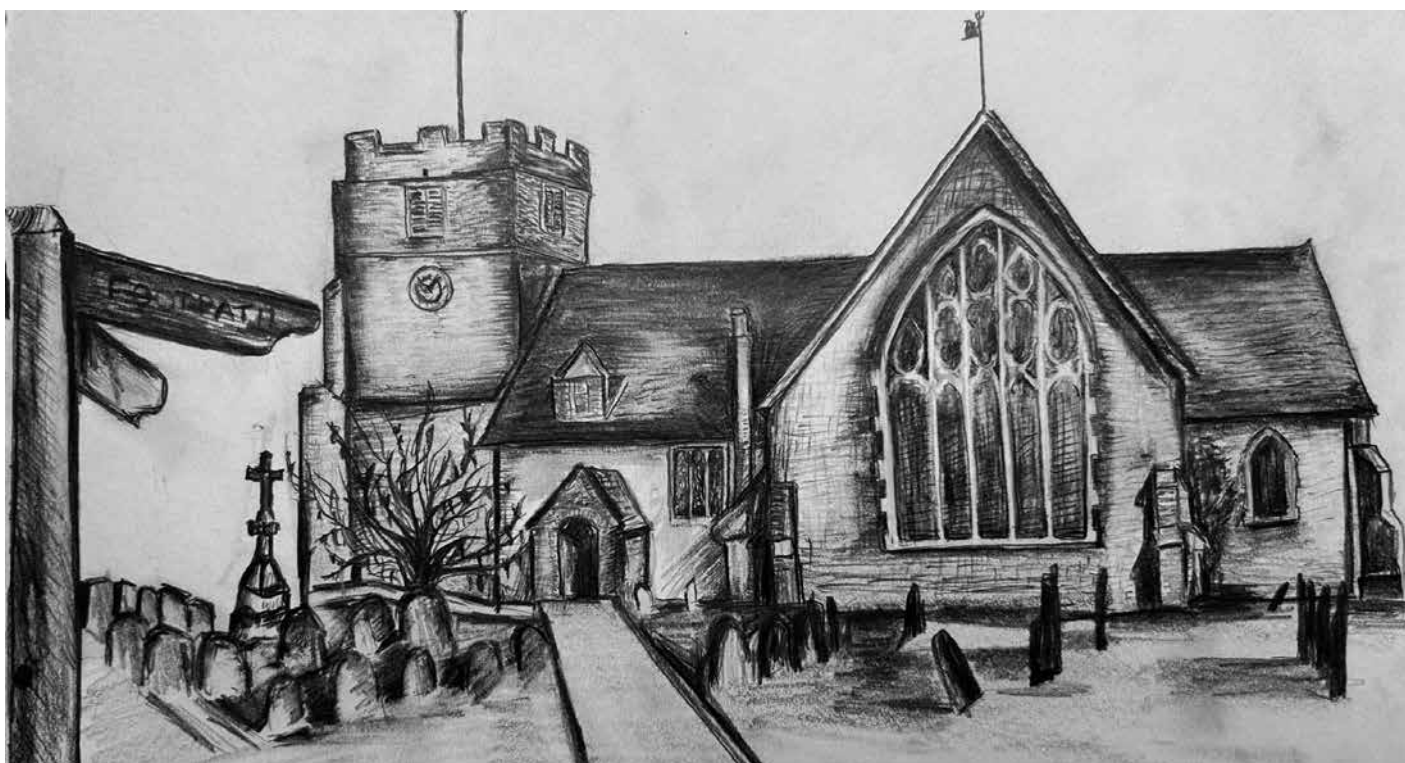
One of our younger readers wrote this beautiful poem, which really encapsulates the meaning of Christmas. As we open our presents and eat our turkey, we should remember that we are not part of a plan to increase the profits of Amazon and Tesco; it is much bigger than that: we are celebrating the birth of a child who was sent by God to save us from our sins.

*In a land where hate and war deceive,
A Creator watches, and begins to
grieve.
His mercy boundless, His love ever true,
Yet they reject Him, thinking they
outgrew.*

*God watches with a heavy heart,
As more and more souls depart.
Sin and crime relentlessly grow,
And God whispers softly, "Why so?"
But still, His love remains,
A flickering light through all the pains.
He sent His Son, to bear our shame,
A gift so pure, we're unworthy of His
name.*

*Jesus, a name that brings peace and
grace,
God revealed, for all to embrace.
To receive His love, no price to pay,
For sin's burden has been swept away.*

*Thank Him now for His endless grace,
For when we were lost, in His arms we
found our place.
A Saviour came, so that we might live,
Jesus Christ, who teaches us to forgive.*



Thank you to Kelly Street who drew this lovely picture of St James' Church. We have some very talented people in Bramley!

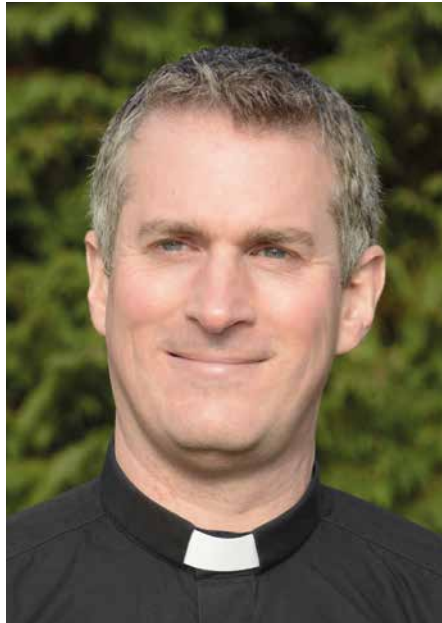
Tis the season to be....?

What sort of year have you had? Perhaps a quiet one or one in which there has been lots going on. Some of us would have struggled with health issues, losing a job, or even a death in the family. Our lives are filled with much pain and yet there is joy too. Perhaps a new baby, a new job or some wonderful memories which have been made this year through special experiences with families and friends.

A lot has happened nationally and internationally too. 2024 was the 'year of elections' with many of them happening all around the world, not least the two (in the UK and USA) which will affect us the most. Did they bring you hope or despair?

So when the holidays and Christmas Day come, when you are relaxing after some good food and drink and you take a moment to reflect, what sort of year have you had? How are you feeling? Is this a time to celebrate, to mourn, to be joyful, to remember someone, to be hopeful? Soon we will be looking forward to 2025, but will you be looking to the future with hope or with some trepidation, with some despair for what that future might hold for us?

In every generation over the centuries, there have been times of hope and times of despair. The first part of the Bible (the Old Testament, which are the Jewish Scriptures) looks



Rev'd Mark Anderson

forward to the Promised One, the one who would fulfil their hopes. In those days, there was a lot going wrong with all sorts of things. To those who believe, Jesus is the one who brings good news: of the Kingdom of God, in which good things happen and where we have the promise of a better future.

The baby born in a stable became the man whose radical life and teaching shook the established way of thinking and challenged people to think again about what they believe in and how they treat each other; how what we do can help others flourish. So when you say 'Christmas' this year, remember it's about giving thanks for Jesus Christ, the one who has given us hope for a better future. Read his story in the Bible's Gospels and (re)discover who Jesus really is.

At St James Church we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The details of the Christingle Service, Nativity Service, Carol Service and other events are on the poster below - all are welcome to join in.

'For a child has been born for us... and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (The Bible, Isaiah 9.6)

May you have a very happy Christmas and new year.

Rev'd Mark Anderson
Vicar, St James Bramley

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

OUR SERVICES

- 8th December - Light in the Darkness - 4pm
- 15th December - Christingle 10.30am
- 22nd December - Carol Service 6.30pm
- 24th December - Nativity Service - 4pm
- 24th December - Midnight Communion - 11.30pm
- 25th December - Christmas Day Communion - 10.30am

ADMIN@STJAMESBRAMLEY.ORG.UK

EVERYONE INVOLVED, LEARNING TOGETHER, GROWING COMMUNITY

This month's **Meet the Neighbours** features local resident, **James Trewin**, pilot and 'Mudlarker'.

How long have you been living in Bramley?

Myself, wife and son have been here since 2018, having moved from Basingstoke. We decided on Bramley partly because of a job move (London Heathrow, so needing to be nearer the M4) and also because we really wanted to live in a village. I grew up in rural Oxfordshire, so it was a natural decision for me! You're in a fairly rural setting, and I can get out for a run and within minutes be on quiet country lanes, yet can be in Paddington in under an hour.

Tell me about your job.

I'm a long-haul Airline Pilot based at London Heathrow. I basically fly to anywhere outside Europe - lots of different destinations, although on my particular aircraft type we tend to do more east - west flying, so the USA, Middle East, India and Asia.

Do you get the opportunity to see much of the world while you're away?

Occasionally yes, but not as much as you'd think. Modern commercial flying is very different to days gone by - when you'd hear stories of crews going off on long exotic trips! For example, a lot of USA trips see us having just 24 hours on the ground before flying home. Sometimes you'll get 48 hours, so if you can manage the jet lag and time change you might squeeze in a bit of R&R or sightseeing. Aviation today is an incredibly competitive industry, so having crews and aircraft on the ground for too long isn't ideal.



James and his son with some of their Mudlarking finds

Have you had any funny or unusual experiences while flying?

In terms of unusual, flying during Covid was right up there. Flying changed massively. Flights became mainly freight with empty passenger cabins, and airports became like ghost towns. The only constant was the world at 35,000ft, which was strangely tranquil. Another odd / funny time during all that was landing at a particular Far East destination where literally our entire "reception committee" would wear full blue Hazmat suits (including fully sealed head gear). We nicknamed them "the Smurfs" and it was a moment of light (if not surreal) humour in a world gone mad.

What are the best/worst parts of being a pilot?

I'm very lucky that I get to see some things that a lot of people don't - sunrise mid Atlantic coming back from the US, the Northern Lights at night over far north Canada, the Pyramids of Cairo from the air - so many things. It's an incredibly rewarding (if challenging) job, and delivering people safely and (hopefully) on time to their destination is very satisfying. The toughest part is probably dealing with constant jet lag and being away from home at times when you'd rather not be - Christmas Day for example, or a loved one's birthday. You need a very tolerant and understanding family!

What do you like to do when you're not travelling all over the world for work?

I'm a born-again motorcyclist (!) and my son and I also enjoy going to watch Reading FC play at home (he's addicted!). We also share a rather odd past time known as "Mudlarking".

Tell me more...

Mudlarking is basically beach combing for old bits and pieces, normally on the Thames up in London. The river was a dumping ground for several hundred years and it is full of interesting artefacts, some of which can be historically very valuable.

Are there any rules to follow?

Yes, you actually need a permit nowadays. Certain areas around Blackfriars bridge are prohibited areas for digging or surface disturbance due to historical preservation. Also, if your find is possibly of any great historical or financial value you need to report it to the Museum of London.

What have you found while mudlarking?

Our finds have included Victorian coins, a large piece of a Tudor cooking pot (with char marks where they actually burnt food in it), a 400-year-old clay pipe and even pieces of wood that had scorch marks from the Great Fire of London! We also found a Hindu Shankha shell - a hand carved Conch that's considered to be a valuable good luck charm. It's very educational for my 10 year old son, and a fun hobby too!

Win a Family Ticket to see Sleeping Beauty at the Anvil!

Bramley Magazine is very excited to be teaming up with Anvil Arts in Basingstoke – oh yes we are!

To win a family ticket (two adults and two children) to see Sleeping Beauty on **Friday 13 December** at 6pm, just answer the following question: What role in the pantomime does Tyger Drew-Honey play? Send the answer with your name, email address and a daytime telephone number to competitions@anvilarts.org.uk and one correct entry will be pulled out of the hat. Closing date: **Tuesday 10 December**.

Sleeping Beauty is a fabulous family pantomime and laugh-a-minute extravaganza with stunning sets, top musical hits, fantastic costumes, and exciting special effects. A beautiful Princess is cursed by the evil Carabosse on the eve of her 18th birthday party and can only be woken by true love's kiss. Can the Good Fairy's magical spell break the curse? Will Princess Rose find true love and live happily ever after?

Playing The Prince is Tyger Drew-Honey, best known as Jake in BBC's popular Outnumbered. Fairy Snowfall is played by Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, a presenter in the CBeebies

House, and the ever-comical Chris Pizzey (Mr Stephen in CBBC's Basil Brush) is back by popular demand to play the part of Lester the Jester, and to direct the production.

For more information visit the Anvil Arts website or call the box office on 01256 844244.



Greene King are running 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics.

For the month of January 2025 they will accept clean and empty sweet tubs, biscuit tubs and cracker tubs. Look for the 5/PP grade logo on the tub.

I am happy to store / deliver tubs so start saving!

Tubs can be left at Bramley Primary School from 4th November until January 31st 2025 during school opening hours or contact me for local collection - Becky Kirby 07733 466210 beckykirby@btinternet.com

Last year's total was 192, let's try and beat that this year.

Thank you for your support.



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Bramley Parish Council and Community Groups

Getting Ready for a Blooming Spring

At the Parish Council meeting in September, we discussed how to bring more springtime colour to Bramley. Councillor Malcolm Bell took up the task, consulting with Wilder Bramley and sourcing 1,700 spring bulbs ready to be planted around the Lane End area of the village.

After grass areas were trimmed and diggers cleared ditches along Lane End, Sherfield Road, and Bramley Green Road, mounds of earth were left as the perfect spots for planting. With help from Bramley Scout Group and other local volunteers, we spent three Saturdays in the thick of things—literally! The ground was tough, with tangled grass roots and thick mud, and some tools even gave up before we did!

Despite all the mud and patches of standing water, nothing could dampen our spirits. Volunteers, aged from 2 to over 80, dug, planted, and covered bulbs for two hours each session, rain or shine. With smiles, laughter, and a great sense of community, everyone contributed to what we hope will be a bright burst of colour come spring.

We appreciated the encouragement from people passing by who thanked us for our efforts, and we all look forward to seeing the results in just a few months.

The Parish Council extends its thanks to Wilder Bramley for their guidance and tools, the Bramley Scout Group for organizing and spreading the word, and to the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, and Squirrels who joined the planting efforts. And of course, a huge thank you to all the Bramley residents who stopped to chat, waved, or honked their horns in support. Spring can't come soon enough!

Bramley Parish Council




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This month's update from **Bramley Parish Council** is brought to us by **Cllr Keith Oborn**

Roadworks – It is safe to say that the subject of “digging up the road” is quite popular around Bramley at the moment. There have certainly been a lot of road works and, sadly, many of them have had nothing to do with our crop of potholes. However, it is good to see that a number of potholes on The Street and beyond have been fixed just in the last couple of weeks.

Neither Bramley Parish Council, nor Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) have control over where and when these local “events” take place. Granting permission for contractors to work, and ensuring coordination, is the job of Hampshire County Council Highways Department. Bramley Parish Council usually only gets informed at the same time as directly affected residents, if at all.

To find out about upcoming and existing roadworks, please check one.network at <https://one.network/> - this provides a zoomable map, and you can click on any marked point to get a few details of what the work is, how long it will last and who is responsible. If you ask the Parish Council (or Facebook), it just means someone else will have to check for you.

Having said all that, the PC has been quite worried about the recent spate of works and their impact. Some months ago we had the electrical work on Sherfield Road which caused traffic delays for a long time. More recently, we have had two major projects, where two telecom companies (Trooli and Gigaclear) have, one after the other, run new fibre cables roughly east to west, along the C32 and into side roads. From what we have heard, the first one (Trooli) didn't cause too much disturbance.

The second (Gigaclear, or to be exact their contractors) have caused a lot of complaints. The main ones that spring to mind are:

- Blocking driveways on The Street - this was resolved by the PC talking to the contractors. I am told they started knocking on doors to ask permission, which is the common sense way to do it!
- Damaging cables previously laid by Trooli with resultant loss of service – this was a matter between the two companies.

- A dangerously sited temporary traffic light on the bend at Bramley Corner
- As I write, temporary lights from just west of Ringshall Gardens for 2-300 yards

The third and fourth items have resulted in Parish Council representatives meeting with Gigaclear, along with our Borough and County ward councillors who have also received complaints. The meeting was a positive one, with Gigaclear being deeply apologetic for the shortcomings of their contractors. They are investigating what has been happening in Bramley and will take it forward to improve how they operate in the future. The good news is that the bulk of the Gigaclear roadworks are almost over, and they are scheduled to be complete in Bramley by the end of 2024.

Finally, Bramley PC is trying to open a dialogue with HCC Highways about how permits and scheduling are carried out. We are well aware of the frustrations that the community have had over the course of the last 12 months!

Other Construction Traffic – You may know about the battery farm that is being built on the north side of the Electricity Road, just past the Surgery. Until now that has not caused much disruption, but recently this project has been moving battery containers (think “full size shipping containers”) to the site. Unfortunately, they were brought in from the east, across the railway. Planning permission required them to come from the west, from the A340. The contractor has been contacted by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Planning Enforcement as this is a formal breach of planning conditions.

Beyond this, we expect more: the ENSO solar farm project is moving forward and construction is expected to begin early next year. This is right next to the site of another proposed battery farm at Withy Place, for which a planning application has been made. These two projects are at very different stages, so there is no way of telling at the moment if they will clash.

In addition, there are three applications for battery farms in the area around the Ash Lane Business Park and the Frog Lane corner nearby.

All of these will mean different sets of contractors moving heavy equipment along narrow lanes on different schedules. Because all of these projects are waiting for planning permission, we have no idea when any of them might start.

Housing and Development – Bramley PC has no powers other than to “comment” on Planning matters – in fact you, as individuals, have similar powers. As a formal consultee, however, we can act on behalf of the community, so what we say may carry a bit more weight. We would encourage everyone to keep an eye on the BDBC planning portal and comment on planning applications that affect Bramley – the planning portal is at <https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Parish Council meetings – we will be meeting as usual in December and January – scheduled dates are below. All meetings are in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall, and members of the public are always welcome. Agendas will appear on the Bramley PC website in due course.

- Planning Committee – 10 December 2024
- Full Council – 17 December 2024
- Planning Committee – 14 January 2025
- Full Council – 21 January 2025

That's All Folks – This has been a rather dry and depressing column. There are good things happening in our patch as well – wait till you see the daffodils at Bramley Green in spring (thanks to Cllrs Malcolm Bell and Jan Wright, the Scouts, and Wilder Bramley for that job!). We have bought the Longbridge Road “village green” and will be making it into an attractive local facility. There is a wealth of local groups, permanent and temporary, helping make Bramley a better place to live. More helpers are always welcome!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Contacts

Parish Clerk – Maxta Thomas, email clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk, phone 07810 692486

Bramley PC website – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – website www.basingstoke.gov.uk, phone 01256 844844

Good for planning issues, reporting fly tipping issues, issues with local playgrounds.

Hampshire County Council - website www.hants.gov.uk

Good for reporting highways and footpaths issues, broken street lights, parking issues, and flooding issues.

News from Clift Surgery

No one visiting or living in Bramley could fail to notice the seemingly endless roadworks that have been ripping up our village and surrounding areas.

These have affected everyone, but it has been a particularly difficult time for the surgery.

With the numerous traffic lights, road closures and building going on, plus the level crossing, travelling to and from the surgery has been difficult for those with appointments and visiting the dispensary.

Parking had improved with the newly painted bays, but it is still sometimes necessary to park on the road outside. Now cars are contending with the extra traffic caused by the building alongside the surgery and deliveries of building materials can occasionally block the road.

The surgery has had several retirements, staff changes and maternity leave over the previous months. Every individual has made a positive impact to the practice and patients they have cared for and we would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication. We are enjoying being kept up to date with their adventures and endeavours.

The surgery is about to welcome two new GPs in the coming months. They

have trained at the surgery and both wish to return to work here. There is also a new Health Care Assistant (HCA) about to start and a new phlebotomist is being trained by our newly promoted senior HCA and lead nurse.

An area we continue to enhance is the dispensary. Many will be aware that the dispensary is extremely busy and is taking longer than is ideal despite the team's best efforts. The surgery is working hard to provide the service patients deserve. It has therefore invested in upgrading to a new IT system and has successfully recruited new starters to support the changes.

There are times when medicines have to be sourced elsewhere, which can also delay issuing medicines, and there have been times when the delivery vans have not been able to get through to the surgery at the allotted time due to the road works. Although this has only meant a delay of 24 hours, this has had an impact.

The new electronic dispensing system will use bar codes and automated systems to track and order prescriptions and once embedded it should make the turnaround much quicker. You will still be able to submit a paper request if that is your preference.

If you have run out of your medication, please contact the surgery and you will be able to

get an emergency supply. No one needs to go without.

NB: with Christmas approaching, please put in your order early to cover Christmas and the New Year. Dispensary opening times 8.30am - 1 pm, 1 to 1.30 pm for emergency dispensing, and 2-6pm plus emergency dispensing until 6.30pm.

The PPG is working hard to support both patients and the surgery. Apart from listening to patient concerns and liaising with the surgery, it is about to install a planter in the front garden to make the outside more welcoming and will keep it topped up with flowers during the spring and summer.

A date for your diary. The Primary Care Network to which Clift Surgery belongs, is holding a Healthy Living Day at the Pavilion and Brocas Hall on Tuesday 14th January between 11am and 3pm. There will be three speakers, as well as stalls from local organisations to offer advice on keeping healthy. The PPG will be providing refreshments so do come along and see what is on offer. More details will be found on Facebook and on the PPG page on the Bramley Village Hub nearer the time.

Clift Surgery and the PPG would like to wish you a healthy and happy holiday season and wish you well for 2025.

The Meadow Garden update

It has been so gratifying to receive such positive comments about this garden. We aim to get as much interest in it as we can and include vegetables as well as flowers to attract bees. We are lucky not to get many pests, but neither do we get many birds, probably due to the exposed nature of the meadow. We do get lots of bees and they love the flowers we plant, but there are also plenty of mole hills surrounding us, making the ground very uneven. In early November we cleared the old plants, installed a new strawberry planter and looked inside the compost bin where we were delighted to find some really lovely compost. We removed some of the woody stems that hadn't broken down.

We have now planted approximately 500 daffodil and tulip bulbs, which we took up after flowering – a great sustainable way of gardening. Let's hope we get another great display in 2025.

Catherine Cox

Save the date! The Bramley Show

We are pleased to announce that the Bramley Show will be returning on **Sunday 14 September 2025** at the Bramley Village Hall.

The committee is working hard to bring you some new and interesting classes to enter, and the Scarecrows will be back.

New for 2025: Bramley in Bloom competition. This is the chance for you to share colour and interest in your front gardens, to give people pleasure and inspire the joy of gardening. If you don't have a front garden to enter, you can enter a planted tub or hanging basket. There is no entry charge, but you will need to fill in an entry form and be happy for people to look at your garden from the pavement. The judges will also need to know where you are!

We also plan to hold an **Open Garden event** so if you have a garden you are proud of and would be happy for people to visit it over the last weekend in June, please consider taking part. Further details will be available in the new year, but you can contact the Bramley Show at any time by emailing thebramleyshow@gmail.com

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the show this year and for making it such a success. Good luck with your gardens next year.



Three years of walking and friendship

On 24 October the Friendship Walking Group celebrated its 3rd birthday. How time flies! We are so grateful to Bramley Parish Council, without whose support we wouldn't be here. Apart from approximately 10 weeks during the Omicron outbreak and some dangerous weather conditions, it has met 146 times and walked approximately 500 miles (ooh, call for a song!!).

The group was established to focus on exercise, regardless of age and ability. We now have three groups walking at different speeds and distances, but everyone returns for the refreshments and to have a catch up.

Of course, friendship is equally important and there is always lots of laughter. People come who are quite new to the village as well as those who have lived here for a long time and on retirement, realise they don't know many people. Although we meet every week, to add a bit of variety, we do occasionally walk outside the village, but never too far from a café! We have a summer and Christmas party and of course there is the Christmas hat walk on the Thursday before Christmas.

Clift Surgery is very supportive and refers patients, as both walking and socialising are beneficial to good health.

If anyone would like to join us you are very welcome but avoid turning up unannounced just in case it is one of our out of Bramley days. We met at 10.30 at the Pavilion at Clift Meadow every Thursday. For further information please email the bramleyvillagehub@gmail.com



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Guides Update

Two of our younger Guides share their thoughts on coming to Guides.

Hi, my name is Erin from the Bramley Guides. I've only been here for, what, a few weeks? And yet it feels like forever. Every week is a new activity, new experience and a chance for new friends. There's so much we've done, I can barely keep up. Recently, me, the other Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows had a sleep-over at Tadley library. We crafted, drew pictures and even watched a movie! Not so recently, we went to a 5-day camp where we kayaked (and did other water-related activities), did scavenger hunts, and plenty of other things!

Hi, I'm Charlotte and I go to Guides in Bramley. It's so weird to think that I only joined last year as I feel like I've spent most of my life here. Recently, in Guides, we've seen animals like a python; this type used to be used alive for Emperors' necklaces, but pythons do love to squeeze! We also saw an African snail, cockroach, some gerbils, a lizard, and of course a tarantula. Another fun and exciting activity we've done recently is a Halloween disco before half term. We were able to dress up in our Halloween costumes and it was very fun showing off what we were being for the spooky night. We played brilliant games and had a mini dinner. At the end, we were given a Halloween light-up ring and a pack of Haribos. Guides has so far been an amazing experience and I definitely recommend you send your 10 – 14-year old girl here. She'll love it just like all of us in the Guide community.

Our Children in Need evening was a non-uniform evening, and the Guides brought cakes to sell to invited family and friends. In December, a group of Guides will be going on an outing to the panto at the Anvil (oh yes we will!) and

towards the end of term they will be learning a new craft for Christmas. Evenings in between will be filled with Skills Builders – varied activities that practice life skills.

Then, lo and behold, it will be 2025!!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Woodpecker, Unit Helper



(Top left) A python says hello to the Guides

(Top right) Sleep-over in Tadley Library

(left) Halloween games

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Bramley Scout Group Proudly Honours Remembrance Day

It was an incredibly proud moment for the Bramley Scout Group on Sunday 10 November. Every Section: Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels, joined by Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows formed an impressive Guard of Honour.

As parishioners made their way into the church, they were greeted by the proud faces of our young people, each section accompanied by their own flag bearer. These flag bearers had the honour of placing their flags at the altar, marking a significant moment not only for the ceremony but for the individuals themselves.

Following the service, our Scouts resumed their position in the Guard of Honour, paying respects until the last of the parishioners had left.

Bramley Scout Group have had the honour of doing this every year. However, this year was particularly noteworthy due to the record number of young participants, which included members from both the Scouts and Girlguiding communities.

Our joint Group photograph is a keepsake that will remind us of the strong community spirit and the commitment of our youth to honouring those who have served.

Bramley Scout Group

Bramley Guides

A group of Guides attended the Remembrance Day service at St James church. With their banner-bearer they were part of the line up to welcome the congregation and Wing Commander Gibson. Some of the Guides laid a wreath and read the names of the Fallen. They were a credit to our Unit and to Guiding in general.





BRAMLEY AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal went well and there was a good response to the Poppy stall in the foyer of Basingstoke hospital. We were grateful for the colourful presence of David Tagg, a

drummer with Old Basing RBL Band, which helped the stall stand out. Thank you to the many members and supporters who manned the stall.

Thanks also to Natalie Lerner who ran the Poppy stall at Sherfield Coffee Shop.

Counting is not yet complete, but from our collections in the villages around the north side of Basingstoke and our Poppy Stall at the Hospital, we have raised £13,573.92, with some donations still to be counted.



Many people turned out to mark Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorials and churches in our parishes and again on Armistice Day, 11 November. Many wreaths were laid in thanksgiving for the Fallen whom we promised to remember into the future of our troubled world.

These photos were taken at the Remembrance Service at St James' Bramley, and the Chinook flew over at precisely 10.40am

John Morley

Vice Chairman, Bramley & District RBL
 revjmorley@talktalk.net



Basingstoke Veterans Hub
 Basingstoke Veterans Hub meets every Monday, except bank holidays, from 10:30 to 12:30 at Oakridge West Community Association, Upton Crescent, Basingstoke, RG21 5SN in a relaxed manner for coffee, cake, biscuits etc. We also have visits from experts to offer advice as required.
 We have a monthly breakfast meet at Spruce Goose Basingstoke.
 Contact 07767 542336 for further information or visit Facebook: Basingstoke Veterans Hub

The Bramley and District RBL is still looking for a branch secretary to help with general administration and take minutes of meetings. It's a voluntary position but isn't too onerous. If you are interested or would like some more information, please contact Rhydian Vaughan at rhydian@battlefieldtours.co

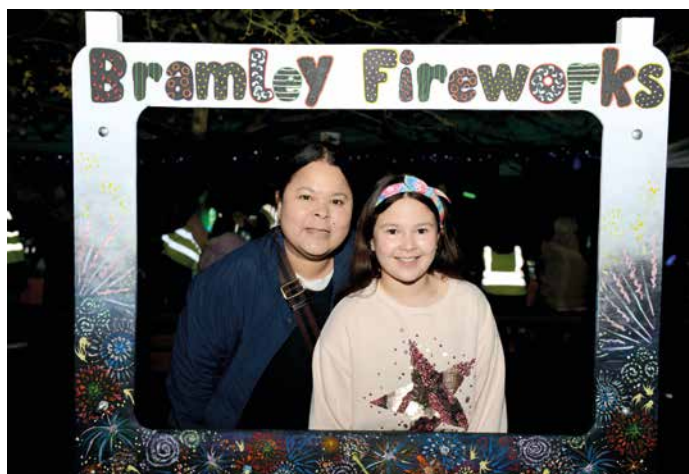
Thank you to everyone who attended the **Bramley Fireworks Night 2024**. The weather was in our favour and everyone had a wonderful time.

Lots of people enjoyed the delicious food and drink from local businesses: The Bramley Bakery, Journey World Eats, Gourmet Queens, Mobile Dessert Bar, Taryn’s Cakery, Jamie’s Popcorn and Candy Floss, Cafe 2 U and Tasty Sweet Bakes. The bar almost sold out of drinks with many enjoying the warm mulled wine.

The playground was awash with colour from children running around with glow toys, glitter and face paints. Lots of families had their photos taken in the selfie stand and many were dancing to the fun music provided by local DJ, Mike Tilley, from Supersonic Sounds.

We had an exciting countdown from the raffle winner to start the fireworks display. It was an absolutely dazzling display by the award-winning Phase One Fireworks, which ended with a community spirited round of applause.

It was fantastic to see so many come together from our local community to enjoy the evening and support our event.





We would like to give a special thank you to the Bramley Parish Council, Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council, Redrow Homes, Enso Energy, The Wellington Estate, White Hart Inn, Greenhouse Graphics, Simmons and Sons, Ellie and Rose Photography, The Bramley Bakery, Sherfield on Loddon Shop and Morrisons for very generously supporting the event.

We are two local volunteers, who revived the fireworks display seven years ago and continue to do so. It takes the two of us more than 6 months of planning and countless hours of preparation. However, we can't run a successful evening without all of the amazing volunteers that give up their time on the night to ensure the evening runs smoothly and successfully, including the Clift Meadow Trust volunteers, Bramley School Association volunteers, Bramley CofE Primary School staff & parents and the Aldermaston 2403 Air Cadets.

We are pleased to have raised an incredible £13,625 for the Bramley CofE Primary School and the Clift Meadow Trust village facilities.

Christine Delve and Jo Kemp Williams

Bramley and Romans Floral Society

If you happened to be passing the Village Hall at Sherfield on Loddon at a particular time during the afternoon of Thursday 7th November you might have been surprised to hear the ladies of Bramley Flower Club bursting into the refrain "I tawt I taw a puddy tat a creeping up on me!" It was sung with great gusto as we all remembered our own happy times watching cartoons over the years as children, then with our children and grandchildren. These memories were evoked by Carolyn Vanstone and her demonstration 'Cartoon Capers'. Her love of animation began as a child when her uncle showed her how to make a stick man wave at her when drawn multiple times in a flip book.

Her first demonstration aimed to replicate this memory using stick figures made from roses and pipe cleaners for arms and legs to represent a moving figure when the rotating circular design was spun around. Yellow chrysanthemums and red roses are an unusual colour combination for flower arrangers but what else could be used to represent Mickey Mouse. For her designs to depict Sylvester and Tweety Pie, which prompted us all to burst into song, she used black bear grass, white and yellow chrysanthemums, white stocks and roses. Her next design to

represent The Flintstones was very different as she used tropical foliage and flowers, including palm leaves and orange protea. She also treated us to a few gloriosa lilies in this design, which demonstrators rarely include, so a treat. Her container was a home made 'stone age' truck made from a hollowed-out log with wheels. Brilliant. For the wonderful spaghetti scene from Lady and the Tramp she made two lovely pastel designs and aptly included a few creamy 'pasta' Gerberas - Gerbera carbonara. Her final design, Bugs Bunny, used more tropical foliage and beautiful cymbidium orchids.

Music from the various cartoons was included as she went along: her enthusiasm for her subject was infectious. There were a lot of smiles all around the room and it really was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1:30 pm. The cost for visitors is £7, and they are always made very welcome by our friendly committee. For more information you can visit our Facebook page or contact Dusty on 01256 881420 or via email: TayMab1@aol.com



BRAMLEY WI

This month we spent an evening doing Christmas Crafts which produced some very pretty designs, as you can see from the photographs. Some committee members had made the shapes in advance and then the members just had to stuff and decorate them.

We also had an outing to Lasham garden centre during November. We had lunch and then the staff at the Edinburgh Wool shop put on a fashion parade of all the new items of clothing for the season. They also gave us a glass of fizz to enjoy while watching the show. A very good day out.

We also managed to get a walk in during November - along the Aldermaston Canal and then lunch afterwards.

We finished the Rotary Boxes and sent them off; we managed to fill 20 of them with all sorts of items for children, aged 12 months to teenagers.

This month is our Christmas party (where has 2024 gone!).

From all the members of the WI we would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Jane Matthews

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Sherfield & District Gardening Club: Growing Together

The Members' Christmas Party is on **Monday 16 December** at 7pm in the Liddell Hall. We'll have the traditional bring-and-share Christmas buffet supper and this year we have mulled wine, with a non-alcoholic alternative. Red and white wine will also be provided but you are very welcome to bring your own drinks. Yes, we'll have a quiz and a raffle of fabulous Christmas-themed prizes, so please remember your cash or credit card! Christmas jumpers and other festive decorations are encouraged, but not obligatory. If you're coming to the party and haven't let us know what food you're bringing, please contact Ruth. Thank you and Happy Christmas!

Something new on **Monday 20 January 2025** - our own local version of "Gardeners Question Time". It's called "New Start. New Year. But what grows well here?"

Four experienced SDGC members have kindly agreed to be "panellists". One of the team will host and there will be plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion.

It's always interesting to hear about plants and gardens from around the world and there are so many ideas on TV's *Gardener's World*, *Beechgrove*, and in magazines.

- But what will survive, and thrive, in your garden in North East Hampshire?
- Can you avoid expensive mistakes by choosing plants which will love being in your garden?
- Are there varieties of fruits or vegetables which grow especially well in our local conditions and produce good, tasty harvests?
- Or plants which will flower beautifully and give you a long season of interest?

- Do you want your containers and pots to be longer-lasting and more exciting?
- Or to learn how to make compost?
- Would you like hints and tips from seasoned local gardeners?

Come along on 20 January to kick-start your new gardening year. New members very welcome!

For more information, please call Ruth Johnston (07867 502542) or Diana Stacey (07554 440537) or email sherfieldgardeningclub@gmail.com

Date	Event	Speaker
20 Jan	"New Start. New Year. But what grows well here?"	Speakers from SDGC
17 Feb	"Creating an award-winning garden at our first attempt."	Andrew Williamson & Laura Hall
17 Mar	"The Joy and Beauty of Hellebores."	Maureen Cole
14 Apr	"Climate Adaptive Gardening."	Kelvin Mason
19 May	"Clever ways to grow Vegetables."	Martyn Cox
31 May	<i>Percy's Plant Sale – in front of the Village Hall</i>	
14 Jun	<i>Plant Stall at the Sherfield Village Fete</i>	
16 Jun	Topic and speaker to be announced	
21 Jul	Topic and speaker to be announced	
7 Sep	<i>Sherfield Fruit, Flower, Produce, Art & Craft Show</i>	
15 Sep	"The Walled Garden."	Gillian Taylor
20 Oct	"The answer lies in the soil."	Geoff Hawkins
17 Nov	Topic and speaker to be announced	
15 Dec	Members' Christmas Party	

Bramley SpeedWatch

Road deaths and serious injuries in the UK, in 2023:

- 1,695 people were killed, that is approximately 1 death every 5 hours.
- The police reported that 58% of deaths on the road had speed as a road safety factor.
- 28,967 were seriously injured.
- Aside from during the pandemic, there has been little change in the number of people killed and injured on our roads in the last decade (1,854 road deaths in 2014).

Don't be one of next year's statistics. Be safe out there, watch your speed and enjoy the Christmas and New Years celebrations.

Camera Data (August – October) *Note: Road works on The Street in the vicinity of camera.

Month/Year	Verified Speeders (= >35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest Hour	Hour most speeding recorded	Illegal Vehicles
Aug 2024	2616	13	5am	3pm	73
Sept 2024*	1087	7	5am	3pm	47
Oct 2024*	1392	11	9am	3pm	34

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

Four manned deployments were undertaken during October. A total of 40 vehicles were reported to the Police from the 613 vehicles checked - 7%.

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

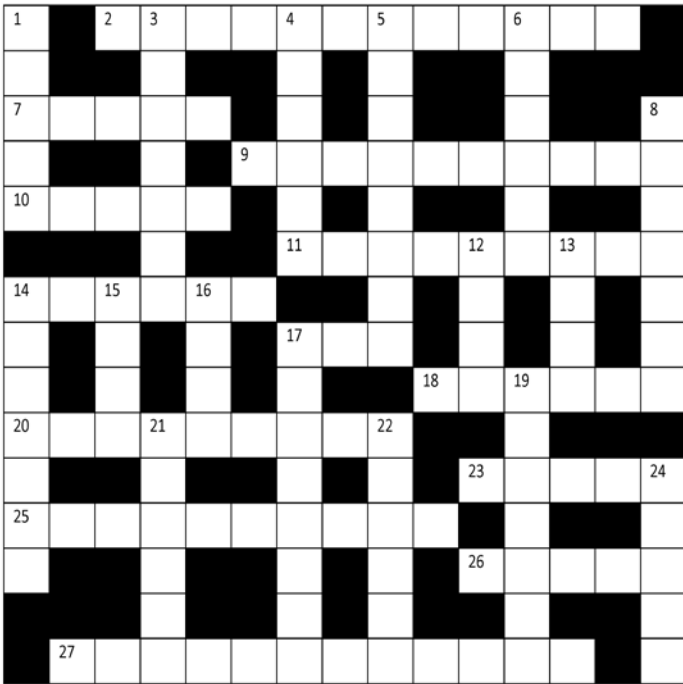
Graham White, Bramley SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (October):

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph	Average speed
The Street by Churchlands	31	East	46%	18	30
Farriers	31	West	47%	9	30

Cryptic Crossword No: 84

See page 30 for the answers.



Across

- 2 After making pimmis, I won't log creating tank of water. (12)
- 7 Low point, not a description I relish to start with. (5)
- 9 Noisy timepiece for sleepy people. (5,5)
- 10 Critical, but a cut expected with a hidden quality (5)
- 11 I run it into chaos for food. (9)
- 14 Short commercial opening for important arrival. (6)
- 17 Gases as I recollect in the beginning. (3)
- 18 Song derived within a ball adventure perhaps. (6)
- 20 Platform for group to take a position. (9)
- 23 Parts of dog on the radio for break. (5)
- 25 Thought an argument against team seeing colour. (10)
- 26 Geometric term or to fish. (5)
- 27 Seasonal group seen around Christmas. (5,7)

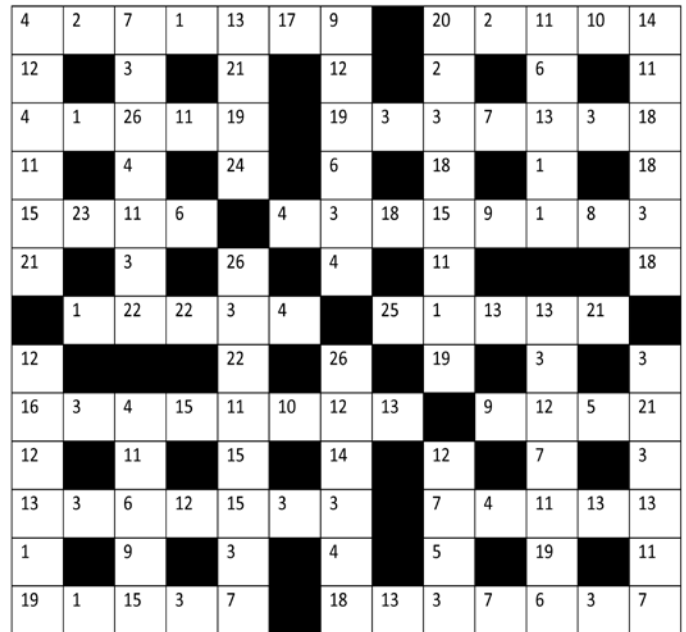
Down

- 1 So a nice treat awaits initially for good children from this man. (5)
- 3 Chirp may cost a penny perhaps. (7)
- 4 Wizard spent all summer lingering inside. (6)

- 5 Roar, rant together for storyteller. (8)
- 6 Egg dish some let be disguised. (6)
- 8 Pole family Ned scraped. (7)
- 12 Greek character, perhaps the smallest ? (4)
- 13 Lazy god ? (4)
- 14 An arab ICA engineer finds his coffee. (7)
- 15 Character description that carries blood on the radio. (4)
- 16 Stun around to be crazy. (4)
- 17 Sure a mat would be used for unpaid people. (8)
- 19 Awful earner disguised as student. (7)
- 21 Herds a concoction for one of Santa's reindeer. (6)
- 22 River write to dredge. (6)
- 24 The ventilator used to hold an occasion. (5)

CodeWord No: 70

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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Autumn at Little Apples

We welcomed the children back after half term to celebrate Diwali and Bonfire Night. The children loved making some super firework crafts and exploring the lights and colours of Diwali.

The children have made poppies for Remembrance and discussed people who make sacrifices to keep us safe. This leads into talking about people who help us and the children have enjoyed dressing up as police officers and firefighters. They also love to play schools and teachers.

For more information about what we are up to, and some lovely photos, do check out our Facebook page.

Going forward we are thinking about our families and our emotions. Learning about and understanding emotions is a very challenging part of the early years and it helps children regulate their behaviour, resist impulses and learn to wait. At Little Apples, we support the children with this, which is often described in early years as “self regulation”. In the New Year we will look at this in more detail but in this edition, we thought it

was important to cover our plans for **Christmas!**

This year, the children will be learning about the less material side of Christmas, spending time with family and friends and helping those who aren't as lucky as we are. However, there will still be a lovely Christmas party with an entertainer and a visit from Santa after our older children perform our little Nativity play. The children are rehearsing favourite Christmas songs, complete with Makaton signs and learning about the



Christmas story, we are all very excited for the Christmas Party Day.



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2025! See you in the New Year!

If you'd like come and have a look around with a view to registering your child please get in touch with us at manager@littleapples.org or phone 07598 588460



News from Butter Daisy

The Early Years profession is so much more than just playing. It is a purposeful career driven by a passion to help children to reach their full potential. It takes knowledge, understanding, experience, patience, kindness, dedication and so much more to be a nurturing educator. At Butter Daisy we are proud to have a team of individuals with skills such as these, which is why we celebrated them on “Nursery Practitioner Day” and invited parents to share little notes of gratitude too.

Recently, the children have had opportunities to learn much about the world: customs, traditions and how to look after the world. Even our babies had a go at recycling! The children have immersed themselves in their experiences; practically by scooping out the insides of pumpkins to make sensory dough for Halloween. We shared the story of Rama and Sita, and how/why Diwali is celebrated as the ‘Festival of Lights’ and the children also had a go at making their own rangoli patterns and Diva lamps. Many of our children visited

the spectacular fireworks display in the village and have been very excited to see and hear fireworks in the evenings. At nursery the children have used a variety of different tools, materials and methods to make their own firework creations.

Additionally, we feel it is important that our children recognise and commemorate Remembrance Day. We have spent time delicately sharing why this is significant. Our



Pre-Schoolers particularly, have been reflecting with gratitude as we answered their questions about why we are wearing poppies. Children have been inspired to make their own poppies and our younger children were encouraged to join in 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



At Phillips Law we understand that ensuring compliance with employment legislation and creating a positive working environment is crucial for small business owners. Here are our top 6 employment law tips to help achieve this:

1. Develop and Maintain Key Employment Policies

Having clear, written policies is essential for compliance and provides a strong defensive position if claims are brought against you as an employer. Key policies that we recommend include:

- **Health and Safety Policy:** Required if you have five or more employees, this policy should outline how you manage health and safety in your business.
- **Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures:** Under the Employment Rights Act 1996, you must provide employees with information about these procedures.
- **Equal Opportunities Policy:** While not legally required, it demonstrates your commitment to preventing discrimination and promoting equality.
- **Data Protection Policy:** Crucial for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this policy outlines how you handle employees' personal data.
- **Working Time Regulations:** A policy that outlines compliance with the Working Time Regulations 1998, including rules on working hours, rest breaks, and annual leave.
- **Family Friendly Policies:** Understand that employees will have a number of statutory rights in respect of dependant leave, parental, maternity, adoptive, paternity rights and leave.

2. Provide Clear Employment Contracts

Ensure that all employees have a written statement of employment particulars, which includes the legally required key terms and conditions of employment. This is a legal requirement under the Employment Rights Act 1996. Regularly review and update these contracts to reflect any changes in the law or with the employee's roles and responsibilities.

3. Right to Work Checks

Check the identity documents of all new starters and ensure before they start any work that they have both the right to live and work in the UK. Also ensure that you document when, how and who undertook those checks.

4. Implement Effective Training and Communication

- **Employee Handbook:** Develop an employee handbook that includes all relevant company policies and procedures. Ensure that all employees are aware of and have access to the handbook.
- **Training Programs:** Provide thorough induction training for new employees and ongoing training for all staff to ensure they understand company policies and legal requirements.
- **Open Communication:** Foster open communication between management and employees to address any concerns or issues promptly.

5. Monitor and Manage Employee Well-being

- **Sickness and Absence Policy:** A clear policy on how to report sickness and manage absences can help manage expectations and ensure consistency.
- **Support and Well-being Initiatives:** Promote employee well-being through initiatives such as health and wellness programs, flexible working arrangements, and access to occupational health services.
- **Return-to-Work Interviews:** Conduct return-to-work interviews after each period of sickness absence to identify any underlying issues and provide support to the employee.

6. Seek Legal Advice and Stay Informed

Seek regular legal advice to ensure compliance with employment legislation and address any potential issues before they escalate. Phillips Law can be on hand to provide you with as little or as much support as you need to navigate the complex world of employment law with ease.

Stay informed by subscribing to our employment law updates which update your knowledge on employment law and best practices to stay compliant and protect your business. By following these tips, we believe that small business owners can ensure compliance with employment laws and create a positive and productive working environment.

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As we adapt our homes for the winter, our resident bugs and parasites are adapting too, as **John Stubbs** explains in **Indoor Evolution**

I guess this time of year, we're more likely to be settled in a comfy spot inside with a mince pie, than braving the rigours of the great outdoors – that's where nature has too good a chance of showing us who's boss. Well then, keep out of its way, stay in control, we know what's going on indoors. Or do we, really?

When I think of the word 'evolution', without any particular context, as it were, what comes to mind is a few of our remote ancestors dressed in animal skins, low-browed, surveying the prospect from the entrance to their cave, the odd dinosaur way in the distance. That's pretty daft, really. And evolution itself wasn't invented, or even discovered, by that Charles Darwin. Nor is it something that just happened æons ago: it has always applied, and always will apply, to every living thing, wherever they are. Oddly enough, it's going to be very busy inside your home, perhaps one of the most rampant evolutionary hotbeds around us humans. After all, apparently we spend on average some 90% of our time indoors – so it's got to be where we have a big effect: we change the temperatures, lighting, humidity, access, food supplies and so on to suit ourselves; the local biome has to adapt or die. Change in the local environment is one of the biggest drivers of evolution. Without such changes, a random gene mutation would stay as just that, and not become part of the population if it brought no immediate benefit: only if it could help adaptation would it have a chance to become a permanent part of the genome.

Ever since humankind started living in fixed abodes, for instance something like the tree-platforms still used by some apes, other populations joined us there. Parasites, bugs and fleas soon caught on that here was a handy niche: the little pest I found, shown here, is the pantry moth – now pretty much a fixture where grain is stored, and the ancient Egyptians had a very similar pest. Its larvæ have learnt to bite through thin plastic packaging, would you believe. Most incomers, however, are quite benign, from familiars such as cats, dogs and spiders, to a sort of normal range of fungi, bacteria and viruses that typically settle in our homes. Very patient researchers have catalogued some 100 invertebrates and 8,000 odd bacteria in a survey of 50 homes – this sort of exercise must make the work of Bramley's traffic counters look really exciting.

The more that we know about our cohabitants the better. We're very aware of the worst of them – bed-bugs and rats are not highly rated. There's a raft of armaments from pesticides to vacuum cleaners sold to deal with some of them: the trouble is that, as with an untended garden, the worst aggressors tend to thrive, like the brambles and stingers, in the gaps left after a clearance. These are the tough guys; cockroaches have been found to become averse to sweetened baits within just a few years – that's the sharp end of evolution. The range of chemicals used in the home is ever expanding, flea-powder, ant killer, fly-spray, anti-septic soaps and wipes, antibiotics and so on, all used in random doses. This gives ideal conditions for the evolution of strains resistant to any such controls: that's bad news in itself, but a totally sterile environment would be even worse for us.

There's increasing evidence that the human immune system relies on exposure to a range of microbes and suchlike in

the environment to properly distinguish friendly ones from foes. As it normally works, the balance is not that difficult to maintain – the object is to reach a reasonable level of hygiene, with both good ventilation and air quality, without spreading our extra toxins round the home unnecessarily. These less obvious cohabitants are only rarely a serious threat: it's probably fewer than one hundred of the many thousands of bacteria, infective parasites and viruses in the home that can really make us ill. All the rest either control each other or mop up detritus – like the several million skin particles each of us sheds every day, and our spiders managing the fly and bug population, quite unthanked.

Rather than just more regulations, better co-ordination between the various remedies on offer could reduce the risks, saving the big-gun pesticides for controlled use when essential. And perhaps a walk down to St Agnes' Fountain would be a lot better than sitting indoors by those blazing pine logs...



Basingstoke Concert Band

invites you to their

Annual Christmas Concert at
Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT on
Sunday 8 December 2024 starting at **3.00pm**

Tickets £10 (U16 free) available from:
 band members, at the door, or visit

<https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/28274#/>

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

Wilder Bramley looks to the Loddon

“And when tired at last, he sat on the bank, while the river still chattered on to him, a babbling procession of the best stories in the world, sent from the heart of the earth to be told at last to the insatiable sea.” (Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*.)

Our waterways nurture life and our future depends on keeping them clean. The UK is home to 85% of the world’s chalk streams – ecologically rare and special habitats. Their pure, constant water, from underground chalk aquifers flows across gravel beds to create ideal habitats to support a huge variety of wildlife and provide protection from flooding.

Our River Loddon is a chalk stream which rises at Basingstoke and travels north until it reaches the Thames. There are two important local stretches of river which are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): near Stanford End Mill and Bow Brook, which runs through Bramley.



The exceptional water clarity of a healthy chalk stream



Map of River Loddon and its tributaries



A Galapagos turtle

Our rivers are struggling to thrive due to different types of pollution and we need to help them become healthy again, for nature and for communities, so, over the coming months, Wilder Bramley are starting a collaborative project with Natural Basingstoke and the South East River Trust to survey the water quality of our local rivers. We will keep you updated ...

Meanwhile, we were recently treated to a fascinating talk about the Galapagos Islands, given by two Wilder Bramley ecologists, David and Jane Hatter.

These islands were made famous by Charles Darwin, who first started considering evolution - on which he based his book, *The Descent of Man* - by looking at the wildlife there. He observed strange and unique creatures, so tame that they did not run away from man. Sadly, this was the downfall of many of the islands’ inhabitants, who were pushed to the brink of extinction and beyond.

One factor in favour of the Galapagos was their scarcity of water so they never became somewhere that man could colonise effectively. However, they did become a base for whaling ships for around 70 years, as this was an area where several whale species came to feed or breed in the nutrient rich upwellings of ocean currents.

Today there are a number of ecological projects currently underway there and we heard ideas about how some of them could be adapted to help give the wildlife here in Bramley a helping hand.

Volunteer with us! We are currently looking for someone to help our busy Events Manager with the organisation of our talks and events programme. Can you spare around 4 hours a month to help us? If so, we’d love to hear from you. Please email: wilder.bramley@gmail.com.

In the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings an inspiring visit to Southwick House, near Portsmouth, brought home the realities of the largest amphibious assault in history to Probus members.

Southwick House was the Supreme Headquarters of the main allied commanders, led by Allied Supreme Commander General Dwight D Eisenhower, and had a pivotal role in the planning of D-Day. The grounds became the Main Tactical Base for the 21st Army Group for their forthcoming invasion plans.



Richard Callaghan, the curator, gave an extensive narrative about the map room that still contains the enormous graphic showing the invasion plans. His talk was interwoven with anecdotes about incidents involving the main characters that gave life to this history lesson.

Continued on page 27

We heard how General Eisenhower became very close to his English driver Kay Summersby but was prevented by the Republican party from taking her back to America, as they declared that they could not accept a divorcee running for the Presidency. He remained married to Maime and served two terms as President of the United States.

Deception was used to convince the German high command that the invasion would come across the shortest route from Kent to Pas de Calais, which caused German divisions to move from the Normandy region.

James Stagg was the meteorologist providing weather forecasts to the senior planning group. As a civilian it was thought he would have difficulty in ensuring his predictions would be taken seriously so he was presented with the uniform of a RAF Group Captain. It was Stagg that convinced General Eisenhower to postpone the assault from the planned day of 5th June to 6th June 1944.

6,000 ships were involved; they moved from all regions of southern England to the main dispersal area that became known as Piccadilly Circus and then had to pass through corridors cleared through minefields in the Channel. Due to detailed planning only seven ships were involved in collisions.

Despite the break in the weather there was still a swell, and the floating Sherman tanks were launched too far out from the shore resulting in only four out of thirty-two reaching the beach. It had been necessary to ensure that the beach would support such vehicles so nighttime investigations were carried out in the previous weeks; fortunately they were not spotted by the land-based Germans.

In the adjacent bar room, the original weather maps were on the wall along with other memorabilia including models of two Landing Craft Tank ships that were the subject of a talk some years ago by a Probus Club member. He had trained as a radio operator on such vessels whose role was getting armoured vehicles on to the beaches because their bow dropped on to the shore. Once unloaded they could raise their bow and reverse off the beach ready to return to England for another cargo of armoured vehicles.

The successful completion of Operation Overlord on the Normandy beaches was the beginning of the end of WW2.

(See photos on opposite page)

Following his story last month, set around the time of the gunpowder plot, **Jordan Rollinson** moves events forward to **December, 1614**

Samuel could feel the frost's chill even through his soles. The frozen crust had a bite that chewed through his leathers and sunk its teeth into his raw skin.

"Sam!" His voice was deep, but the cold air made its surface shrill, with a crackle like steps on an icy lake. Sam stopped mid stride, raising his arm for 'halt'. He turned on his heel - his younger friend Edward was already shivering. Edward could barely hold his bow, nor could he move quietly. The arrows rattled; an early warning for the woodland animals.

"These are uselessly dated..." Samuel mumbled, knocking an arrow and aiming it at a deer that, by a miracle, hadn't jolted from Edward's yelling and pointing. Like Edward, she shivered, the muscles of her limbs tight and malnourished from the winter's famine. Samuel was not even close to loosing his arrow, his fingers still held the cold drawstring when the crack sounded. Its echo sounded like a tree being snapped, and the deer fled.

Samuel couldn't fault her, himself dropping defensively to one knee. A heartbeat, maybe two, and the smoke slithered through the barren branches. Voices, well spoken with a French lilt swiftly followed.

"...a good shot I am sure, but the wind-"

"The wind did no such thing! These damned pistols never aim true."

Samuel recognised those voices as aristocracy. Edward hurried up behind him in the brush.

"What was that?" The boy asked.

"Black-powder." Samuel only needed to mention the explosive's name, and its reputation did the rest. Edward's breath sighed, a fog amidst the cold air. He was impressed. Samuel was not. That test shot had both startled the deer, and missed her. She had won another day to shiver, desperately scratching for grass.

Samuel caught the glint of metal in the cold sun; a stubby body, throned on a wooden seat. Smoking, its waxed string still burnt with an ember.

Fat, pale fingers clutched what Samuel assumed to be a handle, like that of a trowel. It was an ugly and foreign shape. Fading, their French accents drew further away, too enamoured with their European toy to notice Edward or Samuel. 'Just as well,' thought Samuel, 'this is not our land.' Edward and Samuel both slid their arrows back into their makeshift quivers, trudging through the cold snow in roughly the same direction as the frightened doe. They spoke as they did.

"If they had not-" Edward began.

"But they did. There will be another." Samuel cut him off, but his promise was not wholly reassuring.

"I do not care. The doe was within my aim." Edward couldn't see, but Samuel had rolled his eyes. The boy had been shivering, fumbling with the arrow too much to even draw.

It had been eight years since Fawkes, and none of those winters had been this cold. Samuel grimaced, and moved ahead.

Beneath their feet brambles lay dried, wrapped like a crown around roots. Black-powder soot stained the snow a dirty grey.

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(A DBS Check will be completed during the Course).

BECAUSE CHILDHOOD CAN'T WAIT!

Mondays	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pregnancy Yoga with Sam 6pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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>Beavers 5.45pm – 6.45pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Scouts 7-8.30pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis – 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

Wednesdays	
<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1st Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1st Bramley Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>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>Sue Cordery Yoga 6-7pm and 7-8pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Thursdays	
<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays	
<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall

Saturdays	
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow
<i>HIPP Pilates 9.30-10.30m</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate 11.00-12.00pm</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Live Country Music with Dance 8pm 1st and 3rd Saturday each month</i>	Village Hall

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

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

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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 Tea and Coffee morning	Jane Kettridge		jk.cmcc@btconnect.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.walsh59@outlook.com	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Classical Pilates	Naomi Baker		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com https://www.loddonsportsfc.com	
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Friendship Walks			info@bramleyvillagehub.com	
Guides	Viv Salem		firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Kerry Frost		kerry.frost@southernhealth.nhs	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Body Control Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Rainbows	Lizzie Ayres	07917 773563	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	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Sue Cordery Yoga	Sue Cordery	07884 138026	suecordery@icloud.com www.suecorderyyoga.com	
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 84 Solution

EVENT	24		
DEEPE	22		
DASHER	21		
LEARNER	19	CAROLISNIGERS	27
AMATEURS	17	ANGLE	26
NUTS	16	CONSIDERED	25
VAIN	15	PAUSE	23
ARABICA	14	BANDSTAND	20
IDOL	13	BALLAD	18
IOTA	12	AIR	17
SKINNED	8	ADVENT	14
OMELET	6	NUTRITION	11
NARRATOR	5	ACUTE	10
MERLIN	4	ALARMLOCK	9
WHISTLE	3	NADIR	7
SANTA	1	SWIMMINGPOOL	2

Down

Across

CodeWord No: 70 Solution

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

Know your rights: Working under the new 'Tipping Act'

From 1 October 2024, employers must pass on all tips to their workers, in line with a new law known as the 'Tipping Act'. Tips include money given to employees by customers, as well as service charges that are added to the bill.

The new law applies if an employer collects tips and shares them out, for example in a pub, bar, cafe, restaurant, hairdressers, beauty salon or casino. If a customer directly gives you a tip in cash or through a tipping app it isn't covered by this new law. It's your responsibility to pay tax on tips you get directly from customers.

An employer doesn't have to share tips equally between workers. They have to make sure the process is fair, clear and reasonable. For example, they might decide to give a bigger share of tips to staff who have worked at the company for longer. An employer can also consider the customer's intention, for example, if the customer wanted to tip a particular worker, they might choose to give all of the tip to that employee.

You should get your tips by the end of the month after they were given. An employer may have to take some money from your tips to pay for any tax or National Insurance.

They can't take anything else from your tips, for example admin charges when tips are made using card payments. To find out more please go to: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/pay/check-what-tips-and-service-charges-youre-entitled-to/

If you are an employer, you can get advice from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), an independent organisation that gives employees and employers advice about people's rights at work, please go to: www.acas.org.uk/contact

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity and our advisers provide free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever your enquiry involves. If you need help, please call our Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9-5pm.

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19-20 Westminster House, Potters Walk, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS.

www.cabasingstoke.org.uk

Basingstoke Gang Show – Meet your local cast!

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket Theatre for its 29th stunning variety show extravaganza! Get down with the Gang as they showcase a series of sensational songs, comical choreography, super sketches, and a whole lot more.

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the **best-selling** and **longest running ‘family variety show’** in the South of England and showcases an extremely talented cast – **recognise any of the cast living in your area pictured here?**

Audiences will be entertained as the cast of 70 local Scouts & Guides take to the stage to perform the 45th anniversary show across 11 performances, many over half term in February 2025.



Interested? Tickets are on sale **now** via www.anvilarts.org.uk book early so you, your friends and family experience this feel-good show at The Haymarket.

Dates are **Thursday 13th to Saturday 22nd February 2025**, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 15th and 22nd February.

Ticket prices: Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24. Ticket prices include £3 booking fee via Anvil Arts.

Group booking discount of £1.00 off each ticket for every 10 purchased before 31st January 2025. Discounts not available with online bookings.

Local businesses can apply to be a sponsor of Basingstoke Gang Show with packages from as little as £100 up to £2,000. To find out more go to www.basingstokegangshow.com/sponsorship



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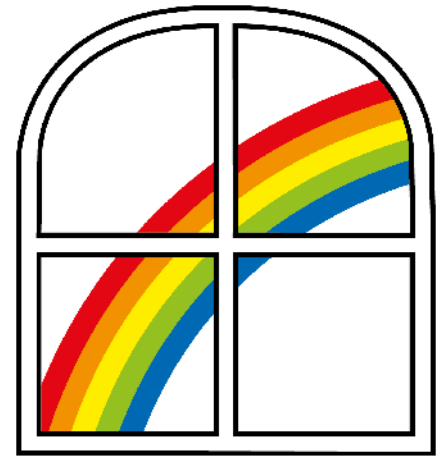
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