

September 2024

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



- St James Patronal Festival
- Hampshire 3 Peaks Challenge
- Poon Siblings Continue Their Skating Success

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**September 2024**

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

**Editorial**

Welcome back to the Bramley Magazine after a fabulous summer! We finally got a bit of sunshine and some hot days after a dreary start. Although, I am writing this in August, so I have a couple of weeks of summer left.

It's been a busy summer. Since the last edition, England lost the Euros final, Great Britain won 65 medals at the Olympics, a new Prime Minister was elected and Bramley voted in a new MP, Alex Brewer of the Liberal Democrats – to name but a few events. Bramley residents have also had a busy summer. Some of the Bramley Primary School children took on the Hampshire 3 peaks (p. 15), the Poon siblings have continued their skating achievements (p. 18) and some hard working members of St James Church put on a 4 day festival in celebration of St James' Day (p. 16 and 17). The Village Hall had some upgrades and the Bramley Show team have been working hard to prepare for the show on 15th September. You can submit entries up until 12th September – see p. 6 for how you can get involved. There are lots of other updates within in the magazine from different community groups like Wilder Bramley and the Bramley Guides.

The subject of planning and housing features in this edition as ever. This is a key subject of interest and discussion for many in Bramley, and even more so following the recent election and appointment of the new Labour Government. The Parish Council update is on p. 11 and Rhydian Vaughan, our Hampshire County Councillor shares his views on p. 21. We try to feature updates on planning; while also including content of the lovely green spaces we have in Bramley, which makes our village such a special place to live in.

I hope you enjoy the issue. I'm off to enjoy the last of the summer.

**Georgie**

Joint Editor

"Ah, summer – that long anticipated stretch of lazy, lingering days, free of responsibility and rife with possibility. It's a time to hunt for insects, master handstands, practice swimming strokes, conquer trees, explore nooks and crannies, and make new friends."

**Darrell Hammond**

Cover Photo: St James' Day by Elza Cooper

Material for the October issue to be sent (preferably by email) to the editor no later than 15th September please.



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or search for our facebook page

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•You can choose any of our opening hours as EYE grant funded hours, whether your child is eligible for the universal funding of 15 hours per week age 3-4, 30 hours per week or the 15 hours per week 2 year old offer.

**OUR COMMUNITY**

**Bramley SpeedWatch**

**Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:**

6 manned deployments were undertaken during June and July. A total of 86 vehicles were reported to the police from the 868 vehicles checked, giving a hit rate of 10%. The top speed recorded was 45mph.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (June and July):**

SID Site	No. Days	Traffic	% 30 mph+	No. 60 mph+	Max Speed	V85	Av. speed
The Street by Churchlands	31	East	48%	23	77	35	31
Farriers	31	West	48%	4	66	36	30

**Tax and MOT**

It is surprising the amount of vehicles that are recorded by the camera by the Village Hall that have no tax certificate or MOT, or in some cases, have neither. Please check your vehicles status for its tax and MOT status. It's easy to overlook, but it could be a costly mistake, including possible insurance implications.

If you have any question/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

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**Church diary for September...**

<b>1st</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
<b>8th</b>	<b>15th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>15th</b>	<b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>22nd</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>29th</b>	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>
8.00	BCP Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Benefice Morning Worship – St James

**...and into October**

<b>6th</b>	<b>19th Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>– Harvest Festival</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins – St James
<b>13th</b>	<b>20th Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>20th</b>	<b>21st Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>27th</b>	<b>Last Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

**Benefice Services**

**September...**

<b>1st</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's
10.00	Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
<b>8th</b>	<b>15th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Café Church, Sherfield Park Community Centre
<b>15th</b>	<b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall – Harvest Festival
<b>22nd</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard's
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<b>6th</b>	<b>19th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon
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<b>13th</b>	<b>20th Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's – Harvest Festival
<b>20th</b>	<b>21st Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
<b>27th</b>	<b>Last Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.30	Morning Worship – St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon

**From the Registers**

**Baptism**

Toby AFFLECK  
21st July St James Church

**Funeral**

Douglas SAUNDERS  
9th August St James Church

**The Bramley Show**

Sunday 15th September  
1 pm – 4 pm.

The Show is almost upon us, and we are very much looking forward to seeing what everyone is making and growing.



It is too late to enter the photography competition, but there is still time to enter all of the other classes. The closing date is Thursday 12th September and entries can be made online or posted. See the entry forms for details on [www.bramleyvillagehub.com](http://www.bramleyvillagehub.com).

Even if you can't enter this year, then do still come down to the Village Hall between 1 pm and 3.30 pm, where you will find tea and delicious cakes, a children's scavenger hunt, a chance to judge the scarecrows, a very exciting raffle, including a bottle of champagne, a hamper, a photo shoot, Lego, and a voucher for an MOT at Mekanix, plus lots more. At 3.30pm there will be a sale of excess produce and cakes and the presentation of cups and the name of the winning scarecrow!

Please email any queries to [thebramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:thebramleyshow@gmail.com).

**Bramley WI**

We are now almost back to normal with our monthly meetings, which is great. After the lockdown it is so good to see everyone back.

For the June meeting, we had lunch down at Clift Meadow. It was going to be outside, but the weather was a bit changeable. Everyone brought their own lunch, but the committee supplied the cake.

The July meeting was our birthday party in which we had entertainment by 'Belle Canto Trio'. They were wonderful. We had all the doors and windows open as it was a hot evening, so I think that all The Street could hear them! They sang an assortment of songs, which we all knew, and we had an interval in which we had strawberries and cream, and of course prosecco and wine - a very enjoyable evening.

We were involved with the Chase the Sun bike ride at Clift Meadow in June. We sold rolls, drinks and flapjacks, which all the members made. As it was a fundraising event, we made a profit, so we are going out to have a cream tea in August as a thank you to all the members.

Our next meeting in the hall will be a 'wine and stuffing' evening, where we will be making cushions for the breast clinic at Basingstoke and Winchester. A number of us are cutting out and sewing the cushions in August and then the members will stuff them and finish off together with wine and nibbles. If anyone has some craft stuffing which they do not want, that would be most welcome. It can be delivered to me at Windsong, The Street, before 8th September if possible. I have a porch where it can be left, if I am not in. Thank you.

**Jane Matthews**

**National Women's Register (NWR)**

The next meeting is to be held on 25th September, on the theme of evolution in the home - household gadgets. If you are interested in joining us, please contact: 01256 881723.

**Heather Davies**

**Clift Meadow Community Café**

The Clift Meadow Community Café will be back on Wednesday 4th September in the Pavilion from 10:00 to 11:30. The café is for all adults, including carers with pre-school children, and provides a place to meet friends and make new contacts over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake. Due to the generosity of the Clift Meadow Trustees and the Bramley Parish Council, all we ask is that you contribute what you can as a cash donation.

On 11th September, it will be our 5th birthday, so we will be celebrating and holding a raffle. We look forward to seeing all the lovely people who have supported us since 2019.

If you want to know more, then please contact me on - [jk.cmcc@btconnect.com](mailto:jk.cmcc@btconnect.com).

Thank you.

**Jane Ketteridge**

**Clift Surgery**

Keep in touch and make sure you let the surgery know if you change your mobile number, if you no longer have a landline phone, or if you change your email address.

In July, **140** appointments were not taken up. This number is greater than the previous month, so please make sure you attend your appointment or cancel if you are unable to attend or no longer require your appointment.

Please can you make sure you collect any medication from the dispensary as soon as possible. The dispensary has limited storage, and anything not collected will be absorbed back into stock and you will need to reorder.



Make a date with **BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND**

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Tickets available now: £10 (U16's free) from:  
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## I need a rest

Have you been on holiday recently? If you're in education, you would have had a summer break. If you have school age children, you may have gone away on holiday during July or August. I'm sure I read somewhere that the school summer holidays were originally designed for work. Children in rural villages were not in school so they could help gather in the harvest. Those days are long gone for most of us, so I hope this has been a time of rest for many of us. However, parents with children at home may not agree!

One of the radical aspects of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is contained in these verses from St Matthew's account of the life of Jesus:

*Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11.28-30)

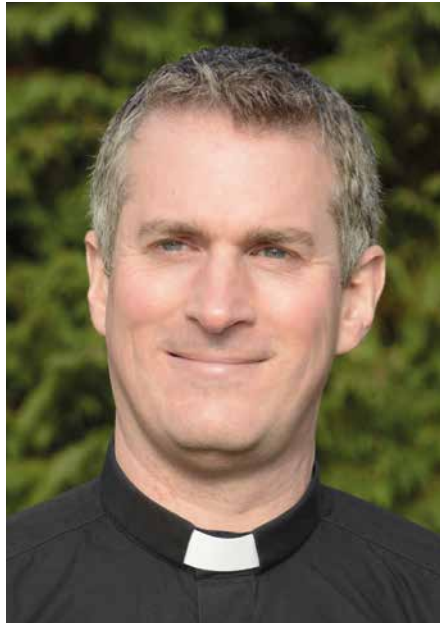
Many rabbis and teachers in the time of Jesus made their followers work hard to obey all the rules. The teaching of Christ is meant to liberate us from the heavy yoke (a word used to describe a rabbi's teaching) of obeying rules. Jesus has come to set us free from a burdensome obedience. So often we try too hard to do the right thing; to find a sense of fulfilment or satisfaction in life. It often feels like a lot of effort, and we end the day feeling exhausted in every way.

Having an annual holiday is one thing but resting is an important aspect of life every day. We may be able to have some kind of physical rest, but I wonder how good we are at finding mental, emotional or even spiritual rest. I sleep best when I have peace, when everything feels right with the world and my place in it. This is not always easy when there's lots on my mind and things aren't going well. It's at those times especially that I can look to the Bible, to the Psalms (62.1-2):

*Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will never be shaken.*

My soul will find rest when I rest in God; when I trust God for my needs; when I feel safe in the knowledge that God is with me, so that I will never be shaken. Only then will I be able to find true rest in every way: mind, body and soul.

We all need rest. It's the way we were created. Scientists have discovered circadian rhythms, and the Bible tells us we need to rest every day and to rest from work once a week. The whole of creation was designed to have one day of



Rev'd Mark Anderson

complete rest. The ten commandments were given so humanity can flourish: as individuals, in families and in communities. This is commandment number four:

*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work.* (Exodus 20.8-10)

However we spend those six days working, we need one day to rest, to recuperate, to spend with those people who we love. On that day, we can spend time with God, who sustains and restores our souls. It can be a time for reflection, for exercise, for reading, for contemplating the beauty of creation. It's a day to do something which lifts our spirits and gets us ready for the next week of work. The Jewish Sabbath

starts the evening before, at sundown. The day starts with rest, helping us to be ready for all that the day holds for us. Let's make sure we rest, for we will be better for it, whatever we do in the days and weeks ahead.

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

**Messy Church**

FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER  
4.30PM - 5.45PM  
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**T**his month's **Meet the Neighbours** features local author **Zoe Wheddon**, who has just had her second book published: ***Jane Austen: Daddy's Girl. The Life and Influence of the Revd George Austen.***

**Zoe, I read in the Basingstoke Gazette that your decision to write two books about Jane Austen was inspired by visiting every one of the Basingstoke Art Book Bench Trail's Jane Austen benches with your daughter. What made you decide to visit every bench?**

There were 24 official book benches dotted all around Basingstoke and Deane all painted by local artists. As a teacher, I love a summer project and so I picked up a copy of the Art Trail map and set out to visit them all. Once there you could scan a QR code to keep a track of your journey. I really enjoyed seeing which characters, scenes and settings had inspired the artists, but more than that I really loved seeing local history come to life. It's my passion. Some days we got drenched - a typical British summer!

**Which of Jane Austen's books is your personal favourite?**

This is such a hard question, as it can depend on what season of life I am experiencing at any one time. But if I was on the proverbial desert island, I would take *Pride and Prejudice* - there are just so many wonderful characters to keep you company!

**Your first book was *Jane Austen's Best Friend: The Life and Influence of Martha Lloyd*. What surprised you most about each of these two people?**

At first, I was jealous of Martha - who wouldn't want to be Jane Austen's bestie....what an inspiring, fun and funny friend to spend your time with! But, by the end of my research, I was jealous of Jane. Martha was clever, ingenious, loyal and caring and could take a joke and be silly - what an amazing friend to have.

**What do you think was the most important influence that Martha and George each had on Jane?**

I think that both respected and loved Jane for herself - not who she might become necessarily, but they both really 'saw' her and wanted the best for her. Their influence was the love, acceptance and kindness that they showed her and the sincerity in their loving kindnesses and devotion to encouraging her to be her complete, wholehearted self.

**You are a language teacher at Lord Wandsworth College, teaching both Spanish and French - where did you learn your language skills? Have you spent any time living in France and/or Spain or elsewhere to deepen your understanding of the languages?**

Like the lyrics to that ABBA epic - I began to sing before I could talk. I love sounds and music and the Eurovision Song Contest gave me my first experience of hearing other languages. I used to make up my own version of French as a child. I couldn't wait to get to senior school and start studying French. Later, I had the chance to learn Spanish



Zoe with the dancing couple

and the musicality of the sounds just gelled with my personality. My husband says that I become my full self when I am speaking Spanish. It's like being able to solve a special puzzle and I love communicating in another language. I learnt by just working very hard at remembering it all. I then studied Spanish language, literature and history at university, and I lived in Spain for a year as part of that experience. I still like to travel, and I enjoy meeting strangers and chatting with them in other languages.

**You now live in Bramley, having been born in Brighton Hill - you visited the Jane Austen benches with your daughter - tell us a little about your family.**

I moved to Bramley with my husband Matt and three children in 2004. Josh, Becca and Tom are all grown now and have set out on their own adventures. Leia our cat keeps us company.

**What is your next book project?**

I am excited to get back into the archives and out on the research trail. I am currently looking to combine my love for local history with my love of Jane and her family. Curiosity has tapped me on the shoulder once more and I cannot wait to get started.

**How would you describe the best of Bramley to Jane if she were to visit us today?**

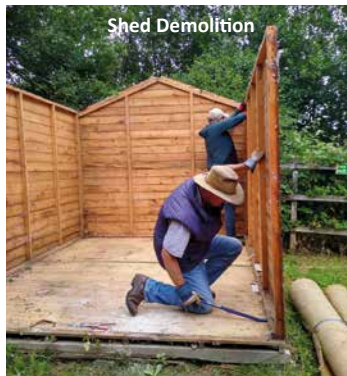
I would invite Jane to take a walk with us through the beautiful village countryside, stopping by the bakery for a fresh sandwich and cake, before taking a turn around the green and watching a little cricket. Hopefully she would visit us on a wonderful summer day when the bunting was fluttering in the breeze and young and old were out enjoying the fresh air and picnics.



**News from the Village Hall**

If you have visited the Village Hall recently, you may have noticed that a few changes have been made, and there are some changes which you may not have spotted at all.

Firstly, at the end of July our contractor, SECOM Ltd, replaced the fire alarm system across the entire Village Hall with a modern system that is compliant with fire regulations. This project was funded by the Parish Council. Secondly, we completed a major project in early August to replace the kitchen adjacent to the main hall. Hampshire Kitchens were awarded the contract and were very efficient in removing the old kitchen completely and installing the new cabinetry and worksurfaces, along with work on plumbing and electrics. This project was jointly funded by Hampshire County Council, the Bernard Sunley Foundation and Bramley Parish Council and we are very grateful for their support.



the old shed at the end of July and the ground works were completed in early August by our contractor, Ollie from Harman Oliver Landscapes, who has installed a concrete base for the new, larger building which will be delivered in October. Some of the timber from the demolished shed will be repurposed to build the walls for a new compost heap at the rear of the Hall and to repair some of the boundary fencing. Our volunteer gardeners have been busy during the summer, maintaining the green spaces around the Hall. They've done sterling work over the past six months and their efforts are greatly appreciated. There is always plenty more to do; please get in touch if you would like to lend a hand for a few hours once a month.

I have written previously about our efforts to recruit a new 'Young Trustee' to join us in managing the Village Hall. We've already had one 'Young Trustee' which was a great success, and we would like to recruit more 'Young Trustees' over the next few months. We would be happy to accept two people, aged at least 17 (to turn 18 during the year ahead). They will be mentored by current Trustees and will have specific roles and projects which will expose them to different aspects of the business of running a village hall. Some more formal training opportunities may be available. If you are or know someone who is aged 17-24, interested in supporting the local community and can spare at least one evening per month and a few hours occasionally for some project work, then please contact me.


**Gareth Jones**

Chairman, Bramley Village Hall Trustees  
Contact: chairman@bvht.org.uk



In addition, we learned in early July that we had been successful in securing a grant

from the National Lottery Community Fund to support the work of our team of volunteer gardeners who manage the green spaces around the Hall. The grant will fund the purchase of new tools to facilitate that work and the acquisition of a new secure storage facility to replace the old garden shed on the eastern side of the Hall. The new storage facility will also be used by some of our regular hirers and the Bramley Show organisers. A team of volunteers demolished



# BRAMLEY FIREWORKS

In Association with the BSA & the Cliff Meadow Trust

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2024

at Bramley C of E School, Bramley Hants

Tickets Available at  
Local Shops or online at:-  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/bramleyschoolassociation](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/bramleyschoolassociation)

**Gates Open at 5pm**  
**Display Starts at 7pm**

**Prepaid tickets price**  
Adults £6 Children £5

**At the gate price**  
Adults £7 Children £6

Kindly Supported by Bramley Parish Council

## Guides Out and About

Summer has allowed more outdoor activities for the Bramley Guides, who have been lucky enough to avoid most of the rain!

The Guides had a very successful cook-out evening. The week before, the girls, in four groups, planned balanced main courses, and produced the shopping list of ingredients for Red Kite to buy. On the evening, the Guides built and lit their fires, and tended them for the cooking, and produced tasty main courses. They finished off their meals with camp doughnuts – if you don't know what they are, you'll have to join Guides!

There was a brilliant evening at Go Ape where the girls experienced a zip wire, plank bridges, cargo nets - all at height. Some fears were overcome and the girls supported and encouraged each other through the activities, resulting in everyone having great fun.

At the end of term, the Guides and our Rangers took a walk around the village collecting litter as they went.

Some of the Bramley Guides have joined with the Baughurst, Silchester & Tadley Guides on a Division Camp. It is an action-packed week with an Olympics themed day, craft activities, low ropes, kayaking, sailing, and canoeing, an escape-room activity, and of course camp fires.

We are always proud of the Bramley Guides, but this term they have excelled at challenging themselves and helping each other.



Soon it will be the beginning of a new term, with a varied program of activities.

One of our leaders is going travelling, so we will be a bit short staffed. If anyone feels they could join the Guide Leader team, please use the email address - firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com to find out more.

**Woodpecker**, Unit Helper





## Clive Fortune Big Band

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# AN EVENING OF BIG BAND SWING

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**Tickets £12** (under 16s free)

Bring your own drinks & nibbles

For tickets, please scan QR code  
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event/id/24024#/](https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/24024#/)






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**Parish Council Update**

We hope that you enjoyed the summer, which seems to have had a mixture of record temperatures, as well as periods of heavy rain, plus the pain of roadworks through the village, which hopefully are now mostly behind us, and we can look forward to a winter of fewer potholes!

Following the elections in May, we had two vacancies for parish councillors, and as noted in the July/August magazine we were able to co-opt Sue Howell. We have now co-opted our latest parish councillor - Jan Wright who joined us in July. Many of you may know Jan from other activities within our community, and we welcome Jan to the council and look forward to her working on several community engagements.

After the success of the D-Day anniversary event in June, Bramley Parish Council are considering a suitable event in 2025 for the VE anniversary. For those who attended the D-Day event, we would welcome any feedback that could be useful for our VE planning. Also, for those that were unable to attend we would like to hear any ideas as to how we could encourage further engagement across the parish.

Some residents have complained about the overgrown state of some footpaths around the Parish. Most are the responsibility of the HCC Public Rights of Way team, and any complaints can be sent to them via the HCC website - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>. Some are managed by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – for instance the footpath that runs alongside Bramley Green, between Pond Road and Bramley Green Road. This path in particular does see a certain amount of fly tipping of garden rubbish. We would like to remind residents that clearing such rubbish does incur a cost to the Borough Council, and we would ask people not to do it. If you have any queries on who to report footpath issues to, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk, who can point you in the right direction, and also report things on your behalf.

The challenges of updating our Bramley Neighbourhood Development Plan were discussed in last month’s magazine, and with the recent change in Government and their stated aim of increasing house building, this may result in Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council having to revisit or update their draft Local Plan Update which includes the statement that



there should be no further housing development in Bramley, apart from the existing approved (and not started) developments, such as Stocks Farm. An updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is being proposed by the Government, and over the coming weeks Bramley Parish Council will be reviewing the proposed changes and take part in the consultation process.

It has been a relatively quiet couple of months from a planning perspective; however, one notable decision was that the proposed development of 20 houses next to Centenary Fields was rejected by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. This was the outcome many in the village had hoped for and indeed had sent in objections as part of the planning process. Your views can and do count and therefore if there are any future planning applications that you disagree with, then you should lodge your objections with the Borough Council in the same way as the Parish Council do. For more details on how to do this, please see the Bramley Parish Council website - <https://bramley-pc.gov.uk/planning-applications/submitting-comments-on-planning-applications/>.

With the number of new developments across the parish over recent years, we have received funds from the developers as part of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and Bramley Parish Council has been making several investments, some of which are shown below:

**Clift Meadow:**

- New heat pumps for both buildings
- Goalposts
- Tables
- Tractor for grounds maintenance

**Village Hall:**

- New chairs and tables
- Fire alarm system
- Kitchen upgrade
- Track access gate

**Others:**

- White line painting in the car park at Clift Surgery
- Silchester Way signs

These investments are to help improve the community facilities across our Parish.

Away from planning, by the time you read this article, the summer will be behind us, and our thoughts will turn to budget preparation for the next financial year and how we can continue to improve our community across all parts of the Parish. All of this will be discussed at our regular Parish Council meetings (dates for the year are on the Bramley PC website), and residents are always very welcome to attend and discuss items on the agenda. Agendas and minutes are posted on our website and Facebook page, as well as noticeboards at various locations around the parish. The next scheduled meetings are Planning Committee on 10th September 2024, and Full Council on 17th September 2024.

**Cllr Alan Munday**

Contact us:  
 Bramley PC Clerk – Maxta Thomas  
 Email: [clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 07810 692486  
 Web: [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)  
 Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/BramleyPC](http://www.facebook.com/BramleyPC)

## Metaphorically Speaking...

It's been an interesting summer. An election, the Euro football tournament, and the Olympics, all causing commentators to get out their old descriptive metaphors. Some of these are very entertaining when used the first time, but they can be somewhat wearing when heard repeatedly. And some are very irritating and based on misconceptions.

A metaphor is when a thing or an action is described as something else. My dictionary uses the example of a ferocious person being called a tiger. Obviously, they are not really a tiger. If we say they are 'like a tiger', or behave 'as a tiger would', that is a simile, a close cousin of the metaphor in grammar.

In the run up to the general election, many journalists spoke of policies as 'moving the dial'. Someone used this phrase originally and then everyone copied it. The metaphor uses the image of a meter, as in the illustration below, as measuring the possible public support for a statement by a politician. But the dial does not move. It is the needle that moves over the numbers on the static dial. So that's a failed metaphor.

During the Euros, I heard pundits analysing tactics and using the phrase 'you could throw a blanket over the three central defenders'. Clearly, you couldn't. Why not just say they were too close together? Another fail.

I hear occasionally that a person is failing to 'turn back the tide', like King Canute. This misunderstands what poor old King Canute was up to. He placed his chair in the water and commanded the tide to recede. He wanted to demonstrate that even he, as King, did not have the power to control the tide. His secular power as King was nothing in comparison to the power of God. King Canute was quite a humble man, it seems.

While I was thinking about all of these metaphors and similes, my thoughts turned to what is probably the most misunderstood simile of all, in my opinion. It's a hymn. *Onward, Christian Soldiers*, with words by Sabine Baring-Gould, written in 1865. Arthur Sullivan wrote the music that we now know it by in 1871. In recent years there have been criticisms that it's a militaristic hymn, and that it might even be glorifying the Crusades. In fact, the first two lines make it clear that it's a simile.

Onward, Christian Soldiers, marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus, going on before.

The 'as' in the first line shows that the 'soldiers' (a metaphor) are marching as soldiers do, but they are not themselves soldiers with swords and shields. The whole hymn is based upon words found in various places in the Bible, including Timothy 2:3. To be a soldier of Jesus is to spread the Word of the Lord, as the early apostles did in their travels around the Mediterranean and beyond. Much of this is described in the Acts of the Apostles, and the letters of Paul to the people of Corinth and Ephesus, among others.

I often find myself whistling hymns, and this is a cracking tune. I wonder if old Arthur Sullivan wrote any others?

**Michael Luck**



## Royal British Legion

It is with sadness that we record the death of long-standing branch member Tony Evans, who passed away at The Grange Nursing Home on 2 August. Tony, who served in the Royal Marines, was a member for several decades serving on our committee, becoming Chairman and ultimately Branch President. For many years he was also our branch Standard Bearer. We extend our sympathies to his family and close friends.

The branch committee has taken the decision to hold meetings every other month from October. This month, some members and friends are making a visit to RAF Odiham to get a brief on the present tasking of the unit, one of the busiest in the service.

We have a double bill on Tuesday 8 October at Cross House Bramley at 7.30pm. First, is our short branch AGM, which will include reports of the past year's activities and election of the new committee. We would love to welcome some new members to the committee with fresh ideas. Drop me an email if you would like to join us. Following the AGM, Rhydian Vaughan, our Vice Chairman, will give an illustrated talk on the famous WW2 German battleship, The Bismarck, and her ultimate demise in May 1941 in the North Atlantic - not to be missed!

We continue to work with St James Church, Bramley to arrange for the laying up of the Bramley RBL Women's Section Standard. Little is known about this section, so if you have any knowledge of it, we would love to hear from you.

**John Morley**  
Branch Chairman  
revjmorley@talktalk.net  
07900 892566



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## Little Apples

Welcome to our article for September and the start of a new academic year.



It's always exciting at this time of year as we get to know lots of new children and families, as well as catching up with those children who are returning to pre-school for another year. It's lovely to see how they have grown and progressed over the summer and hear all their news.

Coming back after the summer holidays is always a good opportunity to review and refresh our provision, and this September we have introduced lots of exciting changes at Little Apples. We are introducing small parts play to our Maths corner, including lots of natural resources to help the children develop their numerical learning. We will also be developing our snack provision to help the children be more independent and develop gross and fine motor skills. This includes pouring their own drinks and getting involved in the washing up.

This half term, we will be thinking about our food and where it comes from, as this ties in particularly well with harvest time and harvest festival. We start with a bakery in our shop role-play area where the children have the opportunity to explore a wide range of breads from different countries and cultures. Alongside this, children will be learning about how to make healthy choices around food and diet and also the importance of dental hygiene and looking after our teeth.

Little Apples accepts children from two years old and we accept all local authority funding. You can use your funding to secure any of your choice of hours at Little Apples. If you would like to arrange a visit to have a look round with a view to registering a child, please contact our manager Jo on (07598) 588460 or at [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org).

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## Butter Daisy



As the world turned its attention to the unbelievable talents of our international Olympians, here at Butter Daisy, our children were going for gold, reaching new heights and achieving new skills in our very own Daisy Nursery Olympics, for this year's Summer of Fun (SOF).

We opened our festivities with Ceris and Clare travelling between each of the nursery settings passing on the Daisy Olympic torch and holding a mini opening ceremony.

Once our Olympic Festival began, we spent each week focusing on the colours of the Olympic rings and what they represent. Week one was Europe, week two, Africa, week three, the Americas, week four, Asia, and finally week five was Oceania and Australia.

For each of the continents we have not only challenged our physical skills by trying out a range of sports and physical activities, we have also studied as much as we could cram in about the cultures and lifestyles of each of the continents. We have tasted international cuisines and had a hand at cooking some of the dishes too, including Malva cake. We have taken inspiration from artists modern and historical across the world such as Esther Mahlangu, and locally such as Sian Storey; we have been on imaginary camping trips and put our stars on the Daisy Nursery Walk of Fame.

We have also had a whole host of spectacular visitors come to our setting, both parent volunteers and organisations, each one bringing something magic to our SOF.

To close our annual event, we held our School Leavers' festival, celebrating and reminiscing as we sent them on their way to start their next chapter – as the confident champions they are!

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).



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## Bramley Primary School children take on Hampshire 3 Peaks

As mentioned in a previous edition of the Bramley Magazine, a group of children from Bramley C of E school and their parents worked hard to fundraise for their school.

A team of 14 children and their parents climbed 'The Hampshire 3 Peaks' on Saturday 6th July, to raise money for the school.

The team set off early for Butser Hill, followed by St Catherine's Hill and finally Beacon Hill.

The weather was mixed and some areas were very steep but the children, ranging from 5 yrs to 9 yrs, all showed great determination and resilience - remaining cheerful even during a heavy downpour on Beacon Hill!

They've raised an amazing £1326 and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who's supported them!



## Arthur the Warhorse, Little London

The Arthur the Warhorse silhouette was produced to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018 and is on the wall at The Plough, Little London. It was the inspirational idea of Simon Greaves who read about the thought-provoking bronze statue of Poppy the Warhorse in Ascot.

When I saw this, I thought it would be a great memorial for my grandfather who was in the NZ Mounted Rifles. With the support from the Warhorse Memorial Ascot, the Australian War Animal Memorial Society, NZ army and an ingenious NZ blacksmith, Tom the Warhorse was duly consecrated with a splendid service at Washpen Falls, Canterbury, New Zealand.

Animals that served defending our country are honoured on Purple Poppy Day, 23 August. To celebrate this and raise money for the Purple Poppy Animal Fund, Simon Greaves organises an annual Purple Poppy

Walk from The Plough in Little London. Do stop and admire the Silhouette at the Plough. Arthur looks

particularly splendid in the evening with the glowing purple poppy.

**Lindy Drury**



Chris Drury, Tom McElrea, Rhyidian and Wren Vaughan, Lindy and Jenny

**A** great community effort! Creative & unique! Very inspiring! These were just some of the comments made about the flowers and panels that decorated St James Church during its festival in July. **Grahame Mellor** reports on the events.

**Cross House Preparations**

In the afternoon of 25th July, a team prepared Cross House ready for the visitors' refreshments:



For months, 12 ladies from Bramley and Sherfield worked long and hard to make their quilted and embroidered panels featuring St. James and Christian icons, in preparation for the Festival of St James.

On the big day of 25 July, the ladies gathered in St James Church to display their completed panels and create their featured flower arrangements to accompany each panel.

Over the four festival days we had many visitors. Their comments, along with these photographs, showcase this incredible exhibition.

*"Beautifully intricate!" "Very imaginative!" "Sensitive & appropriate!"*

*"Warm & welcoming!" "Knowledgeable & informative!" "Atmospheric!"*

*"Thought provoking!" "Precision in workmanship!"*

**"What a journey!" "What a TEAM!" "What a JOY!" "What a TRIUMPH!"**

The Saturday of the exhibition was certainly the busiest day for visitors. After all the concerns about whether there would be too much or not enough cake and the uncertainty of road closures, it was a delight to see our beautiful church busy with keen and interested visitors offering so many compliments. Most studied the notes that accompanied the panels and flowers, to gain full knowledge of the creators' thoughts.







On Sunday 28 July, the Festival was brought to a wonderful close with a visit from the Bishop of Winchester, The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen, who attended both the 9am and the 10.30am services and joined us in a most joyful and plentiful reception in Cross House.

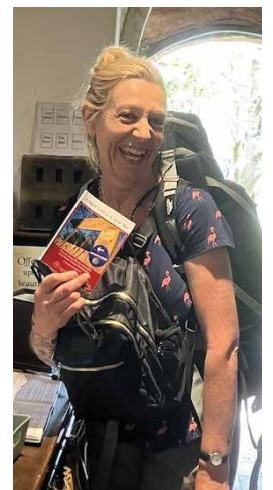


What a wonderful way to round off our most fantastic festival week! It just remains to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone involved making the St. James Festival a success and for us all to reflect on the experience.

Thank you to Grahame Mellor and Elza Cooper for the photographs.

### Walking the St James Way

In a previous issue of the Bramley Magazine, I wrote about the St James Way, a walking route that goes from Reading to Southampton and passes through Bramley. Attending and helping over the days of the St James Festival gave me a much better understanding of the number of pilgrims walking the St James Way and visiting our lovely church. This pilgrim from New Zealand enjoyed our hospitality and stayed in Cross House for the night.



On 28 July, a 20 strong group of Rover Scouts explored the church following the 10.30 service. They spent the previous night in Burghfield and were walking on to New Alresford. They probably weren't expecting to bump into the Bishop of Winchester on their travels!



Grahame Mellor



## Bramley brothers, Sebastian and Nathaniel Poon, secure podium spots at British Ice Skating Open

At the prestigious British Ice Skating Open in Ice Sheffield at the end of June, brothers Sebastian and Nathaniel Poon from Bramley demonstrated exceptional talent by securing podium positions in the National Boys Figure Skating Competition.

Nathaniel claimed the top spot in the National Boys Level 3 Free Skate category, while his older brother, Sebastian, showcased remarkable skill in the National Boys Level 4 category, clinching a well-deserved Silver medal.

This success builds upon their podium finishes earlier this year at the Robin Hood Trophy in Nottingham and the Guildford Open.

The Poon brothers' achievements are a testament to their talent, determination, and the invaluable mentorship of their coach, Olympian Andrew Place. With each competition, they continue to raise the bar, demonstrating not only their skill but also their passion for the sport. The unwavering support from their schools, Bramley Church of England Primary School and Eggar's School in Alton, has been pivotal in realising their ambitions.

The duo commits six days a week to honing their craft at Planet Ice Basingstoke. As they strive for greatness, Nathaniel and Sebastian hope for the continued success of the rink, enabling them to chase their dreams even further.





**Wilder Bramley**

It’s been a busy summer! Our team has been diligently maintaining and watering the Bee Garden over the summer, and we’ve once again entered the RHS ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ Awards. The bees were buzzing about during the RHS judge visit, and now we’re keeping our fingers crossed for a great result! We’ll hear towards the end of September.

A couple of the team headed to Bioblitz, hosted by Natural Basingstoke in early July. Thanks for inviting us to share the day – it was a great opportunity to network with like-minded groups across the borough and share ideas! We hope events like this continue to inspire locals to immerse themselves in what nature has to offer.

Our Grassland Meadow Trail across Bramley Green has been a hit! Thank you for all the wonderful feedback. We’re thrilled that it’s been enjoyed throughout the summer, and we hope you’ve had the chance to appreciate the wildlife and biodiversity. Our recent survey revealed a rich diversity in grasses, insects and butterflies. The survey results will soon be available on the Parish Council’s website, so watch out for this. We hope the trail will be back next summer. We’ve also installed similar signage at the church meadow and community bee garden. We hope this signage will be a permanent feature, enabling the parish and visitors to continue to learn about and appreciate our local biodiversity.

With the end of summer approaching, it’s now time to think about cutting the meadow areas. Keen-eyed people will have noticed that the the signs at Bramley Green have been removed, ready for the seasonal cut. Due to the size of the area, the green will be machine cut. For the smaller areas at Clift Meadow and St James Church the Wilder Bramley team and a group of volunteers will be out scything on 7th September. Please come along and see how our scything ‘experts’ perform this ancient tradition. Help will be welcomed in collecting the cuttings!

We’ll be posting new events on our Facebook page soon, and as ever, if you’d like to get more involved in Wilder Bramley we’d love to hear from you. You can reach us via Facebook or email: [wilder.bramley@gmail.com](mailto:wilder.bramley@gmail.com).



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## Probus Club Annual Summer Pub Lunch

Introduced back in 1996 by the then president, David Carwardine, as a means of bringing the ladies into a social event for this men only club, the tradition of an annual summer lunch has continued without break in the ensuing twenty-eight years. This year involved a group visit to the Bolton Arms in Old Basing.

A mixture of members and wives/lady friends totalling thirty-three dined in this fifteenth century, Grade II listed building that was reopened early this year after going through a significant refurbishment programme. This has brought this hostelry very much into the modern era providing an extensive food offering to suit all tastes and pockets. Probus Club President Stephen Thair and wife Margaret hosted the event which was held in a private room that just about coped with the numbers.

Of the ladies present, four were members of the Ladies' Probus Club of Basingstoke, while it was announced that two new members had joined the men's club this month. This is a good sign that the club has an attraction for like-minded men.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke, see their website [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) or contact their secretary, Andrew Barton on 07814 937202 for an informal chat.



(Top) Probus President Stephen Thair and wife, Margaret, with Paul Flint and his partner, Janet.

Bramley residents Michael Luck and Alex and Sarah Marianos.



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**Hampshire County Councillor Summer Report – Calleva Division**

**Highways Information**

Hampshire County Council has been hard at work fixing potholes and road defects. From April 2023 to April 2024, they delivered a whopping 180,909 repairs – a 37% increase from the previous year. Thanks to an additional £22.5 million investment over two years, our highways service and main contractor, Milestone, have been able to deploy more resources to tackle these road issues promptly. Hampshire isn't alone – colder, wetter winters take a toll on roads everywhere. Plus, inflation means it now costs taxpayers around 44% more to repair a pothole. But fear not! Summer's here, bringing drier, warmer days. Our highways teams are on it, fixing potholes, smoothing surfaces, and maintaining roads across the county.

**Increased housing targets for Hampshire**

You might have noticed publicity about new housing targets for councils announced by Angela Rayner. The figures for Hampshire are in the graphic below. The first column is the current housing target, the second is the number of houses delivered last year and the third is the new housing target released by the Government this week. You can see the increase proposed for Basingstoke & Deane below.

I'm all in favour of new housing, but new homes must be built in the right place, preserving local gaps; planned in consultation with local people; and crucially include high levels of local infrastructure. In a letter Angela Rayner penned to council leaders this week she admitted that her new approach 'will delay the adoption of some plans'. So much for getting on with delivery.

The enforced government delay is deeply concerning because we are obliged to provide a 5-year housing land supply. This means we need to show that we have a plan to deliver the next five years of housing meeting the Government's target. So, if our target is suddenly increased then we are unlikely to be able to meet it immediately and if we don't, there is a huge risk of developers getting permission for speculative plans, which are unlikely to include the significant amount of new infrastructure we are demanding through the Local Plan process.

Of most concern is the fact that these new targets, introduced across both the county and the country, increase the amount of housing rural areas must deliver enormously. Yet the numbers to be delivered by London and cities outside of the capital largely decrease. So much for the new Government's insistence that new development should be delivered on brownfield and greyfield sites first.

The commonality between those areas with much increased targets? They are overwhelmingly councils controlled by Conservatives or Liberal Democrats. The areas with decreasing housing targets? Yes, largely Labour run - evidence the reduction in housing target for Labour controlled Southampton.

This is a really worrying precedent for the new Government, let's hope their decision making is less partisan as it progresses.

**Hampshire Country Parks this Summer**

With the school holidays upon us, there is loads to do at Hampshire County Council country parks and farms. From bug hunts at Staunton and Queen Elizabeth Country Parks, to a Film Festival at Royal Victoria Country Park and a Seashore Safari at Lepe, there are dozens of things to do, most particularly to keep your little ones occupied.

The general link to the country park and farm site is here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/>

**Hampshire Archives Talks**

There's another fantastic event coming up from Hampshire County Council and Archives in September. Entitled 'The Women's Institute at War', this online talk is given by local historian Phoebe Merrick who will talk about how the WI contributed to the war effort in the villages of southern Test Valley. The talk is on Monday 2nd September, from 6-7pm. It costs £6 per person and you can register for it here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../womens-institute-at-war-090924>.

**Hampshire Childrens Services rated 'Outstanding'**

Supporting children and young people to get the best possible start in life and protecting those who are most vulnerable is one of our top priorities, so we're pleased to share that our Children's Services have once again been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted – the second time in a row.

Hampshire children and families who need extra help and protection continue to be supported by one of the few authorities in the country with Outstanding rated Children's Services. Our dedicated staff continue to make a positive difference, despite the backdrop of growing demand and complexity in the needs of children.

Learn more at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../20240723/outstandingofstedresult>

**Solent CO<sub>2</sub> Pipeline Project - launch of consultation on proposed corridors**

ExxonMobile are beginning to consult on early plans to create a pipeline to transport captured CO<sub>2</sub> to storage facilities under the English Channel. This would be a huge project, and one which has national infrastructure designation. Some of the proposals, though, would impact both the Waterside and the New Forest National Park considerably.

You can provide feedback on the proposed plans here - <https://www.solentco2pipeline.co.uk/have-your-say/>. The consultation closes on 12th September.

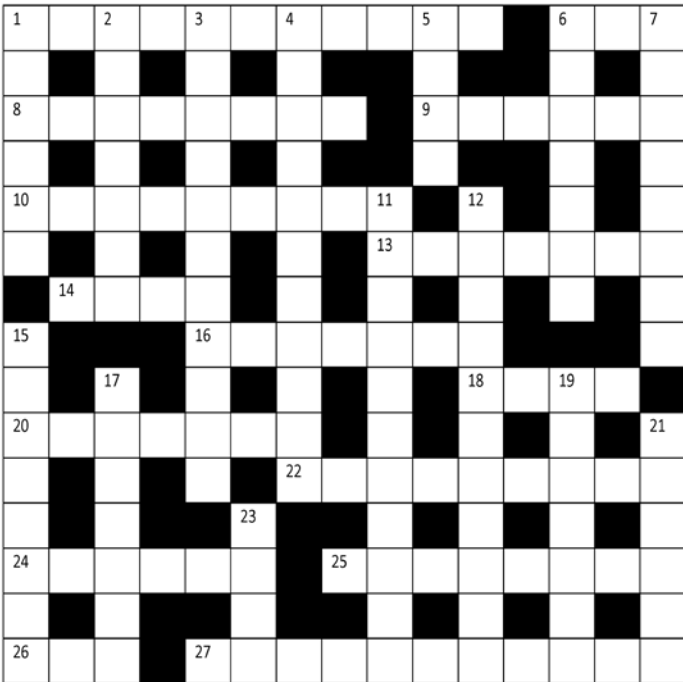
**Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE**

[Fb.com/tellrhydian](https://www.facebook.com/tellrhydian)

District	Current Method	Annual average net additions (20/21 – 22/23)	Proposed Method
Basingstoke & Deane	828	1,001	1,137
East Hampshire	575	493	1,074
Eastleigh	645	713	902
Fareham	498	115	794
Gosport	339	91	465
Hart	297	580	734
Havant	508	338	874
New Forest	729	268	1,465
Rushmoor	265	346	606
Test Valley	524	710	921
Winchester	676	1,006	1,099
Portsmouth	897	132	1,098
Southampton	1,473	438	1,295
Isle of Wight	703	499	1,104
South East region	51,251	40,837	69,060

**Cryptic Crossword No: 81**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

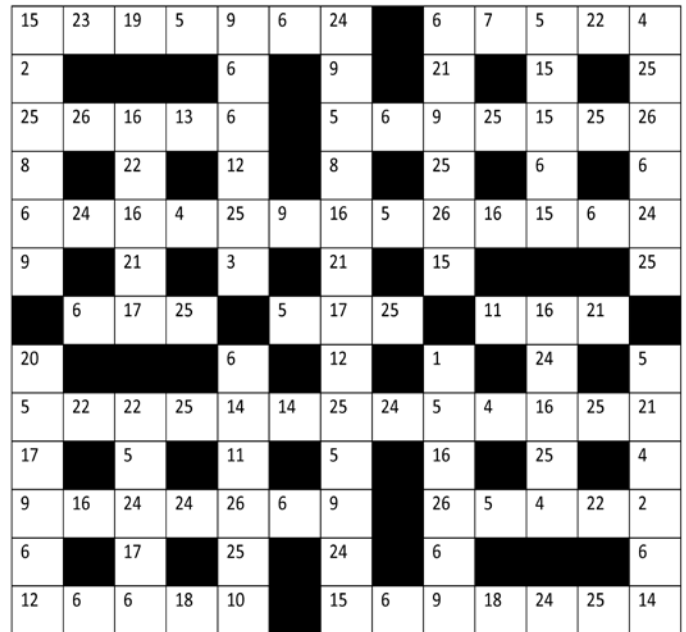
- 1 Home to giants, no wonder the buildings are so tall ! (3,4,4)
- 6 League rugby, good place to hide a carpet. (3)
- 8 Plants that sound they don't belong in a garden. (8)
- 9 Desperate Dan germinated hidden peril. (6)
- 10 Former pit workers surround article for adjudicators (9)
- 13 Leave a band on the run disguises. (7)
- 14 Pole top fell. (4)
- 16 Apply subtract, not good for anything. (7)
- 18 Debatable which came first for these dairy products. (4)
- 20 Curtailed October and pain for this figure. (7)
- 22 Cables men formed for outward appearance. (9)
- 24 Spoke or communicated. (6)
- 25 Instagrams arranged without a thousand found in zodiac. (4,4)
- 26 Wily Coyote discovered to be shy. (3)
- 27 Useful items when hanging out the laundry. (7,4)

**Down**

- 1 Verse in arrangement without subject causes worry. (6)
- 2 Bird copying happy dog perhaps. (7)
- 3 Rude glove in seeming to do too much. (11)
- 4 Organ vegetables perhaps ? (6,5)
- 5 Neat Punch cartoonist of old. (4)
- 6 Salutations or pertaining to. (7)
- 7 Worker looking after 8 Across. (8)
- 11 Cover copy for lighter. (6,5)
- 12 Untrue shocks lead to misleading events. (5,6)
- 15 Fragrant applied to coffee or tobacco perhaps. (8)
- 17 Explorer or knife. (7)
- 19 Glue nine less fifty, look again, its true. (7)
- 21 Game played at court or on a table. (6)
- 23 Pin-up, lazy on the radio. (4)

**CodeWord No: 67**

See page 31 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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# Phillips Law

**Phillips Law urges local families to plan ahead to reduce their inheritance tax bill**



Legal@phillips-law.co.uk  
**01256 460830**

Latest figures from HMRC show that inheritance tax receipts have risen by 7.2% since last year. By taking advantage of available tax reliefs and planning carefully, families can make sure their loved ones pay the smallest tax bill possible and get the most out of what they inherit.

The Association of Lifetime Lawyers represents a community of the most qualified legal professionals in the UK supporting vulnerable and older people with expert advice and support.

Sian Lias, Legal Director at Phillips Law member of The Association of Lifetime Lawyers says there are precautionary steps to take if you plan for family members to inherit part, or all of your estate upon your passing. Sian said: "With more estates than ever liable for IHT, it's crucial to plan ahead to avoid a large tax bill for your loved ones. If the value of your estate is below the current nil rate band allowance of £325,000, no inheritance tax (IHT) is owed, provided the allowance hasn't been reduced by relevant lifetime gifts.

For married couples or civil partners who leave their entire estate to each other, HMRC permits the full transfer of the nil rate band to the surviving partner, effectively doubling the

allowance to £650,000. Even if only a part of the estate goes to the spouse, the unused portion of the nil rate band can still be transferred upon the death of the second spouse.

If your estate includes a business or related assets, at present, additional reliefs currently apply at rates of either 50% or 100%. Likewise, certain agricultural properties, such as land used for rearing animals or growing crops, can pass free of IHT, provided specific criteria are met.

Creating a will is essential to ensure your assets are distributed to your chosen beneficiaries. Without a valid will, your estate will be divided according to the intestacy rules, which may result in your family not receiving what you intended. Research from The Association of Lifetime Lawyers shows nearly half of UK adults (49%) do not have a will. It's important to consult a legal professional to help you draft a will.

Given the recent change in government, we'd recommend keeping an eye out for any potential policy changes and speak with a Lifetime Lawyer to help minimise your tax bill.

If you would like to speak to one of our Wills, Trusts and Probate lawyers please email legal@phillips-law.co.uk or call us on 01256 460830.

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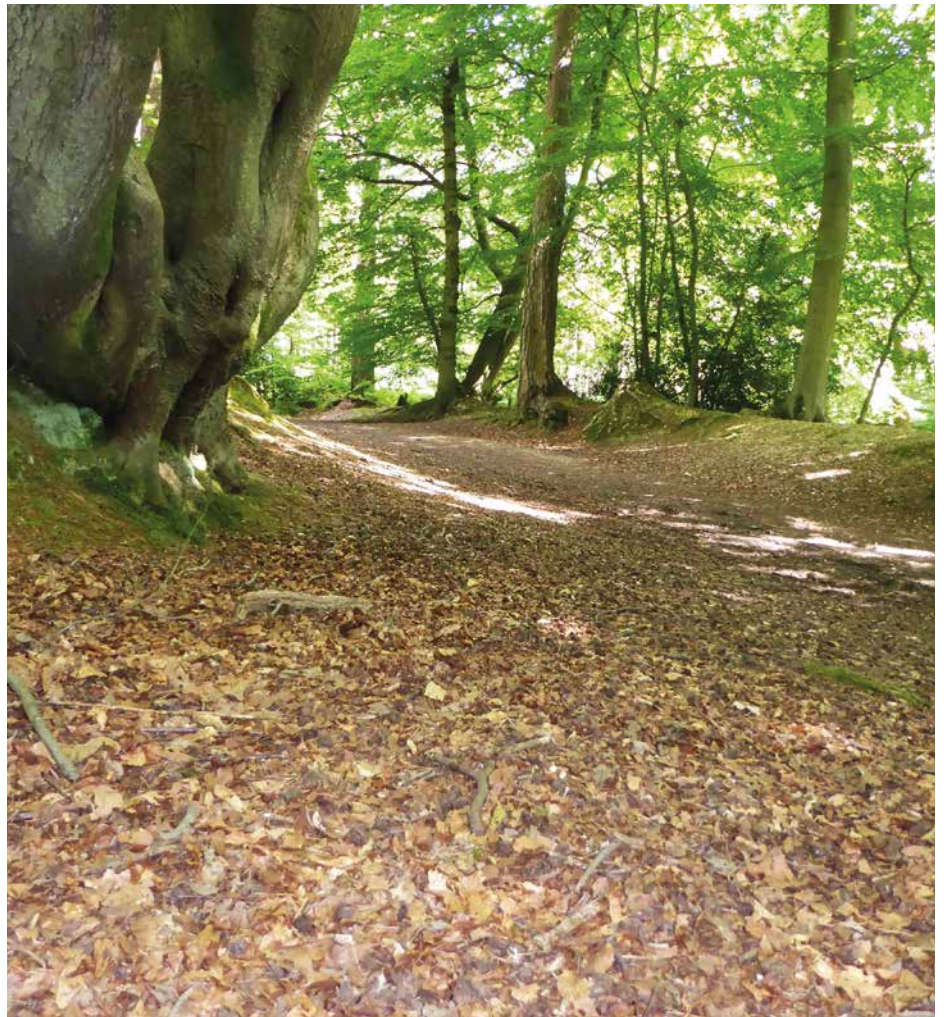


**W**hat is a ‘mast year’?  
**John Stubbs**  
 explains in this  
 month’s Beautiful Bramley.

The human animal has always relied on trees. Home, shelter, food, the very air that we breathe – they’ve been essential in so many ways. And yet, there’s an awful lot of pretty fundamental tree stuff that’s still a bit of a mystery: unexplored, neglected, or perhaps just too difficult to get a handle on. It’s not all our fault, some things work too slowly to see what happens within a lifetime. Many things go on within a tree without our having to worry at all; only lately has there been any great concern about how many there are, how they affect the climate and how the climate affects them.

A major part of the life cycle of our trees revolves around their fruiting – essential for regeneration and a food source for a wide range of insects, birds and mammals. Broadly referred to as the mast, oak trees give acorns, of course, but the range is from fir cones to apples, and everything in between. The term ‘mast-year’ tends to be used with those trees that don’t crop uniformly, going from boom to bust at irregular year intervals. In a village like Bramley, this might have been quite a significant problem if a family relied on pannage to feed their pigs – that’s the right of villagers to run their stock in the woods to forage. The photo above shows beechwoods in Mortimer, with a carpet of beechnuts surrounding each trunk. The amounts of acorn and beechmast available would have varied enormously, and unpredictably, over perhaps two-to-ten-year gaps. Why are these trees so cussed, and how is it that all of each particular species can seed at the same time?

And yes, it does seem that mast-years are planned at unpredictable times quite deliberately, just to confound consumers. Not out of cussedness, but as a strategy for their seeds’ survival. The point is that seed and nut production are hard work for the tree, and increased output is only possible when conditions such as nutrition, moisture, temperature, and wind are favourable. So, most years the seed crop will be enough, but not to excess: a range of regular foragers will therefore stabilise in numbers balanced with the normal supply. Then, when conditions are good, wham – there’s a mast-year,



and way too much fruit is produced for it all to be consumed, hence a lot more will get to germinate and grow.

Mast-year or not, all trees in the area need to co-ordinate their timing: it wouldn’t be at all effective if the consumers could just find another fruiting tree nearby. So, the sequence starts with the trees building up resources over a period, until they have the seed crop fit to launch: a bit like setting the alarm clock, it’s all wound up and ready to go. And recent research by a team from the universities of Poznań in Poland, Liverpool UK, and Canterbury NZ, has shown that European Beech trees don’t just release their crop of beechnuts at roughly the same time of year. From Sweden all the way down to Italy, they all time their bounty from the same day, depending on the local temperatures, and that’s really pretty amazing. The critical trigger was found to be the summer solstice, 21st June, when the daylight period is only a matter of seconds longer than the day before, and only seconds shorter the day after. How can they have a clock precise as that?

Many, if not most, creatures use daylight length as a cue to behaviour: plants in particular use seasons to run their programmes. The precise genetic processes involved, however, are still to be pinned down – and would be very useful to know. In the UK, crops such as cherry and apple may show significant variation in yields from year to year, with no other obvious cause: being able to forecast or control such changes could be very valuable. More broadly, almond and olive yields are economically vital to some regions. Predicting how climate change affects crop abundance is going to be increasingly important: unknown variables are most unwelcome.

Our beech trees had to have a time-signal. Drop too early and the crop will be snaffled up by a host of hungry pigs, squirrels, badgers and birds. Too late and you miss the boat, seeds left in heaps and rotting over winter. But with perhaps a hundred million years of evolution, you can somehow get it spot on.



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**BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP**

There were 51 members at the final meeting of the group held on 7th August. The Chairman, David Cowling, said how sad it was that this would be the last meeting. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, reiterated this and wished everyone well for the future. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, said what a privilege it had been to help so many members during the past few years and then went on to issue Certificates of Merit from the Head Office of the CSRF to Tony Brazier, June Brazier and David Cowling. On behalf of the committee, she then gave a gift to those members who had helped in a number of ways at the monthly meetings. Tributes were paid to all present and past members of the committee and thanks given to those who had supported us over the years. This included Tesco and Stork who had donated raffle prizes; all of the many speakers we had covering a wide range of subjects;



Mervyn's Coaches who had taken us on a variety of trips and Brookvale Village Hall where we had held our meetings. Thanks were also extended to BCoT and the Conservative Club who had hosted many of our meals and afternoon teas, and the local press and community magazines who had printed reports of our monthly meetings.

Our speaker this month was Tony Strafford (pictured with David Cowling, Chairman and David Dance, Vice-Chairman) who gave a talk titled 'The Sex Lives of



Kings'. He started with Edward the Confessor who came to the throne in 1042 and then went through the sometimes very colourful, and at times very dark, history of royalty right up to current times. He gave accounts of the many intrigues, illicit relationships, murders and triumphs which occurred through the ages not only to the Kings but sometimes the Queens as well. It all added up to a fascinating insight into the history of our royal families.

Following the meeting members attended a farewell lunch at the Conservative club.

Photos: Martin Bishop  
**David Cowling**

**Have you ever thought about how a power cut would impact your household?**

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is free to join. It helps utility companies, including energy suppliers, electricity, gas and water networks look after customers who have extra communication, access or safety needs.

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- Loss or impairment of smell.

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- To find out more or register, go to <https://www.thepsr.co.uk/>

*Information provided by Southern and Scottish Electricity (SSE) Networks*

<b>Mondays</b>	
<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>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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

<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>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas 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

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> 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>Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

<b>Thursdays</b>	
<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Lynden School of Dance &amp; Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>WG Pilates 12-1pm</i>	Cross House
<i>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
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Live Country Music with Dance 8pm 1st and 3rd Saturday each month</i>	Village 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		
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 <a href="https://www.loddonsportsfc.com">https://www.loddonsportsfc.com</a>	
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	
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
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	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.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	
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
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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**Useful Websites and Contact Details****Bramley Parish Council**

Website: [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)

Email: [clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk)

Tel: 07810 692486

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council**

Website: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/>

Planning enquiries:

<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/environment-and-planning>

Bin collection issues:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bin-collection-issue-form>

Grass, hedges, weeds and leaves issues: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-grounds-maintenance-problem>

Report fly-tipping:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping>

Problems with trees:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-a-tree-problem>

**Hampshire County Council**

Website: [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Highways reporting:

[www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance)

Faulty streetlights: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight)

Flooding or drainage problems: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding)

Parking issues: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/parking-contravention](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/parking-contravention)

Rights of Way (footpath issue): [www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem)

**Cinder Track Reporting**

Faulty lights (from Lane End to Kirby Drive estate):

[Taylor.Wimpey@taylorwimpey.com](mailto:Taylor.Wimpey@taylorwimpey.com)

Tel: 01494 509090

Faulty lights (from Sherfield Road to Lane End):

[www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight)

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Enjoy an evening of classical music with Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra at The Anvil. Celebrating its 95th year, our concert season kicks off at 7pm on Sunday 17th November with Brahms's rousing Academic Festival Overture, followed by Glazunov's dazzling, virtuosic Violin Concerto in A minor performed by the brilliant teenage prodigy Aki Blendis. The concert will conclude with Brahms's Symphony No. 1, sometimes called Beethoven's 10th, as the finale's main theme is reminiscent of the fabulous Ode to Joy. Tickets available from The Anvil box office on 01256 844244 ([www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk)) or via the BSO website ([www.bso.org.uk](http://www.bso.org.uk)).

**Introduction of food waste collections agreed by Cabinet**

The introduction of weekly kerbside food waste collections from October 2025 was agreed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet at their meeting on Tuesday 30 July.

The new weekly food waste collection service will allow residents to take more out of their grey bin while Hampshire County Council progresses plans for new and better waste sorting facilities so that more can go in green recycling bins.

The Cabinet agreed to extend the existing waste collection contract with Serco to empty the borough's bins for an additional eight years from October 2025, together with remodelling the service to meet the council's challenging statutory targets to cut waste as a collection authority.

This will see new style weekly collections - with food waste emptied every week alongside what is left in the grey bin one week and recycling the next - from September 2026.

The government's Environment Act 2021 aims to make what is collected for recycling more consistent across the country, increasing what can be collected at the kerbside, as well as reducing the amount of packaging that just gets thrown away.

Basingstoke and Deane currently has a recycling rate of just 29%, sitting 269th out of 317 authorities across England and fourth from bottom in Hampshire. Introducing the new service next October would put Basingstoke and Deane ahead of the 2026 target set by the act.

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& Deane

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Email: [info@hsbd.org.uk](mailto:info@hsbd.org.uk)

Website: [www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk](http://www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk)

Volunteers benefit from 10-25 hours training over 2-5 weeks  
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**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

**Cryptic Crossword No: 81 Solution**

1	NERVES	1	NEWYORKCITY
2	WAGTAIL	2	RUG
3	OVERINDULGE	3	RAGWEEDS
4	KIDNEYBEANS	4	DANGER
5	TIDY	5	EXAMINERS
6	REGARDS	6	ABANDON
7	GARDENER	7	SLID
11	SAFETYMATCH	11	USELESS
12	FALSEALARMS	12	EKGS
15	AROMATIC	15	OCTAGON
17	STANLEY	17	SEMIBLANCE
19	GENUINE	19	TALKED
21	TENNIS	21	STARSIGN
23	IDOL	23	COY
		27	CLOTHESPEGG

**CodeWord No: 67 Solution**

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

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