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Bramley
FOR BRAMLEY AND
LITTLE LONDON
Magazine

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October 2013



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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

October 2013

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Printed by:

Greenhouse Graphics

Unit 8, Cufaude Business Park,

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Material for the November issue to be sent to the Editor as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 16th October.

Cover photo by Paul Moulton

<http://paulmoulton.com/>

Editorial

We hope that you enjoy the second edition of the free-to-all Bramley and Little London magazine. This is still a work in progress but it is encouraging to have moved from a distribution of 550 to almost 2000 in a very short period of time and to have grown the magazine from 24 to 28 pages without too many sleepless nights.

This magazine is for our two villages, by our villages and for the benefit of our villages. To that end, it would be excellent to hear from those who wish to contribute to it. We seek any articles that would be of interest to our readers – effective communication lies at the heart of any community and the more information everybody has as to what goes on around them, the better place this is to live in.

Following the change-over to village-wide distribution, our editorial team, Dr James Witchalls and Dr Ian Evett, decided that it would be a good time to hand over responsibility for the magazine to others. We all owe them both a great debt of gratitude for their commitment to producing such a high-quality magazine over the last 2-3 years. As they step down, the church and the Steering Group would like to say a big “thank you” to James and Ian for all they’ve done to give us such a good magazine.

The editorial responsibility has now been assumed pro tem by members of the Steering Group with Rachel Holland dealing with editorial content and Chris Wright dealing with the difficult bits of making it all look like a magazine. If out there, budding or experienced talent lies dormant, we would like to hear from you so that you can bring your ability to this project. We aim to expand our first class team as soon as possible – please let us know if you are that person.

Our team of deliverers have been first rate in their diligence and efforts and they cover the entire delivery of just under 2000. We hope everybody has received a magazine – if you know of anyone who has slipped through the net do let us know. Extra copies are delivered to the Bakery and to the OneStop.

In October, we’re going to be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th October at church, thanking God for an excellent summer and for good crops in fields and gardens. That day will also mark a farewell to the Rev Bob Politt and his wife, Rody, Rector of Sherfield and overall priest in charge of Bramley, as they move to Cambridge for a well-earned retirement. At our Harvest Lunch that day, we will give them a proper send-off and express our grateful thanks for all they’ve done for us at in Bramley.

We very much hope you will enjoy October’s magazine, and would be glad of any feedback you may want to pass on. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome!

All enquiries concerning advertising should be sent to our e-mail address or directly to Ian Crossley at Greenhouse Graphics (Tel: 01256 880770 – full details are in the title block).

Harvest Festival

St James Church

10.30am - Sunday 13th October



Including a farewell to Rev Bob Politt Rector of Sherfield-on-Loddon, and his wife Rody on their retirement, followed by Harvest Lunch in Cross House.

Gifts of fruit and vegetables, tins and packets of produce welcome. These will be donated to Mayplace House homeless hostel and the Food Bank.

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A Bishop in Bramley

John Lenton

It's not every day that we welcome a Bishop to our village: it's not even every year! So it was a special occasion when Bishop Peter, the Bishop of Basingstoke, came to St. James's Church in August to conduct a service of Confirmation.

Most people are familiar with the ceremony of Christening, the baptism of a baby in the church, when the baby's parents and godparents make promises to pray for the baby, to give him or her every opportunity to learn about the Christian faith, and commit themselves to set the baby an example of Christian living. But Confirmation? What's that about?

John Stott, a very well-known preacher and Christian author, says that confirmation has two meanings: "You confirm your commitment to Christ, ratifying personally what was promised in your name at your baptism... Then God 'confirms' you as, through the laying on of his hands, the Bishop prays for God's blessing on you and assures you of it."

We had six candidates for Confirmation, four adults from our sister church in Sherfield-on-Loddon and two young people from our own congregation. Each candidate had been through a course of preparation and they each wrote a short statement to the Bishop about why they wanted to make this public statement of their faith. One of them wrote: "...I would like to be confirmed as I want to open the door to Jesus and become a true Christian." There could be no better reason than that for someone to ask to be confirmed.

Church diary for October 2013...

6th	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Parish Communion – Bramley
13th	Harvest Festival & Farewell to The Rev'd Bob & Rody Politt
	No 9am Service
10.30	Harvest Festival Service – Bramley
20th	Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Parish Communion – Bramley
27th	Last Sunday after Trinity
8.00	Holy Communion (1662) – Bramley
10.30	Family Service – Bramley

...and into November

6th	Fourth Sunday before Advent
9.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Parish Communion – Bramley
13th	Third Sunday before Advent
9.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Matins (BCO, 1662) - Bramley

If anyone reading this article would be interested in being confirmed, a step of faith which qualifies people to take Holy Communion in the Church of England, please do contact John Lenton for more information.



From the parish registers...

Baptisms

25th August – Alipsa Pearl Marianos, Natalie Margaret Wood

Funeral

29th August – Joan Maive Violet Chamberlain

Catholic Services

Basingstoke

Church of St Bede's, Popley Way, RG24 9DX

Sunday Masses: 9.00am, 11.00 am and 6.30pm

Masses usually: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9.30am

Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX

Masses usually: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am

Phone 01256 465214 or email

stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for information

See <http://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/> for more details.

Tadley

St Michaels, Bishopswood Road, RG26 4HG

Saturday Mass: 6.00pm

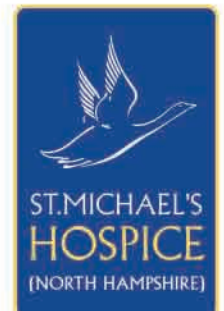
Sunday Mass: 9.30am

Parish priest: 0118 981 4572

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On Reflection...

John Lenton

Past, Present and Future

I've recently got back from a four-day meeting in Derbyshire of the Winchester Diocesan Synod. "You what?" you may well be asking, so I'd better explain. The Church of England actually has a very democratic form of government, from parish up to national level, through a set of "synods", which simply means "councils". This one was at diocesan level, which is the whole area overseen by the Bishop of Winchester, Tim Dakin.

Now, you may think that hell on earth would be to have to attend a four-day council meeting with a bunch of vicars and other people with nothing better to do than go to meetings. Ordinarily, I might agree with you, and I have to admit that I really wasn't looking forward to it when we set off in a coach from Basingstoke station. But actually, the whole four days were brilliant: some really good speakers, interesting presentations and some purposeful, down-to-earth discussions.

You may or may not know that Tim Dakin is a fairly new Bishop of Winchester; the head of this diocese (which is a big collection of churches covering all of Hampshire, part of Dorset, the Channel Islands and various other bits and pieces). In order to ensure we got some fresh thinking into our meeting, the Bishop had invited lots of younger people to attend and take part in the discussions: students, artists, teachers, and the like. They were all encouraged to speak their minds. So the four days were full of lively and challenging debate, all aimed at putting together a maximum of four or five top priorities for the churches in our diocese to focus on in the coming years.

It can be no secret that the Church of England is in decline, and has been for years. Many, though not all, churches have been haemorrhaging young people, who get to the age of about 13 and decide that they don't want to be there any more. The UK is not alone in this. The Church of Canada recently published a report which concluded that by 2050, if present trends continued, the Church would consist of 1 person. We aren't quite in that state, but we aren't so far behind.

Shell Club

Alison Jones

A new term at Shell Club, and thanks to Karen Simmons, Suzie Cox and Emma Perkins, who sorted through around 20 years' worth of accumulated bits and pieces in one almighty clear-out, so that we have a nice, clean, organised Shell Club room to go with it!



We're already looking forward to all the wonderful celebrations in the coming months: Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle and of course all the excitement of Christmas itself. We'll be doing our traditional Christmas play again this year so if you'd like your child to be involved, please do bring him or her along. We meet every Sunday at 10.30am with the grown-ups in church but we leave after the first hymn for stories, games, songs and craft activities of our own. Every fourth Sunday we stay in church for Family Service. Do come and join us!

Yet Jesus, when He was on earth, drew people, young and old, like a magnet. Everyone (except the religious people) loved to listen to Him, to hear His stories and see Him showing love and compassion to people who were sick or troubled or handicapped. So, somewhere, the Church really has lost the plot and we need to be thinking how to get it back on track. That is what this meeting was about, inspired by the words of Jesus to His disciples: "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

So what did this big gathering decide? In the first place, we concluded that we need to make sure that those of us who are already in the Church are actually living out our faith. Words aren't enough – we have to be, and be seen to be, people who live the way that Jesus lived: "authentic disciples" were the words we used for our first priority.

Then, as well as trying to get that right, we must set about ensuring that the Church is relevant to everyday people – just as Jesus Himself was clearly relevant to people in every walk of life. We need to be talking the same language, using the same communication methods – not changing the message of Jesus, which remains the same as He communicated to people in His own day, but making sure that it's conveyed and applied in a concrete way to people's lives today: we have to "re-imagine the Church".

We know that to be relevant, we need to be active as a church in the public and personal lives of people: trying to use our influence for good in society, in schools, in hospitals and hospices, in finance (as our Archbishop recently challenged the huge interest rates charged by Wonga.com), and in businesses.

And finally, like Jesus, we need to live our lives sacrificially as a Church – giving ourselves whole-heartedly to His mission of reaching out to people in our community, using our buildings wisely and effectively, putting the interests of other people first rather than our own...

All of these are a big ask. But they're good priorities, and our challenge in Bramley is to see how we should apply them in our own parish, with a little help from our friends – and especially from God.

Fun Day - 7th June

Peter Hayes

Update: Since we announced the Fun Day in last month's edition, things have really been moving on apace! We have recruited more enthusiastic volunteers to the Event Committee which gives us outreach to many more local organisations whose ideas and wishes can be taken on board. If you think your voice is not being heard, do come and join us!

At our recent meeting we heard from the Sherfield Committee about how they organise their event year on year – next year the Sherfield Fete will be a week later than ours on 14th June. We were able to benefit from their ideas and we threw in some of our own, so hopefully mutual benefit was gained.

Perhaps some local businesses might like make contact to hear more about our 'work in progress'? We are hoping to set up a firm structure which will enable us to sustain the Fun Day event in years to come.

Please feel free to contact me about any aspect of our plans: 07711643151 or email hysptr@aol.com. It would be great to hear from you!



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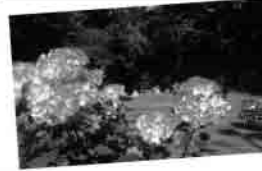
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'The Shoes' has had a recent spruce-up, under new management. London Pride, Doombard and Courage on tap plus a decent pint of Guinness. The food was very good, clearly all freshly cooked I recommend a visit to eat or just for a few pints.

TripAdvisor



On the first Tuesday of each month "The Shoes" plays host to a local Jazz Band ENQUINOX.



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I am bringing you news from your local surgery. It's that time of year again when the squirrels are collecting nuts and storing them for the winter, trying to prepare for the cold winter days. We need to get ready for winter too, so the surgery has its usual **flu clinic programme** starting in October. Stay Bright and Bushy Tailed! Please make an appointment. We have dates for two Saturday mornings and one Wednesday morning to try and cater for everyone's needs. These are **Sat 5th October, Wed 9th October and Sat 19th October**.

Flu vaccinations are currently offered free of charge to the following at-risk groups:

- People aged 65 years & over (including those who will be 65 by 31st March 2014)
- All pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- People with a serious medical condition – long term respiratory disease, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, neurological conditions, diabetes and weakened immune system. This includes children of all ages.

After your flu vaccination there might be slight soreness at the point of injection and some people may feel slight cold-like symptoms. You are unable to catch flu from the vaccine, it is a dead vaccine. You might get illnesses passed on from meeting up with people you haven't seen for a long time so be careful of those with colds and coughs. Droplets spread flu when you cough and sneeze.

I am sure you have heard about the new **Shingles vaccine** and we are preparing to give this to a select few to start with and then we will gradually call in others who are eligible. It is important to know that before having any vaccine if you have had any previous allergic reactions, we want you to be well when you have the vaccine to make sure you get the best possible uptake from it. It is only available to 70 and 79 year olds at first. This is because there isn't enough vaccine for everyone yet.

There is more good news. Our resident nurse, Judy, is offering **afternoon blood test appointments**. She can also take blood pressure readings and perform health checks so ring and make an appointment.

New Staff update:

Practice Nurses

Sister Margaret Towsey has joined us as an extra diabetic specialist nurse to work with Sister Pam Teal with our diabetic patients. She is also experienced in heart disease/blood pressure and we hope our patients will see her for these conditions as well.

Sister Margie Woods has taken over from Sister Penny Griffin to look after our Asthma and COPD patients as our specialist respiratory nurse.

Doctors

Dr Claire Walton, an experienced GP, who has been helping us for the past few years, has now formally joined the practice to help with the increased demand.

Dr Naureen Akhtar, an experienced hospital doctor, is with us until May 2014.

Clift Surgery Main Telephone: 01256 881228

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Bramley Church of England Primary School

Lyn Downes

Interim Headteacher



Bramley School is now back to work following a summer of exciting developments.

Teachers spent the last week of August busily preparing their classrooms, making sure that the

children returned to find a vibrant learning environment after quite extensive building works.

Five new classrooms have been commissioned. All classrooms in the school have new lighting plus our IT system has been extensively overhauled, meaning children and staff now have access to lovely new laptop computers to enhance their learning experiences. Work to the school grounds around the new building have yet to be completed, but staff are already planning the extra opportunities this will facilitate. Five new teachers have joined the school this term and are already part of our committed team.

Every new school year is a little like a fairground ride – once embarked, the energy rush carries all with it! New entrant Open days have been set for the mornings of 18th and 24th September when we hope to welcome parents and children who are due to start school next year. Several have already made individual appointments (something we are always happy to do) and have been excited by what they have seen going on in our school. Preparations for Harvest Festival and Christmas productions are being made and we are really looking forward to continuing the onward learning journey for everyone in school.

It is hoped that we can schedule a general Open day in the week beginning 21st October, but this cannot be finalised until the building work is finished – please watch out for the date and come along and see the school for yourself! We also published our newsletters and information about chances to visit the school on our website so please do check the website regularly. www.bramley.hants.sch.uk

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Bramley Show 2013

Phyl Davies

A lovely sunny day brought many residents of Bramley and the surrounding area to the Village Hall on August 17th to view the exhibits. They were all very good, although entries in some divisions were down. There was a colourful display, especially in the Pot Plants and Dahlias classes. The Floral Art division was strongly supported, and it was encouraging to note new names among the exhibitors.



Thank-you to Anne Porter who, with her small committee, worked so hard organising the show, and to all who participated. Hope to see you in 2014!

Ann Lenton presented the awards, and here are the winners of the cups for 2013:

Bramley Show Floral Art	Frances Lewis
Bramley Show Children's Cup	Daisy Kirby
Bramley Show Bill Davies Memorial Cup (Photos)	Paul Moulton
Bramley Show	John Attwood
Sam Bruce Cup Children's Painting Competition	Daisy Pritchard-Jones & Tom Pullan (joint winners)
Reed Challenge Cup Best in Show Children's Section	Samara Pranata
Bramley Show Domestic Challenge Cup	Cliff Wythe
Davies & Jones Cup Flower Division	Gill Evett
Bramley Show Phyl Davies Art Challenge Cup	Stephanie Cornell
Plate for Fruit and Vegetable Division	John Attwood
Andrews Challenge Cup for Art	Stephanie Cornell
Best Vegetable in Show	John Attwood
Best Flower in Show	Gill Evett

Basingstoke Embroidery Guild

Mary Barker

Are you interested in Stitching and Textiles? Then you must come and visit your local branch of the Embroidery Guild. We have a speaker each month and in October we are lucky enough to be hosting Kim Thittichai, a renowned mixed media textile artist who works with fabrics that she can manipulate with heat to form new creations. This will be followed up with a workshop at the beginning of November. Workshops are a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, have some fun and learn new skills.



We meet at Popley Fields Community centre between 1.30 and 3.30 on the third Thursday of the month. Members also enjoy a 'Stitcher's Parlour' on the morning of the meeting where we can spend quality time stitching and sharing ideas and skills.

We are a very friendly group and welcome one and all to visit and find out more about us.

Next meeting Thursday October 24th. Visitors £5.

For further information please contact:

Mary Barker Tel: 01256 471576

Bramley Voluntary Care Group

Phyl Davies

On July 30th, three volunteers received Long Service Awards from the Good Neighbours Support Service. With Chris Woodward as their chauffeur for the day, the three enjoyed the scenic drive through the Candovers to Old Alresford Place, Alresford, where, with dozens of other volunteers from across the Diocese, they were greeted at the Summer Tea Party. Sparkling wine and elderflower cordial were served. There was time to chat with other groups, enjoy the music of Solent City Jazz band, and then the cream tea!



Presentations were made by co-ordinator Mary Mitchell. Jenny Edwards received a certificate for five years' service, and Pat Jones and Phyl Davies each received certificates for 15 years' service. They, with all the other members, were thanked for their unique contribution as volunteers over many years.

A new term begins at The Priory!

Suzanne Kelly

New children, new uniforms and new haircuts typically signal the start of the new academic year. This September, we are delighted that we are able to add yet another new addition to this list, in the form of our new "outside classroom"!



With the help of our school community, we have developed an existing shed –storeroom, whose dark corners once hid a multitude of old equipment, into a fantastic light and bright teaching space. New bi-fold doors have replaced the traditional garage door, meaning that we can bring the outside inside and vice versa. The new doors open up the entire back of the building, allowing access to a new decked area where we can take full advantage of the panoramic views across the fields towards the A340.

Over the coming weeks and months, we are hoping to create a series of exciting lessons using this new area as a teaching base, taking our beautiful surroundings as a stimulus for learning across the curriculum. As well as increasing the children's academic knowledge, we are aiming to encourage and develop a range of skills for life, including creative thinking, problem solving, leading others and working as a team. Some exciting work has already begun and this has involved creating large willow structures of red kites and we are hoping that they may be the first art installation in the space.

We have all been very excited about our outside classroom project and as you can imagine, the children cannot wait to get their wellies on and start exploring in earnest. It is going to be a lot of fun for everyone!

As ever, if you would like to visit the school, you would be most welcome – simply contact the office on 01256 850062 - we will look forward to welcoming you!

Pub Lunch for Probus Club

Paul Flint



With the holiday season reducing the speaker meetings, for many years the Probus Club of Basingstoke has instead had a summer pub lunch for members and their better halves.

The incoming president makes the selection so that each year a different venue is chosen which adds interest, since probably very few members can say that they have visited every tavern in the district. This year the President, Paul Flint, decided that he would keep things local, and as he lives in Hatch Warren the splendid thatched Portsmouth Arms played host.

Two people had birthdays on the day, member Mike Jarvis of Chineham and Jay, the wife of member Ron Hudson of Bramley. Neither chose to disclose how old they were.

This is one of four specific occasions during the present season which involves the ladies, and over thirty members and wives enjoyed a convivial lunch. The other times will be the Christmas Dinner at Sandford Springs golf club, the Ladies' spring lunch, held last time at Oakley Hall, and a wine tasting instead of one of the usual evening meetings at Christ Church in Chineham.

In addition there are organised trips several times a year when wives and lady friends are invited; the next one being a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home of the famous Chelsea Pensioners.

Potential members can find more about this club for retired professional and business men by looking at their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or phone their secretary Gerry Anslow for an informative chat on 01256 325253.

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Bramley Village Hall Trust

Councillor Janet Grieve

The Village Hall has been redecorated and deep cleaned during the summer holidays and arrangements have been made to resurface the floor in the Main Hall and Committee Room early next year. The Village Hall Trust (VHT) Committee chaired by Richard Wood are considering the viability of future improvements such as upgrading the heating system and improving the car park.

The Committee have been asking regular users what would improve their experience and use of the facilities. The feedback and comments will inform a feasibility study which will be conducted in the autumn. If you have ideas and suggestions then please contact the Secretary, Janet Grieve, on 01256 882966 or at resourcingconcepts@hotmail.co.uk

Due to a Bramley West power cut on 12th September the VHT Committee Meeting had to be postponed and will now be held early in October. We had hoped to welcome our new Treasurer, Philip Lewis, who is taking over from Anna Keir at the end of the year; Anna has been a great servant to the VHT and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication.

The Village Hall has been the base for 'Little Apples' nursery for a number of years. However, there are still plenty of times when it is available, so in order to make better use of it and the other facilities in the village such as Clift Meadow and Cross House, there are plans under way for an electronic booking system which can be viewed online via the Bramley Parish Council website. In the meantime, if you wish to book our facilities; contact Eileen Gulston on 01256 881125 who can advise on availability at both the Village Hall and Clift Meadow.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Malcolm Bell

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is moving forward. Latest information can be found on the web site www.bramleyndp.org.uk. The steering group, made up of volunteers from the community, has now analysed the information from the initial questionnaire, from the village plan questionnaire and from engagement with residents on a one to one basis at events and through different organisations. We are now tasked with listing the core objectives of the NP based on the evidence you, the community, have presented, and presenting those objectives to you for approval. You will have the opportunity to make your comments on our analysis and to put forward your ideas. This is not just a one off communication; we are happy to receive comments throughout the whole period of preparing the plan. We can then edit the objectives and move on to writing policies to achieve those objectives.

An example of a small requirement in the recreational folder is to possibly provide a bowling green which could be used by all age groups, and a skateboard park which would

be popular with the younger members of the community. This would be through improvements to the social and recreational infrastructure of the village. To provide these improvements is one thing, to site them in the village is another, so this is where your ideas come in. Where do you want such facilities situated and do you really want such facilities?

By the time this brief reaches you, we will have held an Open Day Workshop which will have been publicised and we trust well attended, so that throughout October we will be able to refine the objectives in line with your suggestions, and write the policies. Our work is dependent on your ideas so that in the end we put in front of you a plan that is acceptable to the community and sees Bramley as a village providing a comfortable, happy existence; a plan that is a legal document which planners and developers have to acknowledge.

The Local Plan states that Bramley, on the housing front, is allocated 200 houses which are to be sited by the community through the NP. Do not miss this unique opportunity to decide what Bramley will look like in the future, what facilities it will have.

Be involved, have your say.

Go to the web site and make your views known. We do take notice. The Plan covers Future Housing, Transport, Leisure and Wellbeing and the Environment and Sustainability.

What did my ancestors do for me?

Update on the Belcher family

Rachel Holland

You may have read about the Belcher family in the July issue of the Parish magazine or the August issue of the Parish council newsletter. Since then, I have found the answers to a number of my questions.



Yes, the Vicar, Rev Thomas Hayes Belcher, and his wife, Annie, are buried in the churchyard, on the right hand side of the path leading to the present burial ground. The memorial has been recently cleaned and is easy to find. They had 7 children, 4 boys and 3 girls. The vicar had been a schoolmaster at Malvern College, and went on to become Principal of Brighton College before moving to Bramley in 1893.

His surviving son, Arthur, followed his father both in becoming ordained and in working as a schoolmaster, and was made Principal of Brighton College in his turn, in the 1930s. His sister Ethel was also a teacher and taught at Bedford High School. The citation for Raymond's MC can be found in the London Gazette and tells of his bravery and leadership under fire.

Can you add to this information? I'm currently researching the remaining thirteen men who died in the First World War and are named on the Bramley Roll of Honour. If you'd like to help, please get in touch with Sarah Smart, the parish clerk, bramleypc@hotmail.co.uk or me, Rachel Holland cgh504935@aol.com

Each month the PC will attempt to update you on key issues, our various projects and events which are impacting the community. We won't necessarily cover every event however more information is available on the PC website www.bramley.co.uk and other linked sites. You can also send the Parish Clerk a comment or question on bramleypc@hotmail.co.uk or visit the PC twitter [@bramleypc](https://twitter.com/bramleypc) or our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/BramleyPC.



The PC meets monthly on the third Monday in the Village Hall (next meeting is 21st October) – our meetings are open to the public; we publish agendas and minutes on the Village Notice Boards. One of our concerns is to try and keep the information published current and readable.

YOUTH FACILITY PROJECT.



In July the parish council voted to continue to refine the plans and provide a business case for the proposed new youth facility on Clift Meadow, and submit a package to B&DBC for Planning Approval and we agreed there would be further public consultation for this project. Councillors agreed to purchase some booking-system software which would enable the Village Hall Trust, Clift Meadow Trust (CMT), and Cross House to work together to get the best use out of the spaces available for community use; more information on this initiative is in the Village Hall Report. Borough Officers have confirmed that £321,000, plus additional funds for playing fields, are likely to be confirmed once planning permission is agreed. The majority of Parish Councillors and the CMT are excited by the prospect of gaining substantial and sustainable facilities around the village.

Tadley borrow £500,000. I noted in the Basingstoke Gazette (6 Sep) that Tadley taxpayers could be paying for a new youth centre over the next 20 years. It appears that Tadley Town Council will contribute £50,000 from council coffers and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board to help finance their £500,000 project. I am delighted to say we have developed a project plan which uses funds held by B&DBC specifically for youth activities in Bramley, so we will not be indebted in this way.

Do we need new facilities? –Compared with most communities in the area we are very short of facilities for young people. In my experience the youth in most communities need a 'place' and the proposed facilities will offer a supervised Youth Club; the space when not used will be available for other youth activities and the rest of the community.

Income shortfall? The Parish Council are considering the likelihood that the facilities in Bramley will continue to need some level of grant funding. Offering PC funding to community facilities is considered a good use of parish council money and there is no limit on PC donations to village halls. Other grants and donations are limited by legislation and the current calculation is £6.98 per head

of electorate, so in Bramley we have a limit of approximately £21,000 per annum for grants and donations. Bramley PC operates well within the guidelines and has budgeted £12,000 for the financial period 2013-2014

Undue risk? Given the current PC budget allows £12,000 for grants and donations and we donated a total of just £6,500 last year, it is likely the PC is able, if required, to provide support to both VHT and CMT in 2014-2015 as necessary, without affecting our budget and precept. I accept there is risk that the new facility may need additional funding for a settling-in period, however I believe if we can use our facilities and market their worth, Bramley in a couple of years could be humming with additional activities for all age groups. The funds held by the Borough are ring-fenced for a specific set of projects such as youth activities, recreation and play fields; the CMT are prepared to sponsor the youth facility project within their Charter – I believe we should work together to make this a 'win' for Bramley.

ALLOTMENTS.

Bramley has 12 plots behind St James' Church but part of the site will eventually become the Bramley Burial Ground. We have begun to look for a new site for allotments within the village boundary. After looking at a number of sites we have identified B&DBC owned land which the Borough Council have agreed to lease us at 'peppercorn' rent (effectively free) near to Bullsdown Farm. At the July PCM the project team was asked to meet with the engineers to finalise plans and costs, and to continue to progress the project over the summer recess. On 5 August 2013, PC representatives met with Borough Officers to discuss the progression of the allotments project. The Borough Officers agreed to produce a revised costs schedule including a timeframe for the work and their fees. It was agreed there was a need for local public consultation of residents prior to the submission of the planning application; there will be a formal consultation once the application is made, which will of course be discussed at a future PC meeting.



Waiting List and action. We have a waiting list of around 33 people, but we are unlikely to accommodate all of them at the new site right away as there would be too much compromise of the open space. Even though there are other open areas nearby, we do not want to exclude people from too much of this area. Instead we hope to create a good balance between the use of some of the site for new allotments, along with maintaining enough open space for other public use and dog walking. We are still in the early stages, but our provisional plan would develop 16 quarter-sized plots and a further 8 half-sized plots at the new location. As we do not need to purchase land, we have been able to save up enough funds over a three year period to pay for the work required. We will keep you informed of progress in developing the allotments in Bramley

FOOTPATHS.

During the summer I have been introduced to a number of people who have significant information on the history of this region and in particular the origins and sustainment of footpaths. I was advised to review the Rights of Way homepage - Hampshire County Council www.hants.gov.uk/row.htm Rights of Way. "Mapping Hampshire's countryside."

Responsibility. As the Councillor with specific responsibility for Transport I have agreed with the PC that I will begin to research the footpaths which cross our Parish. I have borrowed maps which show Bramley and its footpaths in 1911 and beyond. As with all these things the issue often descends into liability and burden sharing. I have established the maintenance of stiles and gates is the responsibility of the landowner, HCC check that they are safe and easy to use. New stiles and gates require authorisation. HCC encourage the replacement of stiles with kissing gates or gaps, so paths can be used more easily; there is no obligation on the landowner to make allowance for dogs to get through stiles.

Eyes on the ground. The cutting of vegetation along the official footpaths is a responsibility of HCC but managed by the PC. I am advised HCC respond to requests rather than systematically visiting all paths. HCC produces an annual cutting list of the paths which are considered the highest priority to cut. This list comprises those paths which in the past Parish Councils have nominated as their highest priority, as well as those paths which are most regularly reported to the County Council as overgrown. Could you identify to the PC bramleypc@hotmail.co.uk paths which you use regularly which are overgrown? I will look into this matter and keep readers informed.

ROAD TRANSPORT - INTRODUCTION.

I will address specific concerns each month. There are many other aspects of transport (road / rail and path) which will be aired and discussed on the PC website, through the NDP or through the pages of the Bramley Magazine.

Transport Concerns. Activity along the C32 and the behaviour of drivers and cyclist in Bramley is a common cause of complaint to the PC. We have made some progress, however there is always more that can be done. We have a good relationship with HCC and Borough Officers and can often influence the argument, however please be aware that mostly we are consulted and have little authority over the final decision. This year the most complained about issue is pot-holes near the 'pinch points' and HCC has been asked to do a robust job to repair and strengthen the offending sites. There has been temporary work to reduce the hazard; sadly the C32 through Bramley East won't be fully resurfaced for a number of years although Officers will continue to visit and monitor the condition of the road.

Current programme or future development. The NDP Steering Group reports elsewhere in this magazine. The NDP is focussed on gathering views and opinions on how Bramley may evolve or be developed up to 2029. The PC

will continue to focus on the current programme covering the next two years or so, and the NDP will focus on the issues and challenges from 2015 – 2029, linking recommendations to the Borough Local Plan.

Sherfield Rd/Campbell Rd junction. As part of the overall package of traffic calming and related road safety it was agreed a number of years ago that some of the money provided by developers should be spent on a new roundabout at the junction of Campbell Road and Sherfield Road (C32). The PC voted, accepting the need for a roundabout; however Councillors have always insisted they only wanted three exits and there should be no fourth exit into the field owned by the Stratfield Saye Estate (SSE). During the last six months, as part of a land purchase negotiation, HCC have been obliged by the SSE to add a fourth junction to the planned roundabout for agricultural access into the field. In the PCM in July Councillors asked that I spoke to the SSE to see if they would reconsider in the light of the concerns and sensitivities expressed by Parish Councillors on behalf of the community. In a meeting during August the Estate Manager stated the fourth junction of the roundabout would enhance access and value; he also stated there was no plan in the foreseeable future to seek permission to develop the area. While the PC has stated it has concerns about this additional exit, as just one of the many consultees, it has no power to enforce our requirement or stop the HCC plan to build a roundabout. The need for the roundabout remains traffic calming and road safety; and on this basis has already been approved by the parish council.

Railway crossing safety. During recent discussions with the Headteacher we agreed there is a concern over the safety of children at the railway level crossing; we agreed I would seek the views of HCC and Borough Officers to see what actions could be considered.

If you have views please let us know; we hope to see you at our next PC meeting on Monday 21st October.

Bramley Trail Runners

Richard Perkins

Hi all, just wanted to let you know about our group, Bramley Trail Runners



We're a friendly running club based in Bramley who run mainly on trails, with the exception of mid-winter when we run on the local lanes. It's a great way of finding new paths and routes around the local area. We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, at the back of the Clift Meadow pavilion.

There is a variety of ability levels, and many of our members were relatively new to running when they joined. We're affiliated to ARC, and membership is just £12 per year. You can get more information on www.comerunning.co.uk or email richardperkins@yahoo.com with any questions.

Police Report

PCSO 14877 James Rickaby

HOME SECURITY.

Please could I remind all residents to ensure doors, windows and integral doors into your premises are always locked, and any keys are placed in a secure place and not left in the door? Some offenders use make shift devices to place through a letter box, which will them hook around the handle and open the door if it has not been locked properly. These types of offenders do not want to be seen and often target vulnerable properties. If you feel you would like some crime prevention advice in safe guarding your property then please contact me.



DERELICT BUILDINGS.

There are two buildings in Bramley I want to mention; the Royal British Legion site and Beech Farm House. Both sites seem to be an attractive location for younger residents to go to, and there is constant damage occurring. Both buildings are in a bad state of repair, and have lots of hazards in and around their location. Please could I remind all residents that no access is allowed at these buildings unless permitted to do so by the owners?

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES (ASB).

ASB can be of a varied nature, and range from loud music being played, vehicles driving inappropriately and dangerously, littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti, neighbour disputes; to name but a few. As the festive season is approaching with both Halloween and Bonfire night coming up please ensure your enthusiasm does not spoil others enjoyment.

Crimestoppers

Our long hot summer seems to be a distant memory, and the children have all gone back to school (parents and grandparents collectively breathe a huge sigh of

relief!). This all means it's time for many of us to take a well-earned break, before the excitement and planning for Christmas begins! Whether you are off somewhere tropical to become sun bronzed on a white sandy beach, or whether you are staying closer to home, do have a great time.

If you are going abroad, here are a few suggestions to help you. Airports are always full of people and some airports abroad are far more chaotic than those in the UK. Sadly, there are some people who go to airports with no intention of flying – they simply want to mingle amongst the tourists and see what ill-gotten gains they can get.

Keep your valuables safe. A passport can be worth a huge amount of money on the black market. Having your passport taken either at home or abroad will certainly not help you enjoy a smooth trip to wherever you are travelling.

It is worth sharing the cash and credit cards amongst your party. If one of you should have the misfortune to lose a wallet or purse, at least you will still have some cash and cards between you to continue on your holiday without too much inconvenience.



With luggage labels on your cases and bags, don't fill in your home address on the return part of the label until you are ready to begin your journey home. Someone in an

airport could easily make a note of the address, and not unreasonably assume that your home is going to be empty for at least the next week or so.

When first arriving in a foreign country, we Brits have a great gift for standing out from the crowd. We are usually a bit pale, and still dressed in thermal gear from the weather at home! You would stand out a mile to any would-be thieves, especially in the confusion of a busy disorganised airport where you have bags to collect, children to supervise, and are now starting to regret wearing so many layers of clothing!

Most importantly, enjoy your holiday and remember to send me a postcard!

Please call Crimestoppers if you have information about any crime, or log on to www.crimestoppers-uk.org Your call is free, no one will know it was you that called and you may earn a cash reward. If you are on Twitter, please follow me @HantsCrimestopp for regular updates.

DISTRACTION BURGLARY.

Distraction burglary is defined by the Home Office as "any crime where a falsehood, trick or distraction is used on an occupant of a dwelling to gain entry or try to gain access to the premises to commit burglary". Anybody can be a victim, but often the elderly and vulnerable are targeted and victims can feel embarrassed, and so often do not want to tell their family and friends about the incident. Offenders will use varying methods to 'distract' victims, we ask all residents to follow the steps below to ensure that you do not become a victim:

- Use the door chain when answering the door, if you are not sure do not open the door;
- Check the credentials of unknown callers. Do not phone the number on the ID card, use a phone book or a bill;
- Never employ cold-calling doorstep traders or engage with cold callers on the phone.
- Do not keep substantial sums of money in the home;
- Always keep front and back doors locked;
- LOCK STOP CHAIN and CHECK - if unsure do not open the door;
- Consider joining a NHW scheme, or looking into setting up a 'No Cold Calling Zone';
- Report any suspicious callers or activity to the police immediately; and
- Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, friends and family.

EMERGENCY.

Please can I ask all residents to report any suspicious persons, vehicles or incidents using the 101 telephone number; please only ring 999 if it is a genuine emergency?

PC Simon Wright,

What did my ancestors do for me?

Rachel Holland

Submarine lost on the Dogger Bank – no survivors

Next time you pass through Bramley Corner, spare a thought for Albert Joseph Miller who used to live there. He joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Telegraphist in August 1912, at the age of 16. He served on seven different ships, and was wounded in action off Heligoland in August 1914. He passed his promotion exams to Leading Telegraphist and married a girl called Ethel. His Dad, Alfred, was a domestic chauffeur. Perhaps Dad worked at Beaurepaire House? Albert was the eldest of 5 children.



His final ship was the Maidstone E50, a submarine launched on Clydeside in 1916. Here's a picture of the launch. There were 56 'E' class submarines in service, and their role was to blockade the German coast. The E50 was 181 feet long (55m) and had a complement of 30 crew. It had a speed of 10 knots, submerged, and a range of 3,000 nautical miles. It was armed with 5 18 inch torpedo tubes and one 12 pounder gun.

Albert joined the ship in March 1917 and he was on board when it was believed to have struck a mine near the South Dogger Light Vessel on 31st January 1918. There were no

survivors. Albert's service record ends poignantly with the words "Lost on Duty".

His name is not only on our own Roll of Honour in Bramley parish church, but also on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common. You will almost certainly have seen the memorial when you have visited Portsmouth and Southsea. It was erected to commemorate members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, and holds the names of 10,000 sailors who died in World War I and a further 15,000 who died in World War II. This photograph shows it as it was in 1930, before the Second World War names were added.

Do you know or remember the Miller family? Can you add more to this story? Was Henry Miller, GC, who was also killed in action, in 1940, a relative?

This is one of a series of articles trying to research the details of Bramley men whose names are recorded on the Great War Roll of Honour. Sixteen names are recorded. Of course many men and women served in the First World War and survived. Can you tell their stories for us?

We are interested in all World War I connections with Bramley, not only in people who originated from Bramley. So if you have a story to tell about a relative who fought in the First World War and would like to write it up for the Bramley Magazine, we'd love to hear it. Please get in touch through the magazine email bramleymag2@btinternet.com or with Sarah the parish clerk at bramleypc@hotmail.co.uk



The Royal British Legion

Gareth Doust

Since I last wrote to you as Vice Chairman, the members of The Bramley (and District) Branch of The Royal British Legion have elected me as their Chairman, following the announcement from Charles Lewis that he wouldn't be standing for the post himself at September's Annual General Meeting. Charles leaves the position he had made his own after five years of distinguished service, to follow personal interests in the United States of America, and I wish him and his wife Marilyn all the very best in their future endeavours.

Under Charles's stewardship the Branch has continued to go from strength to strength, and I am very excited to accept the challenge of guiding us into the next era over the forthcoming three years. It is a very important time for the Branch, and indeed the Royal British Legion as a whole, as we start to prepare commemorations for the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I. I stated last month that I felt a wider engagement with the community at large would benefit the residents of Bramley and its surrounding District, and I wish to continue this theme by inviting anybody with ideas on how this occasion should be marked in our area to contact me directly. I will myself commit to engaging the community with ideas we have of our own, to provide an opportunity for feedback.


On the subject of community engagement, our informal Friday social evenings continue at local pubs, and I once again invite you to check the diary of events in this magazine to see if you could join us

at one (or more!) of them. We would be very keen to welcome anybody who supports the aims of The Royal British Legion, whether or not you have personally served in the Armed Forces.

Finally, as we approach November, it would be remiss of me to not mention the Poppy Appeal and local Remembrance Services. Whilst the Poppy Appeal is a fundraising effort which continues throughout the year, the month leading to Armistice Day is naturally our busiest time. There will be static collection boxes in many of our local businesses, along with a number of volunteers collecting within your area, and I ask you please to support them generously. The Royal British Legion does some fantastic work supporting ex-service personnel and their families, and it is vital that our public continue to support us, if we are to provide the same level of welfare service for which we have become known.

Remembrance Services will of course be held at each of our local Churches on Remembrance Sunday itself, and I hope to see many of you there as we pay our respects to the Fallen. I will be writing to you again next month, when I hope to update you with our involvement, alongside that of Bramley Parish Council and the Parish Church Council, to bring a War Memorial to Bramley.

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Bramley & Romans 35th Birthday celebration

Eileen Gulston



Forty members of the Bramley & Romans Floral Society assembled at Sherfield-on-Loddon Village hall on Thursday September 5th at 12 noon to celebrate its 35th Birthday. Coral (the 35th anniversary colour) dominated the hall from the flowers, the table decorations & every person wearing something coral. The afternoon started with a delicious 3 course lunch including wine & soft drinks & finishing with a cheese board. This was followed by a floral demonstration by Jackie who joined us for lunch with her husband Colin.

The title of the demonstration was Movies from the Mansion - all five arrangements depicted early films which got us all guessing & remembering. A memorable one for me was The Red Shoes musical with Moira Shearer. Jackie's flowers were in striking red, in-filled with green foliage & a pink rose as her face; her auburn hair was sisal & her arms were phormium placed in a familiar ballet pose, & of course, a pair of red shoes as an accessory. The following four were all completely different & equally charming. All these arrangements became raffle prizes, including several smaller ones that Jackie had made earlier.

After the first 3 arrangements we had a break during which our Chair, Joyce, cut the cake & we all enjoyed a slice with a very welcome cup of tea and bought raffle tickets. Then back to Jackie's last 2 arrangements.

Finally, the raffle was drawn, with several of us thrilled at winning one of the arrangements. It was a totally successful event & thanks must go to Joyce for making the cake, Val, our cook, Stephanie & Annie for the delightful table arrangements & the committee for their hard work before, during & after the function. We will be able to look back on the day, when the many photos that Colin, Annie & Keith took are developed - there seemed

to be the click of cameras throughout the afternoon!

Bramley and Romans Floral Society was formed in February 1978 by Mrs Rosemary Casban. She was a dedicated flower arranger and had friends in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area and insisted that we should be affiliated to that Area and not Wessex and Jersey Area as we should have been geographically. The "Romans" part of the name of the society was included as Mrs Casban lived in Silchester and thought this was appropriate.

She felt there was a need for a Flower Club in the area and this art form was beginning to "take off". Sadly Mrs Casban died not too long after the Society was formed but over the years it has staged and taken part in Flower Festivals, arranged Craft Shows and coffee mornings as fund raisers and has always treated the December Meeting as a Buffet Party and Demonstration and open to members of the public. For more information please contact Joyce Rawlinson on 01256 889040.



Bramley Knitting Group

Our Summer break is over, and meetings began again on 24th September. The busy knitters will be needing supplies of wool. My first request brought no response, so here's another appeal. Have you any double-knitting wool which you do not require? Even small amounts are useful for the

Phyl Davies

jumpers we make for children in Zimbabwe. Requests have also come from Nicaragua! Please contact Edna on 01256 880368. She will be delighted to hear from you.



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Bramley Iron Mums

Alison Jones

The fifth Bramley Iron Mum event took place on Saturday 7 September – the weather was perfect, the supporters were enthusiastic, the cakes were unbelievably good. And the Iron Mums themselves? Pure dead brilliant.

There were 90 competitors this year, and at one point the queue for registration arced across Clift Meadow. Somehow everyone was checked in, given their numbers and shown where to rack their bikes on time, at which point one of the registration marshals was heard to mutter, “I never knew I could sweat so hard from just ticking names”.

Bikes and helmets racked, numbers securely pinned on, the Iron Mums joined in a group warm-up, led by Caroline Sherlock of **This2This Fitness**, one of the original Iron Mum organisers. They lined up at the start fizzing with nerves but still smiling, the klaxon sounded and in a storm of cheers and waves they were gone and the fun day could get underway properly.

There was a bouncy castle of course, face-painting, a kids’ Stretch-n-Grow session with Kate Scorse, making fire and other survival skills with **Bushcraft Days**, lots of games and stalls, and this year for the first time an Iron Dad event so the blokes could get all competitive too – a haybale toss.

After 20 minutes or so the first Buns of Steel runners started to return to pick up their bikes, and from this point on the day for me is a blur: focused Iron Mum faces in and out of transition; the timing team calling numbers to each other; marshals flying around dispatching bikes and deftly catching them as returning cyclists headed off on wobbly legs for the final sprint; children running alongside their mums down the finish straight; kids bombarding the finishers with medals, goody bags, water and slices of watermelon; tearful hugs; toddlers appropriating medals; dazed, beaming smiles as Iron Mums congratulated each other and compared notes.

Once they’d got their breath back, most took advantage of expert free massages kindly provided by North Hampshire Sports Massage team – I saw one take a slab of cake to the table with her, clearly unable to decide between those two pressing priorities.

Barrie Tribe of Tadley Runners presented the prizes – trophies for the top three in each class plus fabulous bottles of champagne from Berry Bros for the winners of each class. The winners were:-

Abs of Iron:

1. Felicity Pointer,
2. Dianne Cartwright,
3. Sharron Milne

Buns of Steel:

1. Laura Morris,
2. Victoria Grayson,
3. Kristy Roff.

The winner of the Caroline Withers Most Improved Cup was Liz Cudmore, who beat her last year’s time by more than 10 minutes. (Emma Brown wasn’t far behind, in fact of the 30 women in contention for Most Improved this year, 21 had improved their times and 1 was exactly the same, to the second!)

Saying thanks to everyone who makes Iron Mum what it is – the marshals, fun day helpers and the group leaders – is always an important part of the day. For this, our fifth birthday, we had a special memento for the eight helpers who’ve been involved every single year – an engraved wine-stopper to go with their thank-you bottle of wine. (Although Andy Stead, our PA man, pointed out that the concept of left-over wine was one with which he was not familiar...)

A fantastic day to finish another great Iron Mum year of training – thanks to all who took part!



Iron Mums Ready to Race

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday 8 December

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Bramley WI

Jane Matthews

The July meeting was our Birthday Party where we had visitors from other WI's in Hampshire, which included the Chairman and other officials.

Alan Turton who is a local military historian gave us a presentation of the history of the 'Mary Rose'. The talk started from when she was being built until the sinking of her in 1545, and up to the present day with the new museum. It was a most interesting and informative presentation. He told us of the different battles that took place, how after she was sunk with the loss of 600 men they tried to raise her but without success.

During Elizabeth 1st 's reign they tried again, but she was stuck fast in the London Clay which was at the bottom of the Solent, although 2 fisherman brothers, the Deans, did manage to get some artefacts up, but the Mary Rose was really stuck. After that she was forgotten, until of course when we all know she was raised in 1982. On the slides we saw some remains, lots of pots, leather clothes, backgammon game, and also the carpenter's tools and the Surgeon's instruments, and there was even a skeleton of a dog. We ended the evening with refreshments and nibbles, and a slice of Birthday Cake which was made by Joyce one of our members, and this was cut by Brenda, the Chairman of Hampshire Federation.

We had a very good days at the New Forest Show; we had 2 representatives there on each day. We did very well with the entries: a couple of golds, a number of silvers, and blue, red and

green also. Everyone worked very hard and our grateful thanks to Joyce, Margaret and Dusty for the preparations and organisation, and also Eileen for holding all the entries at her house. All the certificates will be given out later at one of our meetings.

We had a brilliant day out at the Mary Rose in August; the weather was glorious, especially when we went on a harbour cruise which was a bonus to us. The Museum was very interesting, and it certainly helped having the talk beforehand, a good time was had by all.



In September we had a 'Learn to Crochet' evening. Unfortunately we could not use the Village Hall as there was a power cut at that end of the village, so we de-camped down to Anne's house - our President. Our grateful thanks go to Anne for hosting the event at short notice, and Joyce, Edna and Pat for all their help in teaching some of us 'novices' the art of crochet; we had a good laugh considering that obviously the space was limited.

We meet in the Bramley room of the Village Hall, every second Thursday of the month, and we have a varied programme. The subject in October is 'organic gardening', the next month we are making Christmas decorations and then in December we have a party with entertainment from the Bramley Belles and also The Generation. If you would like more information please contact our President Anne Porter on 881691, or just come along to one of our meetings, you would be most welcome.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

www.hiwwt.org.uk

October Events

WED 9TH OCTOBER

INSECTS AND ORCHIDS OF THE NORTH HAMPSHIRE RESERVES AGM 7PM TALK 8PM

Illustrated talk by local entomologist and Trust photographer, Jonathan Oakley. There is a short Basingstoke District Group AGM prior to the talk at 7pm. To be held at Hook Room, London Street United Reform Church, Basingstoke. RG21 7NU (Map ref. SU 639 518). For further details please contact Lydia Knight on 01256 334316. Parking available in nearby public car parks. Refreshments available. Admission £3.



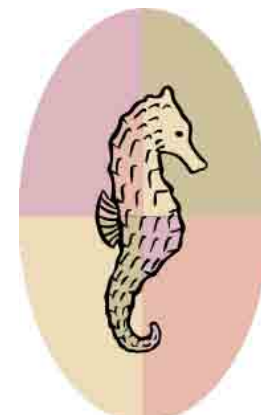
SAT 26TH OCTOBER FUNGUS FORAY 2-4PM

A walk around Crabtree Plantation with local expert Mike Waterman to look for and identify different fungi. Meet at public car park off A30 London Road, Old Basing RG24 7HB (Map ref. SU 663 520). For further details please contact Lydia Knight on 01256 334316. Suggested donation £2. Dogs welcome.

MON 28TH OCTOBER

MARINE ROADSHOW 11AM-4PM

A family day of marine discovery. Come and explore our indoor beach, visit the sea cinema, and find out more about cuttlefish, seahorses and crabs. Suitable for families with children aged 4-11. No booking required. Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Festival Place, Town Centre, RG21 7BD (Map ref. SU 638 521). For further details contact Polly Whyte on 01489 774426 e-mail PollyW@hwt.org.uk. Parking in Festival Place car park. Suggested donation £2.



Sweet Chestnut

John Stubbs

I really can't imagine what our rude forefathers in Bramley would have made of the Romans, when they came marching in. Must have been quite a sight, I guess. From landing down south they could have come along part of Cufaude Lane heading straight through to the big town of Calleva Atrebatum – we now call what's left of it 'Silchester'. They might not even have noticed us, but to the locals it must have been amazing, something from another planet. Not just soldiers, of course – they brought farmers, surveyors, metallurgists, builders, plumbers, scribes, blacksmiths, medics, admin guys and the whole range of skills that we, presumably, really hadn't much thought about so far.

They weren't tourists, of course, but neither were they just plunderers: one way or another they left us with a whole lot more than they took away. How about the sweet chestnut? It had been brought into Italy and Spain from Asia Minor, the nuts providing a reliable source of flour from land that would never support a grain crop, as well as good strong durable timber and a quick source of firewood. And the story is that the Roman Legionnaires were given a meal of chestnut porridge before going into battle: whether that was to sustain them, or to stop them running away, is unclear. Either way, it must have been a labour intensive operation – growing the trees, harvesting all those nuts and shelling and cooking them would have needed a lot of forward planning. At home they would have used the nuts in a form of polenta: they'd have been bigger and better than the ones grown here, and they formed a fair part of the country diet up to the beginning of the 20th century.

It seems most likely that the Romans brought over the sweet chestnut primarily for charcoal to fire their iron smelting. Bronze swords were sort of ok – but heavy, weak and blunt compared to steel, and no one was keener than the Romans in winning this arms race. They were after lead and tin from the west, and iron from the midlands. Smelting iron though needed a temperature of 1,300C, and was a much more



critical process. The ore had to be built in layers with charcoal, and air blown upwards through the pile: when it was hot enough, this would have gradually produced a glutinous mass of slag and metal. The smith then had to pound it to squeeze out the slag, to produce wrought iron: all at around 1,000C, and glowing white hot. How did they measure the temperatures? How did they find out how much carbon to use? How did they handle the iron? Pretty darn clever, I reckon, specially after walking a good 1,000 miles from home. It doesn't look as if they had ironworks round here, but the goods inwards and outwards would quite likely have been hauled via Calleva, as one of their main termini.

The chestnut, then, would have been the ideal all-purpose tree, and one that the Romans well knew how to work. Grown in plantations, the trees would have yielded nut crops within about 20 years, and good structural timber in perhaps 40. Grown as a coppice, where they'd be cut down almost to ground level every 15 years or so, they'd have given firewood, charcoal wood, fencing and poles for agriculture – chestnut is naturally rot and insect

resistant. It grows much faster than our oak trees, and would have lasted much better than the hazel we natives might have been coppicing in Bramley Frith.

And the nuts, if they had managed to grow enough to eat, would have been a healthy food supplement – part of the Mediterranean diet, really. Chestnut flour is low in fat and protein, sweet, and more like a grain than a nut: it's showing something of a come-back in the UK now, and can be bought as a gluten-free flour for breads or cakes. Imported from Italy, Spain or France it'll be pricier than wheat flour but that's probably acceptable if you don't have to go into battle too often.

You'll see the odd sweet chestnut round the village, though as far as I know we don't have any ancient, specimen trees. But we do have to thank the Romans for the chestnut, bringing us just a little bit more of their civilisation.

Can you help the Citizens Advice Bureau?

Peter Hayes

WHO ARE WE?

We are a team of fundraisers; our objective is to raise additional funds and awareness of the Basingstoke branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) as an independent charity. We have held all manner of events from themed dinner evenings, to opera showings, with all the proceeds coming back to the bureau to help the local community.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

In such challenging economic times, our client base becomes larger and our funding becomes smaller, so that our additional fundraising becomes even more vital to the bureau and the communities we serve.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

The Friends Group is not only open to those who volunteer with the bureau; we welcome anyone who has a few hours to

spare to help us raise money for the communities we live in. The Group can offer an individual the chance to meet new people, to work as part of a team and build or gain confidence (and have some fun!). It may also enhance your CV for employers and offer you some practical experience in the voluntary sector.

How to find us. If you are interested in finding out more about our fundraising, please email Jane Taylor at: cabfriends@basingstoke.cabnet.org.uk



Views from our Borough Councillors

Councillor Chris Tomblin

Councillor Ranil Jayawardena

The new look magazine sees this month's issue reach out further into the Bramley community – so welcome to the new readers!

With this column I aim to update residents with what's going on at the Borough Council – such as the news of John Lewis and Waitrose coming to Basing View; updating of the leisure park starting with the recently opened AirKix sky diving and how regeneration of social housing sites has started in Norden. Of course, not forgetting Bramley....

Hopefully many of you had a chance to visit the Local Plan exhibition in the village hall earlier in September and were able to understand what is planned for Bramley until 2029. I also hope that you were able to make your comments to the Borough Council expressing your support or concerns that you might have. If you have not and you are reading this before the 4th October then you still can, by visiting the Borough's web site www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/localplan

The next step is for a government planning inspector to look in detail at this plan and also all of the comments received; this should take place in spring 2014.

Bramley will have to think where up to 200 houses could be located around the centre part of the village and this is being worked on by a neighbourhood planning team who will be seeking views of the local community. With this plan developers will be able to work with the community to put houses where we need them, plus they will contribute funds to provide community facilities. To get you thinking:-would we want a car park in a central position; more "off-road" retail facilities and additional recreation provision? The team would welcome ideas –they can be reached via the Parish Council.

The issue of travellers is still ongoing and the massive turnout at the meeting arranged by the Parish Council in early September clearly identified the current feelings of many residents. The way a local authority has to handle the issue is set out in clear Government guidelines; so it is they who should be made aware of a community's feelings. However the Borough Council have issued a refusal notice for the mobile home site in Cufaude Lane stating that the land is not for residential use, it can flood and such an application breaks many of the planning policies.

Talking of planning, a proposed Solar Farm on land at the Beaufort estate has caused concern amongst many residents and will be tackled by the Council's development control committee in due course. I came across a German solution to this issue of using farmland, where canopies (like open bike sheds) are fitted to car parks with solar panels on the roof. Seems to me like a good solution – dry parking and using "wasted" land with a simpler installation! I am asking for a feasibility study to be undertaken.

Until next time....

Contact me by calling 880558

email: - cllr.chris.tomblin@basingstoke.gov.uk

I am pleased to confirm that I have been leading work on the proposals for a new, combined 'Waitrose' supermarket and 'John Lewis at Home' store in Basingstoke. As Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategy, part of my role is to deliver key strategic projects like this on Basing View – which I've done having listened to the views of many local people who've told me that they wanted an improved retail offering in Basingstoke.

After a significant amount of work, it's great news that we've secured another multi-million pound private sector investment proposed for Basingstoke. Hot on the heels of Airkix opening at Basingstoke Leisure Park, this latest opportunity shows there is a real buzz about the Borough, with major investors wanting to come here and be part of our success story. The new stores would be at the western gateway to Basing View with a piece of land opposite being earmarked for a business class hotel.

I believe this is an exciting proposal and an important endorsement for Basing View as a location, and Basingstoke as a town. This scheme represents an important first phase for the Basing View regeneration project and has the potential to act as a significant catalyst for further investment. Attracting such high profile retailers to this gateway site, combined with the proposed 150,000sqft Network Rail campus at the eastern end, shows the confidence of major companies in the business area's future success.

The stores would provide new facilities for people who work in Basing View and a significant additional draw to Basingstoke town centre, complementing Festival Place and The Malls, whilst supporting the work we are doing to improve the town as a whole. To progress the scheme, a planning application will need to be submitted by Muse, who would then build the store for Waitrose and John Lewis. Residents, community groups and other businesses would be consulted before any planning application is submitted. If it is approved, it is anticipated that work could start on the site as early as summer 2014, with completion of the scheme in 2015.

Turning to our local area, I am pleased to report that the Planning Application for the traveller site on Cufaude Lane has been rejected by the Borough Council. I argued that the proposal was unacceptable and am pleased that this has been listened to. There is, of course, a risk that the applicant may appeal this decision to the Planning Inspectorate but, if that is the case, I hope that they will agree with the Council's decision. More generally, I'm continuing to lobby relevant authorities to improve the response to illegal encampments in our area. It is unacceptable that some people believe they are above the law and, at the same time, other laws stop the authorities from dealing with them swiftly – so I have also raised this issue with our MP to see what can be done nationally.

I am also continuing to push for appropriate parking controls in Bramley to make our roads safer and improve the quality of life for residents in the middle of the village. I'm hopeful that we'll see some changes implemented shortly.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can assist you with.

email: ranil@nehc.org.uk phone: 01256 636500

Village Calendar - October 2013

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
				1st	2nd		3rd		4th		5th		
				0-5 Club CM	Child minders CM		Circuits CM		Circuits CM		Dance School VH		
				Dance School VH	Rainbows VH								
				Slimming World VH	1st Brownies VH		Floral Society SOL				Country Music VH		
				Community Choir CM	Scouts/Guides VH		Short Mat Bowls VH						
				Badminton VH			Dance School VH		RBL Bramley Inn		Dance School VH		
									Youth Club CM				
6th		7th		8th		9th		10th		11th		12th	
9.00 Communion Bramley		Pilates CM 2nd Brownies VH		0-5 Club CM Dance School VH		Lunch Club VH		Circuits CM		Circuits CM		Country Music VH Dance School VH	
10.30 Parish Commur Bramley		Beavers CM Cubs CM		Slimming World VH Community Choir CM		Rainbows VH 1st Brownies VH		Short Mat Bowls VH WI VH					
Private function VH Car Boot Sale		Circuits CM Badminton VH		Short Mat Bowls VH Badminton VH		Scouts/Guides VH Pilates CM		Dance School VH					
				Karate SH		Circuits SH		Dance Club SH		RBL Swan SSJ			
13th		14th		15th		16th		17th		18th		19th	
10.30 Harvest Festival & Farewell to Rector of Sherfield		Pilates CM 2nd Brownies VH		0-5 Club CM Dance School VH		Rainbows VH 1st Brownies VH		Circuits CM		Circuits CM		Private Function VH Dance School VH	
Harvest Lunch CH		Beavers CM Cubs CM		Slimming World VH Community Choir CM		Scouts/Guides VH		Short Mat Bowls VH					
		Circuits CM Badminton VH		Short Mat Bowls VH Badminton VH		Pilates CM		Dance School VH		Youth Club CM			
Table Top Sale VH				Karate SH		Circuits SH		Dance Club SH		RBL Four Horseshoes			
20th		21st		22nd		23rd		24th		25th		26th	
9.00 Communion Little London		Pilates CM 2nd Brownies VH		0-5 Club CM Dance School VH				Circuits CM		Circuits CM Youth Disco VH		Private Function VH Private Function CM Dance School VH	
10.30 Parish Commur		Beavers CM Cubs CM		Slimming World VH Community Choir CM		Rainbows VH 1st Brownies VH		Short Mat Bowls VH					
		Circuits CM Badminton VH		Short Mat Bowls VH Badminton VH		Scouts/Guides VH		Dance School VH		Dance School VH			
Car Boot Sale		Badminton VH		Badminton VH		Pilates CM				Youth Club CM			
				Karate SH		Circuits SH		Dance Club SH					
BST Ends 27th		Half Term 28th		Half Term 29th		Half Term 30th		Half Term 31st					
08.00 Communion (Bramley)		Pilates CM 2nd Brownies VH		Badminton VH				Halloween Short Mat Bowls VH		CM - Clift Meadow VH - Village Hall BR - Bramley LL - Little London SOL - Sherfield on Loddon SH - School Hall SSJ - Sherborne St J			
10:30 Family Service (Bramley)		Beavers CM Cubs CM		Short Mat Bowls VH				WI Lite VH					
		Circuits CM Badminton VH		Karate SH		Circuits SH		Dance Club SH					

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Assistant Editor Parish Council	Rachel Holland Sarah Smart		bramleymag2@btinternet.com www.bramley.co.uk bramleypc@hotmail.co.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow Cross House Village Hall School Hall Badminton Brownies Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Community Choir Country Music Dance Club (Petite) Dance to the beat Exercise classes Floral Society Lunch Club Royal British Legion Short Mat Bowls Kate Owens WI WI Lite	Eileen Gulston Judy Harrison Eileen Gulston Julie Francis Jane Matthews Jane Matthews Fiona Draper Neil Smith Dorian Edwards Roy Seymour Louise Onslow Jo Lackey Caroline Sherlock Joyce Rawlinson Pat Jones Gareth Doust	881125 880644 881125 881339 881214 884078 880405 07825 616759 07917 744780 883568 07811 299484 880277 889040 882441	www.singhealthy.co.uk info@dancetothebeat.net bramleyrbl@gmail.com	Bookings Bookings Bookings 1st & 2nd packs No children please Village Hall School Hall
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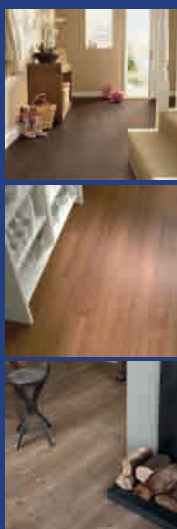


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