

December 2018/
January 2019

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND
LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

**December 2018/
January 2019**

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

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

Cover photo:
Robin by George Aitchison

As I write this in the middle of November it seems very early to be thinking about Christmas and the New Year. I'm sure a lot of you will have bought most of your presents already and will have booked your delivery slot with Tesco weeks ago. I'm not that efficient unfortunately and tend to put Christmas preparations out of my mind until Advent. This year my husband's birthday falls on the first Sunday of Advent so I guess I'll have to put them off even longer. It was different when I was younger. My school used to celebrate All Saints' Day in early November and once we had been to church in Nottingham we got the rest of the day off. I used to meet my Mum and buy nearly all my Christmas presents. By then I would have been thinking about Christmas for months. My best friend and I used to love telling each other what we usually did on Christmas day. We never seemed to tire of talking about it even though the conversations often started in June and were always the same. We knew each other's Christmas traditions backwards; we both had stockings when we woke up but she had her main presents before breakfast – I had to wait until after the Queen's speech. I went to church, she played with her new presents. We both had turkey, Christmas pudding, crackers and, of course, brussels sprouts.

I imagine a lot of you have your own family traditions. Apparently, the Royal Family open their presents on Christmas Eve, as is the custom in Germany, and enjoy playing charades. The family arrive in order of importance with Prince Charles arriving last. Imagine the atmosphere that could create in our homes. Does Mother-in-law arrive first or last? Where is the annoying but very rich uncle in the pecking order? Some countries have very bizarre traditions. Go to Caracas in Venezuela and you will be expected to roller skate to church. This tradition is so popular that roads across the city are closed to cars so that people can skate to church in safety. In Czechoslovakia single women stand with their backs to the front door and hurl a shoe over their shoulder. If the toe faces the door, the thrower is destined to marry. If the heel faces the door, well, there's always next year!

Whatever you are doing for Christmas I hope you have a wonderful time. As this is a joint issue for December and January let me wish you a Happy New Year too. By the time you get another Bramley magazine it will be February. You will have returned all those unwanted Christmas presents, eaten the last of the Celebrations and perhaps even survived dry January. Just don't tell me if you started your Christmas shopping in the sales!

Best Wishes

Rachel

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

Some of you will have received the new Community Ad Magazine recently. I would like to assure all readers and advertisers that this is NOT replacing your local Bramley magazine, which will be back in February after a short Christmas/New Year break.

Thank you for your support

C is for the Child born that night to be our light.

H is for holy is His name.

R is for rejoice with gladness & joy.

I is for Immanuel, God with us.

S is for the star that led the Wise men to Him.

T is for the truth and grace that was sent our way.

M is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger.

A is for angels singing songs of joy.

S is for salvation.

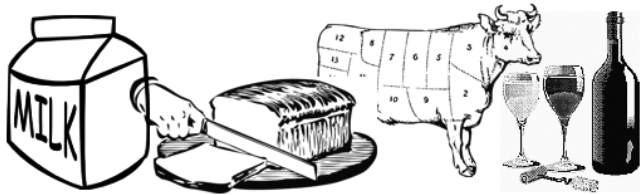
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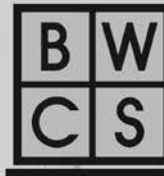
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Church diary for December...

2nd	1st Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Make your own Christingle – Cross House
10.30	Christingle Service – St James
8th	Saturday
3.00pm	Open Air Carols at Clift Meadow Pavilion
9th	2nd Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
16th	3rd Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – Bramley, not Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
5.00pm	Carol Service – Little London
23rd	4th Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
	NO 9.00 OR 10.30 services
6.00pm	Carol Service – St James
24th	Christmas Eve
5.00pm	Crib Service – St James
11.30pm	Midnight Communion – St James
25th	Christmas Day
10.30	Family Communion – St James
30th	1st Sunday of Christmas
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

Deliverer Wanted

Do you fancy shedding some of those Christmas pounds with some easy New Year exercise? We are looking for someone to deliver the Bramley magazine to 26 houses along The Street, from the Six Bells thatched cottage near the church to Meade Barn

Please email editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk if you can help

Thank you

... January 2019

6th	Epiphany
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
13th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
20th	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
27th	4th Sunday of Epiphany
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

... And into February...

3rd	5th Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
10th	4th Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
17th	3rd Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James

Catholic services

Basingstoke

Church of St Bede, Popley Way, RG24 9DX
 Sunday Mass: 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.30 pm in St Bede's
 Mass usually: Tues, Thurs and Sat 9.30 am in St Bede's
 Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX:
 Mass usually: Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 am in Holy Ghost Church
 Phone 01256 465214 or email
stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for information
 See www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Tadley

St Michael's Church, Bishopswood Road, RG26 4HG
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 Sunday Mass: 9.15 am
 Parish priest: **0118 9814572**



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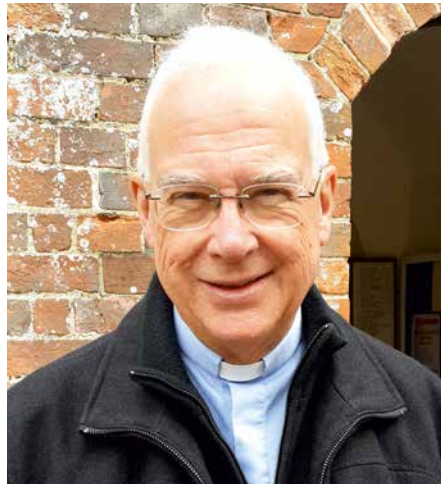
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I'm writing this column from Chicago, where a Christian organisation that I've known for a good many years – and respect highly – is headquartered. The leadership of the organisation asked me in the early summer of this year to consider joining their Board, and after thinking about it for several months I decided to accept the invitation.

That meant I needed to fly here to Chicago for my first Board meeting this week, so I duly researched the flights and fares and found that the best fares were to be found on Norwegian Air. I'd heard quite good things about Norwegian from our California-based family, so decided to go for it; the total return fare was about £750, flying out on the Monday and back on the Friday, so that I could be back in Bramley for the Sunday services. I made the booking, paid the fare, got the confirmation and thought no more about it.

About a month ago, I received a text message from Norwegian, telling me that the flights both ways were going to be operated by Wamos Air – a company I'd never heard of. With a sinking feeling, I went on-line to look for customer reviews of this company, to see what other people had found. Just as I feared: the TripAdvisor reviews were simply dreadful. "Absolute worst flight of my life both coming and going..." "The flight attendants were RUDE..." "Nothing good to say about this airline. Simply the worst airplane with possibly the least legroom and seat space that I've ever encountered - I wondered if it even met the legal minimum. The food [was] disgusting and cold. Broken seats and a seat belt that came apart in my hand."



Rev'd John Lenton

The text message from Norwegian told me that I had the right to cancel and receive a full refund of the fare. I reached for the phone, dialled the number, and a few minutes later was speaking to a Norwegian representative. He took the news calmly that I wanted to cancel my reservation. At the last minute, he asked me to confirm that this was really what I wanted. I hardened my heart and said yes, it was. Done. The refund would take a few days, but would then be credited to my card.

However, I still needed to get to Chicago. Back to the computer to check out fares on the big airlines: put in the dates, leaving Monday, returning Friday. Fares began at £2,300 in Economy. **£2,300??** Oh, yes; you're not staying a Saturday night, so you're obviously a business passenger, so you can afford to pay top whack.

I spent half an hour fruitlessly trying different ways to get a reasonable fare, before chucking in the towel. I went back to the Norwegian site with my tail between my legs and punched in the dates for travel.

You're waiting for justice to be done now, aren't you? The fare should have doubled or worse by this point, just to serve me right, shouldn't it? Yes, of course it should. But it didn't. In fact, the quoted fare was now £550 instead of the £750 I'd paid in the first place. I could hardly believe it. Yes, the flight was still being operated by

Wamos Air. I accepted it, paid up, got the confirmation by email and was once again set for travel to Chicago.

Actually, the flight was perfectly OK. Basic, certainly. Seats were narrow: I was thankful I'm not very broad in the beam. But the aircraft was clean, the cabin staff were pleasant enough, the meal was fairly edible, and I didn't care about the lack of entertainment – I had plenty on my own iPad.

Was this justice? Absolutely not. I deserved to be charged that hefty business passenger fare in return for my impulsive petulance in cancelling my original reservation. But what I got was pure grace: undeserved kindness instead of the penalty I really deserved to pay, a chance to recover what I had thoughtlessly thrown away.

Grace is what prompted God to act as He did in sending His Son Jesus to be born as a human baby 2,000 years ago. The Bible says "We all, like sheep, have gone astray." All of us have chosen over and over to ignore God's claim on our lives and to go our own way, to do just as we please, to cancel our reservations with Him. We deserve the penalty that the Bible tells us goes with that, to be shut out from His presence and left in the darkness for ever.

But grace, the undeserved kindness of God, offers us the chance to come into His light, to be able to enjoy His presence in our lives for ever – if we will just be humble enough to turn and ask Him to forgive our rejection of His love and ask Him to let us rebook our passage with Him. And when we do ask, the Bible confirms that He accepts us, free of charge. "To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," says John's Gospel. No wonder they call it Amazing Grace.

At the end of another year, may I wish you and your family the happiest of Christmases and a peaceful New Year. May the God of grace bless you richly.

So many of our wonderful **Bramley neighbours** were involved in the very special events of Remembrance Sunday. This month, we meet one of them - **Steve Day**.

Bramley Magazine: Steve, tell us about your role in Bramley's remembrance events and how it went?

Steve: I feel a little awkward including my involvement, as whilst it might sound a lot, I just played my part. There is a large group of dedicated people who get involved in organising and running these activities, who do much more than me, and I don't want to detract from their fine endeavours.

This year I was able to assist in a number of ways. I took my turn on "Duty" at the Hospital manning the Poppy Appeal Stand in the foyer. Whilst I say it was a duty, I find the experience very enjoyable as everyone is so friendly, and it can be fun listening to the stories people tell. On 10 November, I stood at the War Memorial in Sherborne St John as we honoured the fallen from the village. On Remembrance Sunday I had a number of roles to play, from briefing the young people who would be reading the names of the fallen in the service; ringing the church bells before and after the service, (plus in the evening after the beacon lighting); singing with Generations Chorale before and during the church service; and laying a wreath for those from the Royal Army Ordinance Corps (RAOC) at the Memorial Plaque in the church.



Steve when he was awarded his long service medal in the Army Cadets.

BM: How did you get involved and why is it so important to you to involve the community and younger people?

SD: My connection with the Armed forces was whilst I was a Youth Leader in the Army Cadet Force (ACF) for 24 years where I held



Steve with his wife Olga and daughter Selina.

a Reserve Forces Commission. It made me realise the importance of the youth of today on everyone's future and no more so than for the Royal British Legion. Unless we pass on our knowledge of these major events, the organisation has no future. So we must involve young people in understanding the purpose of Remembrance, the sacrifice those young men and women made in the Great War, and all conflicts since then. We also need to emphasise the importance of looking after our ex-service personnel and their families along with those that have been impacted by injuries or the loss of loved ones.

BM: When you're not organising Remembrance events, what occupies your time?

SD: I generally keep myself occupied in the village. I am a keen golfer, (at least I'm good at losing golf balls); I sing with Generations Chorale and I ring the church bells. Obviously these are not activities that I do on my own, and there are a core band of volunteers that get actively involved. I just participate as much as I can.

BM: What brought you to Bramley and why?

SD: I have been living in the Basingstoke area since 1993, and I have always admired Bramley from a distance. When I met my wife and we had our daughter, we felt that we wanted to live in a village community, and Bramley ticked all the boxes. In

2015 the opportunity came for us to move into the village and our family have enjoyed every minute of it since.

BM: What are some of your favourite things about living here?

SD: We love the neighbourly and community spirit the village gives us. When walking around Bramley people are very friendly and nearly every time people say "Hi" as you pass. The church has also played a major part in our lives since we have been here and we felt so welcomed by the community. The Railway Station has been a boon for travelling as we can just walk to the station.

BM: Can you sum up the spirit / community of Bramley and what it means for you and your family?

SD: It's a neighbourly village, where people go out of the way to include you and make you feel a part of the community. It makes our whole family feel so welcome and we feel we have friends for life. It embodies the spirit of Christianity in all of us.

BM: And any final thought on Remembrance?

SD: The way we remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice, reminds me of the verse in the bible in John 15:13; Jesus said "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends".

Do you know someone who contributes to our community, who you'd like us to feature?
Please email editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk or tell one of the editorial team.

Oliver's a 5-year-old little boy. He lives at home, in Bramley, with his Mum (Jo), Dad (Matt) and little brother Joshua. For the past 3 years Oliver has been battling with cancer and this is their story....

On the 5 January 2016, just a few weeks before our son Oliver's 3rd birthday, we were given the life shattering news that Oliver had Neuroblastoma, a rare childhood cancer affecting about 100 kids in the UK each year. It's so hard to describe how we felt that day, the shock, heartbreak, devastation and overwhelming fear that we might lose our little boy.

Oliver had stage 4 high risk Neuroblastoma, meaning it had spread from an abdominal tumour into his bone and bone marrow. We embarked on a gruelling 18 month treatment plan, including chemotherapy, an 8 hour surgery, an autologous stem cell transplant, radiotherapy and immunotherapy. Throughout this Oliver suffered a number of complications and side effects; sickness, weight loss, blood transfusions, internal bleeding, liver and kidney problems are just some of those, not to mention the psychological impact. Remarkably, throughout this, Oliver always found a reason to smile (usually something to do with Thomas the Tank Engine!) and still enjoy life. As parents, we tried to stay positive and strong for our two little boys.

In May 17 2017 Oliver was given the all-clear and was in remission! We were absolutely overjoyed and began looking forward to the future and re-building our lives. Oliver started school in Bramley in September and although a little nervous at first soon started to settle in and make new friends. We went on to enjoy a settled few months and a wonderful Christmas spent with family and friends.

Oliver had been poorly a few times in December, which we put down to normal winter bugs but then in January 2018 we found out that Oliver had, heartbreakingly, suffered a relapse. Since then Oliver has had more chemo and responded well. However, relapsed Neuroblastoma is incredibly hard to treat, with survival rates as low as 10% and very few treatment options available on the NHS/in the UK.



Oliver with his parents Matt and Jo and his brother Joshua

We are now raising funds urgently so Oliver can have treatment at hospitals in Barcelona and (we hope) ultimately in New York. Both can offer us real hope of preventing another relapse, which is sadly so often the case for children with Neuroblastoma. We hope to get out to Barcelona early in January but need to raise approx £150K first.

If anyone reading this is able to support our cause and help give Oliver the chance of life that he deserves, then we would be extremely grateful. Donations however large or small are received with equal thanks – every penny helps! If anyone can help with fundraising or has any ideas please do let us know.

Text OLWA99 with your amount £1 - £10 to 70070

Follow Oliver's story on facebook @
OliversfightagainstNeuroblastoma

Read more or donate on our fundraising page
www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/oliver-warner/

Thanks for taking the time to read our story.

Jo & Matt Warner



Oliver's first school photograph



Oliver keeps smiling despite the gruelling treatment

The Bramley School Association and Clift Meadow Trust Fireworks night went off with a bang on Friday 2 November

It was wonderful to see so many people turn up and support the village event with lots of children and adults enjoying their glow toys, drinks and food. The BBQ had sold out before the fireworks even started, as had Meet & Treat with their waffles and sweet treats. Cupper Joe was so busy he was still serving during the display!

The display by F1 Pyro was absolutely incredible. We were delighted to see so many beautiful photos and videos being shared in the online Bramley community group after the event.

Lots of children (and adults) got involved in the pumpkin carving competition. There were so many creative (and scary) pumpkins and they looked absolutely super lined up on the playground.

We would like to thank all of our incredible volunteers who made the night an absolute success and also our sponsors: Bramley Parish Council, Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council, Hampshire Kitchens, Sansome and George, Bewley Homes, Croudace Homes, Borough Councillor Venetia Rowland and Perform. We would also like to thank the following for donating items / resources: Sainsbury's Tadley and Kempshott, Englefield Garden Centre, Elm Tree Garden Centre and the Iron Duke. We would also like to thank the One Stop, Bramley Bakery, Sansome and George and Sherfield Shop for helping to sell tickets.

All funds raised by the BSA are going towards the building of allotments at Bramley C of E Primary School.



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Poppies

On Monday 12 November, the day after Remembrance Sunday, watching ITV News Meridian, Fred Dinenage, the veteran anchor man, introduced a sequence of pictures about commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1 by saying: 'and now all the poppy collecting boxes can be put away...' Not so fast, Fred, I thought.

The annual Poppy Appeal is a huge undertaking across the whole nation. Months before Remembrance there is planning to be done – ordering all of the items which will be available in return for donations and enlisting the support of volunteers are just two of the activities. The British Legion Poppy Appeal district that covers Bramley also takes in Sherborne St John, several smaller villages, and the North Hampshire Hospital.

The Hospital in particular is a major fundraiser. There is a stall in reception that is manned by volunteers from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday for the two weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday. Each day the stall has to be set up and cleared down. There are also collecting boxes in a dozen hospital departments.

There are collecting tins and boxes of poppies (including all sorts of other items such as pin badges, wrist bands and car poppies) in many local businesses and schools. There are house to house collections in the villages. All of these have to be planned, and the volunteers have to be supplied with their wares in good time for the start of Remembrance.

Each day the hospital yields two collecting boxes which are counted and banked as we go. At the end of Remembrance some of our volunteers go round the various locations and pick up the collecting boxes. The local house to house co-ordinators bring back the boxes from their particular patch.

Meanwhile various organisations who lay a wreath in the local Remembrance services have to be supplied with their wreath and the donations collected. On the 12 November, when Fred was opining that the collecting boxes could be put away, the job of counting was really only just beginning.

By the end of November, all donations have to be counted and the money banked. A return has to be made to British Legion HQ listing the amounts under the various categories: House to house, special events, manned collection points.

At the time of writing, over £6,000 has been counted and banked, with many collecting boxes still to be opened. There is a coin sorter which does a good job of separating the different types of coin, although it pre-dates the introduction of the new pound coin. There are inevitable accidental donations of foreign coins: all of these are despatched to HQ for processing.

After a pause in December, it will be time to think about 2019's Poppy Appeal. Maybe we will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day? So Fred, it never ends really.

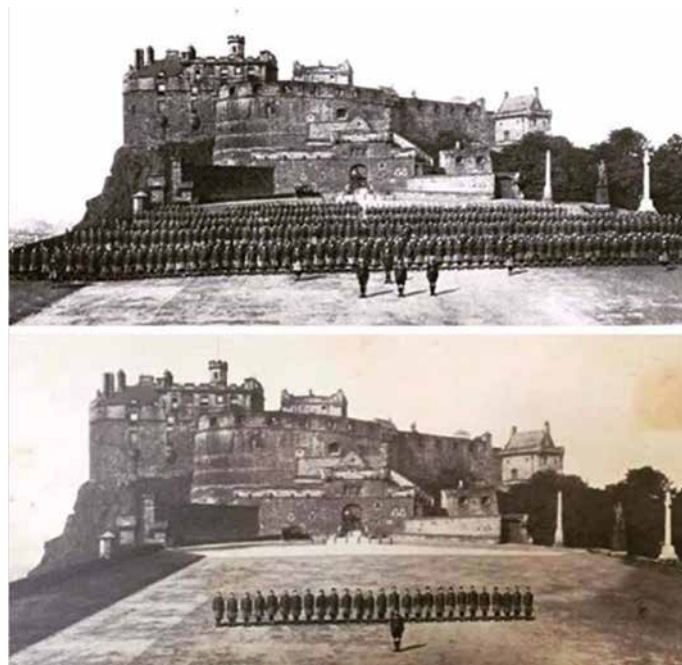
STOP PRESS: As we go to press, we have counted over £1,200 from Bramley house to house collections and the Beacon Lighting collections. Bramley businesses and the school are still to be counted. Overall, we have banked £7,638 so far, the lion's share from the Hospital collections. Thank you to all: final information will be on the Bramley Community Group Facebook page in early December.

Michael Luck

Great War casualties

Much is spoken about the number of casualties in the Great War but it is hard to actually picture it. This is what the decimation looks like. The top photo is of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914 before they were dispatched to the front line. The bottom photo is the same battalion on their return in 1918

Rhyddian Vaughan



OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 16 December

5.00 pm Carol Service

St Stephen's Church, Little London

Sunday 23 December

6.00pm Carol Service

St James's Church

Monday 24 December – Christmas Eve

5.00 pm Crib Service – *Primary age children warmly invited to come from 2.00pm to rehearse, have fun, and join in the Nativity Play presented at 5.00pm!*

11.30 pm Midnight Communion

Tuesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Family Communion



Royal British Legion - Bramley and District Branch

You don't need to have served in the Armed Forces to join the Royal British Legion.

On Sunday 11th November, St James's Church hosted the Annual Remembrance Service. Armistice Day coincided with Remembrance Sunday this year and at 11:00 am, when the congregation observed two minutes silence, it was exactly 100 years since the guns fell silent on the Western Front to mark the end of the Great War. Attendance was up significantly and the service was relayed by video link into Cross House, which was used as an overflow from the packed church. Everyone who attended couldn't help but notice the magnificent display of a waterfall of knitted poppies on the screen at the front of the church. Thanks must go to all who contributed to this marvellous display and to Pam Luck who coordinated it all.

The church bells were rung half muffled before the Remembrance Service, and again after the service in memory of Corporal Alec Symonds, a Bell Ringer at St James Church, who died in the Gallipoli campaign in August 1915. That same evening at 7:05pm, the bells were rung again un-muffled, along with the church bells across the country to commemorate the end of The Great War. Thanks to everyone who helped to get the bells ready for the services.

Building on last year, we extended the involvement of the younger generation in reading all the names of the

fallen. From our JAM group we had Selina Day (13) and Sophia Barclay Smith (10); from the Scouts, James Baker (13) and Owen Smith (12); and from the Guides, Olivia White (12) and Hannah Dewdney (13). I believe they did really well and all welcomed the inclusion of the young from our community. Special thanks must also go to David Lee who played the Last Post and Reveille so beautifully. Generations Chorale added a poignant memory to the proceedings with a rendition of *Keep the Home Fires Burning* just before the service began, and *Mansions of the Lord* during the service itself. Thanks to everyone who came to the Remembrance Service. Your support is always welcomed. There are some pictures of the service on the next page.

Our next Branch meeting will be on Tuesday 12 February 2019 at a new venue of Cherry Blossom Manor. The staff of the retirement home are graciously allowing us to use their facilities for our meeting and we also expect a good few of the residents to join us. As usual, we will serve light refreshments, including drinks. I look forward to seeing members and any casual visitors who may be interested in what we do. We are open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Royal British Legion, so please feel free to just turn up. Remember you DON'T need to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member.

Steve Day – Branch Treasurer – 07341 552732

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bramley-district>



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BBC Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge visits The Priory

On Monday 12 November the Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge, along with cyclist Maisie and presenter Matt Baker, visited The Priory School. The children all arrived at school nice and early to cheer on Team Rickshaw as they cycled through on their Hook to Royal Wootton Bassett leg of the cycling challenge. Matt Baker stopped to talk to the children and explained that they had a team of fantastic young riders who had all benefitted from charities supported by Children in Need. These riders had cycled from France and were going to arrive in Manchester by the end of the week. The children enjoyed showing off their homemade banners and even had a little dance with Pudsey!



Stuck for present ideas? Not sure what to buy the person who has everything? Why not buy some tickets for the Bramley and Little London Music Festival? Advance orders being taken for:

Thursday 13 June 2019

Friday 14 June 2019

Saturday 15 June 2019

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A Christmas Gift

Christmas can be a difficult time for many, with extra pressures on the family budget. For people already struggling financially it can be especially hard. Our church here in Bramley supports the work our local Foodbank does in Tadley and Basingstoke. If you are able to, here are two ways to help.

The gift of food

"Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food."
Basingstoke Foodbank

We've printed a list of items needed this Christmas on this page. You can deliver them to:

- St James, Bramley - Collection boxes on the rear pew, picked up regularly
- The Shop in Sherfield, Tesco in Chineham and Waitrose at Old Basing all have collection boxes.

Please do read the list carefully – the Foodbank cannot accept fresh food, out of date food or anything containing alcohol (which includes some Christmas puddings and chocolates)

The gift of money or time

Our local Foodbank is run by local people for local people. They rely on the community's support to help stop people going hungry.

Foodbank also works with a local charity, Besom, to provide food and content for Christmas hampers that are packed and hand delivered to individuals & families who have been referred.

If you would like to know more about how to give or receive help: <http://www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk> or 07722 673645



Thank you for taking part in providing food items this Christmas period to help local people in crisis.
The list below will give you an idea of suitable non-perishable items.

- Tinned Meat (eg: ham, mince, corned beef, chicken, not pies please as they're expensive to cook)
 - Tinned Tomatoes
 - Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli
 - Cereals (hot or cold)
 - Milk (powdered or UHT, not skimmed)
 - Coffee (small jars)
 - Fruit Juice (UHT)
 - Oat biscuits/Crackers/Crisp Breads
 - Cooking Sauces
 - Puddings/Rice Pudding/Custard
 - Tinned Veg
 - Instant Mash packets
 - Tinned Fruit
 - Biscuits
 - Sweet & savoury spreads
 - Toiletries, & small Christmas gift sets
 - Christmas crackers
- + all sorts of Christmas foodie treats! (snacks, cakes, chocs etc.)

Please note, we're unable to accept items containing alcohol.

Reg Charity No 1154319

Bramley Show 2019

Yes, it is already time to start thinking about entries for the next Bramley Show in August. The artists and photographers will need to know that the subjects to be included in the schedule for next year are as follows:-

Photography – Spring; Festivals; Bricks and Mortar; Skyline; Close up.

Art – Transport; Through the Gate; Still life; Reflection.

The subjects for the Children's Classes will be as follows:-

A flower arrangement in an unusual container; A dish of four decorated biscuits (mix can be used); A boat made from fruit and/or vegetables; A collage not to exceed A4 size; A useful object made from recycled materials; A computer generated greetings card; Any vegetable grown from seed; Any flowers grown from seed; A photograph (any subject); A painting (any subject).

There will also be a children's potato competition but there will be more about that in the new year.

Hopefully there should be something there for the artists, photographers and children to work on over the coming months.

Anne Porter

Bramley Show Committee

Lunch Club

For our November lunch, we once again made our way to the Avenue Nursery at Lasham, giving Judy a well-earned rest. We had sunshine all the way and the autumn colours were beautiful. The Nursery, The Works and Edinburgh Wool were soon being explored and purchases made, either for ourselves or gifts for Christmas.

We had made our menu selection previously and the food was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The meal was followed by tea or coffee. After another look around the shops we made our way home, after a lovely trip out.

Christine Woodward

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Update from Bramley Parish Council

Housing Developments: - We are sure you will have noticed that Bramley is now under siege from housing developers from one end to the other. Minchens Lane (Persimmon Homes) is in the final phase of the development, land North of Sherfield Road is at the beginning of a 50 house development (Bewley Homes) and the land off the Street at the corner of Cufaude Lane is at the beginning of a development of 65 houses (Taylor Wimpey). All were agreed before the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan were made. The Parish Council is monitoring the developments and ensuring that the correct build and materials are used, in keeping with the reserved matters for each of the sites and the Neighbourhood Plan. We are also checking that the conditions applied to the build on each site are being adhered to; the ins and outs of transport to each site, etc. On this we work with the enforcement officers at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. All the conditions associated with all the sites can be found on the planning portal of the Borough Council website - <https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/>

If any residents see construction traffic not keeping to road safety conditions, please take the number plate and report it to the Parish Clerk – parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk. It is essential that throughout this disruptive period we still maintain a good life for the residents of Bramley and your input is greatly appreciated.

Parking: - With the railway line running through the village commuters come in from far and wide to use the station. Car parking on the roads is a nightmare throughout Bramley and it is all made that much worse by inconsiderate parking – lorry drivers parking on the pavement at the bakery to get their bacon butty, cars at the shop, etc. We are not fortunate enough in Bramley to have a large car park or off street parking for the shop, so please be considerate when parking and consider the safety of others. Walking, pushing a wheelchair or pushchair along a pavement can be difficult at best and downright dangerous at worst in some areas.

It's not only on the main road through Bramley, but also in the housing estates and side roads. Bramley Parish Council has tried to encourage developers to include enough parking in their schemes. Unfortunately the Borough Council parking standard guidelines requires only 1.25 car spaces for 1 bedroom units, 1.75 for 2-3 bedroom units and 2.75 for 4+ bedroom units in Bramley, which is considered to be

an 'outer urban and a rural settlement'. The correct use of garages would help the parking situation rather than parking outside the home on the road. Many roads in the village look more like car parks with pavements inaccessible for those pedestrians who should be using them. We all like the convenience of owning a vehicle so please be considerate when you park.

Grants: - Societies and events organised within the village do from time to time apply to the Parish Council for a financial grant to help set up an event or to contribute to some upgrade of facilities. The Council always considers such applications and where it is considered appropriate for the benefit of the community as a whole will make a contribution. Grants have been made recently to Little Apples to upgrade the outside facilities for the playgroup, to Muddy Fingers who are a newly formed group encouraging youngsters how to garden, to the WI in recognition of their considerable efforts at the Commemorative Celebrations and to the Royal British Legion and the Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge for their great work. We try and direct what monies are available to worthwhile causes.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 18 December in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall. Come along, have your say on whatever bugs you and enjoy a mince pie and drink. If we do not see you, on behalf of the Bramley Parish Council, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Malcolm Bell

Vice Chair Bramley Parish Council
On behalf of Bramley Parish Council



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Book today and come along for an afternoon of festive magic and Christmas cheer!

Little London telephone box

A while ago we ran a story about the disused telephone box in Little London that had been turned into a book exchange. It recently needed a re-fresh and some TLC so local residents Rob Huitson and Jacki Whitehouse got their paintbrushes out. Here is an update from Rob and some before and after pictures taken by Rob and local resident Lisa Hockey.

Thanks to all residents for their continued support for, and

use of, the Little London Book Exchange. With the Parish Council funding the paint and resident professional painter and decorator Jacki Whitehouse volunteering her time and expertise we have given the telephone box a repaint.

Donations of good condition books are always welcome and can be dropped off with Rob at 5 Beach's Crescent, just around the corner from the book exchange.



The telephone box before Rob and Jacki set to work on it



Jacki puts the finishing touches to the paintwork



The newly painted phone box gleams in the autumn sun

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St Thomas Care Home
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BARCHESTER
Celebrating life

Malcolm Bell, Vice Chair of Bramley Parish Council reports on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I with photographs taken by Melvyn Lovegrove, Chris Wright and George Aitchison.

After the Silhouettes, we finished commemorations on a high note with the Beacon Celebrations on Clift Meadow. Not everything went to plan but we believe it was a good evening on 11 November, which residents enjoyed with soup, prosecco, the reading of Flanders Field, the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille and the lighting of the beacon by Karen Rolfe. She pressed the right buttons on the electronic fuse system, but we had a glitch when the burning fuse reached the beacon loaded with wood. However, we got it lit within 15 minutes using a very large match (a rag soaked in paraffin on the end of a long stick) and we lit up the sky and honoured all of those who have

fallen in battles throughout the years.

We thank all those who took part in making this a memorable evening and all those who came to Clift Meadow and made the evening complete.

And now we have completed the Commemorations with the installation of a commemorative bench on Clift Meadow. We hope you all appreciate this bench and, when sitting on it, appreciate the words on the plaque and remember.



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Police Report

In the month of September there were 24 incidents, 21 in October and six so far in November.

Burglaries

There have been four reported burglaries in the last month for Bramley and Sherfield-on-Loddon area.

- A garage was broken into and entry was gained by unknown suspects who had made a hole in the wooden side of the garage block.
- A business along Minchens Lane was broken into, an untidy search carried out, and two laptops taken.
- A shed was broken into overnight in Sherfield-on-Loddon with two Ryobi drills taken.
- A business on Campbell Court was broken into using a drain cover to smash the bottom glass panel of the door. Large quantity of computers, iMacs and laptops taken.

Thefts

We have had 11 reported incidents of theft since the beginning of September.

- A number of batteries were taken from the temporary traffic lights along Sherfield Road.
- An unknown male offender stole a Hermes delivered package from a doorstep along Farriers Close.
- An offside front sidelight was taken off a red Vauxhall Corsa that the victim was rebuilding on Goddard's Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.
- The owner of some farmland off Minchens Lane had ten Guinea fowl stolen from a bird pen.
- A Ford Tipper along Lane End was broken into and a Bomag Tarmac Wacker Plate was taken
- A moped was stolen and found by the owner in the woodland at the end of Beckett Gardens.
- Another moped was stolen from the front of a property on The Street and found burnt out only 500m away from where it was taken.
- Overnight four 12v batteries were taken from a building site just off The Street
- Bathroom goods valuing £3000 were taken from a construction site along Cufaude Lane
- A post box was broken into in a communal flat on Garside Close, two packages were taken.

- Another 4 batteries have been taken from road work traffic lights along Farriers Close

Speeding

Speed watch was carried out in Bramley on Sherfield Road on the 13 October. Eight vehicles were caught speeding, with seven being caught for the first time. All received warnings regarding their speed.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We have had eight incidents reported to us regarding ASB within the Bramley and Sherfield area.

A number of complaints relate to youths around Clift Meadow pavilion who were abusive to members of the public. Over recent months we have actively targeted the communal park areas of Bramley and Sherfield-on-Loddon due to reports and have stopped and dealt with a number of youths. Some have been caught with cannabis on them, some have been caught underage drinking and all have been dealt with appropriately. We often come across these groups but owing to receiving only occasional reports a simple request is made for them to be quiet and respectful, place their rubbish in the bin, etc. If more complaints are made, we will get the youths to move on from the area.

Other Incidents

Regarding the two incidents of criminal damages in Clift Meadow Pavilion, the first one that occurred on 8 April 2018 involved damage to the gate and fence in the Pavilion. As this was the youths' first offence for criminal damage, and both were aged 15, they were dealt with by Community Resolution. They attended Community Court (a youth court run by youth volunteers in Basingstoke) and both wrote an apology letter. Since this incident neither has re-offended or committed any other criminal offences.

The second incident of criminal damage was to the memorial bench within the swing area on the 8 July 2018. Two youths aged 16 were given Community Resolutions as it was their first offence. Both were referred to the Community Court in Basingstoke. They provided an apology letter and offered their services as volunteers to Clift Meadow Trust. From speaking with one of the youth's parents, their son has now joined College and is spending less time with his previous group of friends. neither has re-offended.

I would like to inform that as of Dec 16th 2018 I will be no longer be your local beat PCSO as I have been given a formal offer as a Police Constable in Thames Valley Police. The PCSO taking over from me will be covering Tadley as well as Bramley, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Stratfield Turgis and Hartley Wespall. The PCSO will be Emma PAGE who was previously the Overton/Kingsclere beat PCSO.

PCSO 16452 Richard Fisher
Bramley & Sherfield Neighbourhood Policing Team
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Joyce Rawlinson tells us about a trip to the Inverness Knitting Festival and how Bramley WI knitted for a third year at Heathrow Airport

In 2016 the son of one of the members of Bramley WI launched a Knitting Festival in Inverness, Scotland, similar to a Festival held annually in Denmark. He asked if his mother could find any ladies who would like to knit for a day at Heathrow Airport for a charity whilst promoting the Festival and new flights to Inverness. Eight ladies went to Heathrow Airport and knitted all day making squares to be made into a large Nessie to be displayed at the Festival in October 2016. They enjoyed teaching many passengers to knit whilst others enjoyed knitting whilst waiting for their flights. Afterwards a Nessie was produced measuring around 5ft long and 2.5ft high. The hardest part was finding a way to post her to Scotland! People from all over the world also knitted small 'nessies' which were displayed on the beach at the end of Loch Ness before being raffled for the charity.

In 2017 the ladies were asked again to knit at Heathrow Airport, this time in aid of the Queen Mary's Linen Charity. Our challenge that year was to knit a replica of Inverness Castle (see photograph on next page) and over 400 tiles were knitted by the Bramley WI members and the Bramley Knitting Club. The finished castle was taken to Scotland in a specially made box and was very well received at the Festival. After the Festival it was displayed in a shop window in the centre of Inverness.

Our challenge for the 2018 Festival was to knit a map of the world. A very hard subject to find a pattern for and also to knit, but it was achieved and was displayed in Inverness Airport before being exhibited at the Festival (see picture on next page). We were also asked to knit again at Heathrow Airport where we knitted squares for the Inverness Hospital's tiny baby unit. We were able to send 36 blankets to the charity.

Several ladies decided it would be really good to actually go to the festival this year to see for ourselves what it was all about. After a lot of planning and booking seven ladies boarded the train at Kings Cross for the eight-hour journey to Inverness. The following morning we enjoyed a wonderful trip to Loch Ness, where we went by boat to see Urquhart Castle, and spent the afternoon exploring parts of Inverness. In the evening we attended the Civic Reception at the Town House where the Provost welcomed us and thanked us all for the work we had done over the last three years. We were delighted to see our knitted castle and map of the world taking pride of place on the stage. The next day we went to the actual Festival where some 65 venues sold various yarns, wools, kits, clothes etc. and a large screen and stage provided entertainment all day. We returned to get ready for the evening Highland Feast which was excellent; a lovely meal, music, entertainment and dancing the reels, which we all enjoyed. It was a good few days and we felt we were looked after like royalty. We already have in mind a project for next year's Festival so Bramley WI will be getting those needles working again during the coming months.



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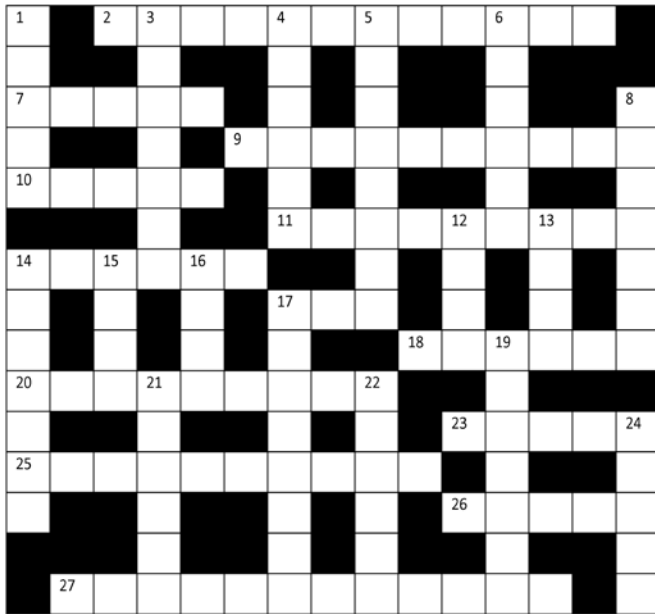
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Cryptic Crossword No: 24

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 2 Stir chasm and first woman for that night before. (9,3)
 7 Raise another way to get up. (5)
 9 Set targets by arranging lime on sets. (10)
 10 (& 17 down) Annual benefactor grateful for clean chimneys. (5)
 11 Prickly plant can lead to a holy blush. (5,4)
 14 Remember to rearrange caller. (6)
 17 Land of the dozy backward professor. (3)
 18 Barest cut about part of turkey. (6)
 20 Old boy struts around, as a result gets in the way. (9)
 23 Not the soldier's favourite instrument in the morning. (5)
 25 Lender found chess piece in debt by royalty. (10)
 26 Platform gets a nudge. (5)
 27 Wash slipper or remove piano for seasonal weather. (5,7)

Down

- 1 Initially, can oil and lighters stay alight like these. (5)
 3 Cry of praise sounds like girl following a tube. (7)
 4 Winter transport or kill by sound. (6)
 5 Posed a way before backward valley. (8)
 6 Ben arranged with Tom to bury underground. (6)
 8 Pitch snake stop. (7)

- 12 Faye arranged inside matters for 12 months. (4)
 13 It was Luna that found the bone. (4)
 14 Common name to a reindeer and Herr Diesel. (7)
 15 Containers that could be on the cusp ? (4)
 16 May follow King or Edward. (4)
 17 See 10 across. (8)
 19 Line with no latitude. (7)
 21 By arrangement red nit could set the house on fire with this. (6)
 22 Altered guide with nothing to get an audio system. (6)
 24 Not odd junction happening. (5)

CodeWord No: 11

See page 31 for the answers.

18	3	8	22	22	17	25		15	17	5	23	11
3		11		8		10		8		23		22
8	4	11	12	22		12	23	13	2	8	7	12
22		8		12		12		21		3		23
20	5	13	20		4	2	8	24	23	11	12	26
18		10		3		18		8				18
	6	12	19	22	8		1	22	8	18	3	
4				17		18		26		11		19
8	2	9	5	1	10	11	14		3	17	17	2
19		12		22		8		4		3		5
22	12	26	22	8	25	23		2	5	1	10	11
5		8		9		13		12		8		10
13	8	2	2	18		12	16	8	9	3	2	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	L											
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
								R				

Each number represents a unique letter from the alphabet and all 26 letters are used. Two letters are given to make a start.

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<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/parents/cis/eye/2-year-old-offer-2.htm#criteria>

- From September 2017, some 3 & 4 year olds will receive 30 hours per week free childcare.

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Telephone Jo on 07598 588460

Email : manager@littleapples.org

Visit <http://www.littleapples.org/> or search for our facebook page



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Bramley & Romans Floral Society

Our meeting in November was a workshop run by Stephanie Cornell, a member of our club who is now a demonstrator. We could use either fresh flowers and foliage or artificial for those who wanted their arrangements to last through to Christmas and beyond. The first arrangement was in a corrugated cardboard box suitable for a coffee table or window display and the second was a Christmas wreath. Stephanie showed us how to make and fill the box and we all made a start whilst drinking tea and eating delicious homemade cake. She then went on to demonstrate mechanics of creating the wreath.

On 17 November 23 members and friends of Bramley & Romans attended our annual day workshop at Cross House. Under the guidance of Liz Pelley we all had a brilliant, busy and lively day with lots of laughter thrown in.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village hall at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Eileen on 01256 881125

Eileen Gulston

Desperately seeking new executive directors to run Country Watch

Country Watch was founded in 1973 to protect our Area. Its purpose under the constitution is to consider any developments or proposals which may adversely affect the environment and catchment of the Loddon, Lyde and Whitewater river valleys, ("the Area") protect the rural environment, prevent the loss of natural amenity within this Area, campaign and lobby on issues which affect the environment and way of life within the Area and to remain non-party political at all times. We are in debt to a "few good men" for the enormous work they have done for us. Maurice Chapman, Harry Mansfield, Alan Read, Nigel Bell and the late Dr Alan Gibberd have worked tirelessly for our community for 30 years. They have been outstanding executive members and we thank them from the bottom of our heart. Sadly they will step down on 21st January, 2019. If no replacements are found then Country Watch will be dissolved on that same date. Please spread the word. Please help us find some new Executive Directors to take the baton. Our Area continues to be under great threat from development. Country Watch was founded under the threat of dual carriaging the A33. This grave threat has re-emerged and remains very real today. There is a reference to the possibility of upgrading the A33 as an integrated corridor with an eastern by pass in the latest draft of the Basingstoke Transport Strategy Consultation produced by Hampshire County Council. This would make Basingstoke a dormitory town for Reading. This consultation will be launched at the end of November, 2018. Your Area needs you.....Please help protect our Area and save Country Watch.

Contact Onnalee Cubitt 07762 067 411 as soon as possible.
email onnaleecubitt@icloud.com

This family of butterflies enjoys a special relationship with ants as **John Stubbs** explains in **The Not Quite So Common Blue**

This little animal I found having its breakfast in the field over the road, round the end of July. Come December time, it's a shot to have another look at. Now, is that not a spectacular sight? Lots of butterflies use the wing undersides as a more modest, duller camouflage so that they can blend in while resting or feeding: not this one – brilliant metallic blues, glowing red highlights, brown shading, black spots and lacy edge trimmings. Not gaudy like some of the bigger guys, but as magic a pattern as no man can make.

Nowadays it's known rather prosaically as the common blue. Yes, the male sports a pair of blue upper wings – but they're not any old common-looking blue. Though they only span some thirty millimetres, they're an unmistakable brilliant iridescent blue. And this is not just an ordinary pigment, these butterflies use compounds from foodstuff that convert UV light to visible light, adding to the brightness: this is on top of the ability of the wing scales to produce blue light from other wavelengths by refraction. In all, they're a sort of flying optical workshop. Not just for our benefit, I suppose, but it's really not to be missed, in either sense.

But here again, they're not just a pretty face. The butterflies of this family have developed an association with another species: this is not unique, of course, but it does appear to be a very useful strategy for a little character who lives down in the grass, where all sorts of predators like mice and beetles hunt day and night. It turns out that there are natural enemies of the butterfly clan that are running very effective protection rackets: keep up the supply of sweeteners, or we'll let the boys loose on you. To be fair, it's really not clear who started it – though there are usually mutual benefits, in some cases it leads to traitorous assassination, not the sort of dainty butterflyish behaviour you'd expect.

As most households may know, ants are experts at finding sugars. Leave the lid off the marmalade, and somehow they'll form a marching column up the wall, in the window, up the table leg and into the jar. Another favourite source is aphid farming – ants can herd them for milking the sugary secretion, honeydew; biting off their wings to keep them nearby, or using chemical compounds to tranquilise them and suppress wing growth. They'll even fight off ladybirds to preserve their stock: they're that keen on a sweet fix. The same deal is run with this butterfly's larvae: these caterpillars can release a sort of honeydew that the ants can't resist – so they actively defend them from other predators, even taking them home to the nest to keep them safe. In the case of the common blue, this is not an essential part of their upbringing – they can get by on their own. Where there's a lot of ant activity, however, it pays to do a deal with the enemy.

In the case of their cousin, the large blue, the very survival of the caterpillars depends on their being adopted by a particular species of red ant. The larva starts off pretty normal, growing from the egg over about three weeks eating the usual food leaves until it's around three millimetres long; sort of ant-size. It then drops off the food plant, and lies doggo until a gullible red ant comes by. It starts to produce pheromones and sounds as appropriate, offering honeydew as a bribe, and then puffing up to imitate an ant larva. If judged correctly, the ant will carry the imposter down to the nest, where it will subsist by eating the host colony's larvae.



This is not a low-risk lifestyle. Choose the wrong species of ant – and there are lots that we can barely tell apart – and the butterfly larva will be ant meals. Sing the wrong song, or meet a suspicious guard ant: curtains. So many different things can go wrong that the large blue went extinct in the UK, and has only lately been re-introduced, after much study of just what they need to survive.

If all goes well, the undercover carnivorous caterpillar grows some five times as big, pupates and hatches next spring. It has then to make a rapid exit before being found out, to emerge as the perfect butterfly. No, of course it's not treachery. It's an intricate strategy evolved, and something we're in no position to condemn.

Your Photos

I always like it when you send me your photos of Bramley, so thank you to Angela Kerswell who was brave enough to take this one on 4 November in Ash Lane. I'm not sure I would have got that close to a heifer!





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News from Butter Daisy

As the nights start to draw in, we have embraced the crisp autumn weather with a variety of seasonal activities at Butter Daisy Nursery.

We explored a sensory tray and felt the textures of fir cones and pumpkins – and were fascinated by the different shapes, sizes and colours. We enjoyed scooping out the pumpkin pulp and seeds and squeezing this through our fingers.



In our treasure baskets we used sensory bags to smell a variety of spices and dried fruits – cinnamon was our favourite scent. Using the dried fruit, we created some exciting autumnal prints - dipping them into paint and stamping patterns onto paper and fabric, the children were so imaginative and the results were amazing!

Alongside this we have been composing some wonderful musical tunes using a range of instruments which we played loudly, quietly, fast and slow. It was marvellous to see such confident self-expression as our mini composers performed their symphonies.

We had a SPOOK-tacular time as we prepared for Halloween. We tested our gross motor skills as we attempted to cross an obstacle course where we had to crawl through a tunnel, cruise along a balance beam and move through some hoops and avoid any creepy crawlies and cobwebs we came across.

The whole Nursery came dressed up for our Halloween themed day and we were wowed by the ghoulish costumes. We made spider hats with googly eyes and wore them as we enjoyed making some Boo-Nanas which we decorated with funny faces – they tasted delicious!



If you are interested in coming to visit the Butter team please call on 01256 882515. There is lots of information about all nurseries within the company, our mission statement, opening times and fees on our website www.mydaisynursery.com

Clare Canning



Autumn at Little Apples

It's been such a busy time here since half term. The children shared their tales of parties and "Trick or Treating". They also enjoyed making some Halloween themed craft, playing in the witch's den, exploring the inside of pumpkins, making some lovely pumpkin sludge and stirring up the mess.

We also had "Dress up day" and we raised £26.50 towards our playground appeal.

Some splendid Bonfire Night craft has been produced, with lots of sparkles and glitter. The children enjoyed telling us about their experiences of fireworks with all the exciting noises and colours. This tied in well with Diwali Celebrations, thinking about colour and light and making 'flaming candles'.



In the run up to Remembrance Day and the Centenary services, we made a Little Apples Garden of Remembrance with poppies the children made. We talked about the sacrifices people made in war time.

We have some good news! We have been awarded two grants towards our playground; £1000 from the Parish Council and £500 from Four Lanes trust. Along with the money from the Beer Festival at the pub and a few personal donations, our total is now £1,742.07! This is a fantastic effort so far and we are very grateful to the Parish Council, Four Lanes Trust and all the individuals who have helped and donated to reach this total. Next, we will be running a Christmas Raffle and there will be fundraising at our Nativity Play, which is on the morning of 21 December, the last day of term.

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



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Surviving the Office Christmas Party!



Gill Brown

Christmas party season is fast approaching and some employees have a tendency to forget that even where an office party is held at an off-site venue it is still time spent “in the course of your employment”. Therefore the popular theory that “What happens at the Christmas party, stays at the Christmas party” is unfortunately not necessarily the case. Nobody wants to be dismissed for gross misconduct due to bad behaviour at a social event or for posting something inappropriate about themselves or others on social media.

Where alcohol or even a free bar is provided by your employer you do still have a duty to retain some semblance of sensible and responsible behaviour. Even under the influence of alcohol it is not acceptable to make unwanted advances, air grudges, be abusive, fight, harass or discriminate against others, drink and drive or use the photocopier inappropriately.

Jokes you would not tell or comments that you would not use in the office because they might cause offence, are just as likely to cause offence in a party situation even if they do get a laugh from all concerned after a few drinks. Remember for example that not everyone

drinks alcohol, celebrates Christmas or likes social events and their views and beliefs must be respected.

Another often forgotten, but important point, is that it is completely inappropriate to discuss work matters, other members of staff, clients, suppliers or customers in a social environment where you can be overheard by others.

Senior staff also have the added responsibility not to make any rash promises such as agreeing pay increases or discussing promotions or company matters under the influence of alcohol as this could well be regretted later.

The office Christmas party should be a happy and fun experience for all concerned and remain in the spirit of the season of goodwill. One last tip - do aim to turn up on time to work the next day even if you do have a hangover.

Whether you are an employer or employee seeking employment advice on this or any other matter, please contact Gill Brown or Jack Gardener on 01256 854631 in the employment team at Phillips Solicitors and they will be happy to assist.

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Main events

Christmastide Art and Craft Workshop

Saturday 1 December / 10am – 4pm / £30

Come along and spend the day with artist Jacky Purtill creating seasonal artwork for you or your loved ones. Create either season's greetings cards or a unique and decorative piece of artwork (framed as required). Tea/coffee and mince pies included.

Winter Gin Evening

Friday 7 December / 7:30 / £10

Staff from Hilingbury Still will present a fascinating talk on how gin is made, the production techniques and the history of its legal & cultural contexts. Their own products will feature, including seasonal examples. Bottles will be available for purchase – perfect for Christmas gift ideas.

Make a Willow Angel

Tuesday 11 December / 1:30pm / £35

Spend a fun afternoon making a beautiful white willow angel that you can then decorate with fairy lights or just leave it as it is. All materials will be provided (including fairy lights), along with refreshments (tea, coffee, homemade cake).

Children's events

Children's craft

Saturday 8 December / 10am – 12pm / Free / Ages 3+

Help us decorate the library with tissue paper reindeer and make your own Christmas cards.

Jack and the Beanstalk Interactive Storytelling Workshop

Saturday 15 December / 2 sessions,
one at 10am and one at 11.30am

£3.75 per child, (accompanying adult free).

Join Amanda from Merry-go-Round Storytelling and be part of Jack's magical adventure of a lifetime. We'll have fun climbing the beanstalk, outwitting the Giant and seeing Jack's fortune grow...and grow...and GROW! For children ages 2-6 and their accompanying adult.

Hook Choral Society Christmas Concert

22nd December at 4pm, St Johns Church, London Road Hook, RG27 9ED. Doors open at 3.15 for mulled wine and mince pies which is included in ticket price of £8. Under 11s free of charge. This is a popular event with a selection of new and old carols and readings.

In addition the choir will be singing at the **Mini Cracker event** at St John's, Hook on 8th December between 5 and 8pm, as well as at the **Barrett Homes Christmas event** at Chapel Gate Basingstoke on 14th (RG21 5TB 5-7pm) and finally on at **Heckfield Place** RG27 0LD on Christmas Eve between 6-7pm. We would invite people to come and listen to a selection of carols and celebrate the Christmas season in song.

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir – Christmas Concert

BMVC will be staging their traditional Christmas Concert on Friday, 14 December at the United Reformed Church, London Street in Basingstoke. The concert will feature the usual mix of Christmas songs and carols and there will be opportunity for the audience to join in. There will be a guest appearance from the quartet Quadrangle – it promises to be a great concert. Take this early opportunity to get in the Christmas spirit. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection for a local charity. In recent years we have raised money for Basingstoke Samaritans and the Camrose Centre and from our last concert in October we donated £1000 to the Ark Cancer Charity.

So join us on the 14th and start the run-up to the festive season, supporting a good cause.

Cryptic Crossword No: 24 Solution

ACROSS	DOWN	
2	1	CHRISTMAS EVE
7	3	ARISE
9	4	MILESTONES
10	5	SAINT
11	6	HOLLYBUSH
14	8	RECALL
17	12	NOD
18	13	BREAST
20	14	OBSTRUCTS
23	15	BUGLE
25	16	PAWN BROKER
26	17	STAGE
27	19	APRILSHOWERS
	21	TINDER
	22	STEREO
	24	EVENT
		COALS
		HOSANNA
		SLEIGH
		MODELLED
		ENTOMB
		ASPHALT
		YEAR
		ULNA
		RUDOLPH
		CUPS
		LEARN
		NICHOLAS
		EQUATOR

CodeWord No: 11 Solution

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

Mondays

<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Music With Mummy 10.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Stay Active As You Age Class – 11am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Petite Dance 4-9pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Zumba with Gisella 6:30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Tuesdays

<i>Parish Council Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing</i>	St James's
<i>Dance Club (Petite School)</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Yoga 7.00pm Beginners 8.15pm Continuers</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Wednesdays

<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Baby Clinic plus Stay and Play 2nd Wednesday 9.30-11.00am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall

<i>Pregnancy yoga 6-7pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 6.30pm & 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Clubbell yoga 7.15-8.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>HIIT/Bootcamp 7.45-8.30</i>	School Hall

Thursdays

<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Lunch Club 2nd Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Body Tone 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6-7pm, 7.15-8.15pm & 8.30-9.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Youth Club 6-8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays

<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Muddy Fingers 10:00 - 10:50am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Yoga Meditation, 11am-12.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates 11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall

Saturdays

<i>Dance School</i>	Brocas Hall
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Sundays

<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley & St Stephen's Little London</i>
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Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramleypc.co.uk parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@gmail.com	Bookings
Cross House	Pam Luck	882687	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Active Mums Post Natal Exercise	Emma Perkins	07973 389407	emmatraining@hotmail.com www.emmaperkins.com	
Age Concern Village Agent	David Canham	07776 595019	villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk	
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Bramley Out of School Club/Holiday Club	Julie Belam	07711 339306	info@bramleyoutofschoolclub.com www.bramleyoutofschoolclub.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
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Exercise classes	Caroline Sherlock	07845 217901	caroline@this2thisfitness.co.uk	
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hatha Yoga	Jacqui Morris	07539 432228	jacqui.morris28@gmail.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyfingersgardenclub.co.uk	
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Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
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	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
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WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcoles37@gmail.com	
Yoga	Lisa Caprai	07876 028329	lisa@lisacyoga.co.uk	
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The Man Who Made Meccano (and Hornby trains and Dinky toys)

Everyone put their hands up to the question - who had played with some of the brand names in this heading? The man behind such famous products, Frank Hornby, was the subject of a talk given by John Hollands to the Probus Club of Basingstoke.

Frank Hornby was born in 1863 and Liverpool was his lifelong home ending up as Conservative MP for Everton. He wanted boys to take up useful trades and started to develop a construction kit which he patented in 1901. He hoped it would encourage boys to find suitable engineering employment locally.

Initially called Mechanics Made Easy the name changed to Meccano in 1907. He started manufacturing himself and the famous Binns Road factory in Liverpool was opened in 1914 employing up to 2000, mainly women. After WW1 Hornby introduced model trains to compete against resurgent German toy manufacturers. So successful were overseas markets that manufacturing plants were set up in France and eventually New Jersey.

Meccano magazines were published monthly featuring articles on Meccano construction. Frank Hornby was the editor for many years. Over time Meccano Magazine became a general hobby publication aimed at "boys of all ages".



Meccano Ltd was taken over by Lines Bros in 1964 with Hornby Dublo train sets combining with the Triang name. Production was moved to Margate in Kent where it continues to this day.

Today Dinky Toys, especially with original boxes, command extraordinary prices at auction.



The factory began making model figures to complement the train sets. Using the same scale as the trains they were called Dinky Toys. Vehicles were added to the railway layouts and thus began the third string of this toy

manufacturer. No doubt every boy of a certain age, and many girls, enjoyed playing with Dinky Toys.

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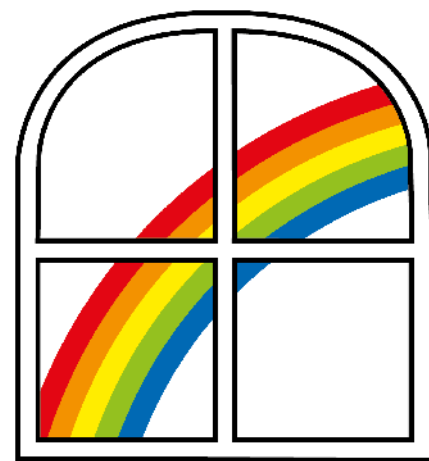
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