

July/August 2021

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



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- **Climbing Snowdon**
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The Bramley Magazine

*for Bramley and
Little London*

July/August 2021

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

Material for the September 2021 issue to
be sent (preferably by email) to the editor
no later than 15 August please.

Cover photo:

Bramley Knitters by Jan Wright

One of our articles this month features 6-year-old Jonah, who recently climbed Mount Snowdon to raise money for Bramley School. I am very pleased he climbed it this year as there is a campaign for Wales' highest peak to be known by its Welsh name only, and I would struggle to spell that. If the Welsh language campaign group, Cymdeithas yr Iaith, get their way, Mount Snowdon will be known as Yr Wyddfa and Snowdonia as Eryri. It won't be the first landmark to be re-named. Apparently, Mount Everest is commonly known by its Tibetan name Chomolungma, meaning "Goddess, Mother of the world", and Australia's giant monolith, Ayers Rock, was renamed Uluru in 1993. You can understand these countries wanting to have more local names for their attractions. Just as Wales doesn't want its famous mountain to have an English name, Tibet doesn't want its crown jewel to be named after a Colonel, Sir George Everest, who just happened to be born in Wales!

Trains have great names too, even the fictional ones: the Hogwarts Express, good old Thomas the Tank Engine. Next time you catch a GWR train to London check whether it is named after the Paddington Bear author Michael Bond, Captain Tom Moore or St. David. If you turn to page 24 you can see some great photos of the Flying Scotsman that steamed through Bramley in June. It was named after the London to Edinburgh rail service that started daily in 1862, and is an appropriate name given it reached a top speed of 100 mph. It's certainly a better name than the original: locomotive 1472. A train also features in John Stubbs' article on page 27, although I wouldn't have wanted to be on that particular journey.....

If you are eagle-eyed you will spot a train on our front cover. Some talented knitters have been busy creating a map of Bramley, and that wouldn't be complete without a train and the station. As someone who has only ever managed to knit a dishcloth, I am looking forward to seeing the map in its full glory at the Bramley Fete. Yes, although Boris didn't announce the lifting of restrictions we had been hoping for, we do seem to be inching back to normality and that includes holding the Bramley Fete on 11 September. There are more details about this on page 12. Sunday@nine will also make a welcome return to Cross House from 27 June and July sees the return of the scarecrows and a Messy Church picnic at Sherfield on Loddon.

Details of all these events are in the magazine, together with an update from the Parish Council, news from Brownies and Clift Surgery and a special report from an orphanage in Uganda. Finally, if any of our teams are still in the Euros when you read this, you will probably have lots of colourful names for the referee. If your team has been knocked out, then Michael Luck has some good advice on page 18 about how you decide which other team to support.

The magazine takes a break next month so we will be back again in September. I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Best wishes

Rachel

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

Before you marry a person, you should first make
them use a computer with slow Internet to see who
they really are.

Will Ferrell, Actor

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All the events described here are obviously subject to change, if Government Covid-19 guidelines and rules should change. Please do check our website, www.stjamesbramley.com, for any last minute changes.

Church diary for July...

4th	5th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Matins (BCP) – St James's Church
11th	6th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church
18th	7th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church
25th	8th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Morning Worship – St James's Church

... and August

1st	9th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Matins (BCP) – St James's Church
8th	10th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church
15th	11th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church
22nd	12th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Morning Worship – St James's Church
29th	13th Sunday after Trinity
10:30	Open Air Service – Clift Meadow

... and into September

6th	14th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Matins (BCP) – St James's Church
12th	15th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church
19th	16th Sunday after Trinity
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James's Church

Notes: Even though restrictions are easing, until they are completely lifted it is still important that you book a place for in-person services with Steve Day, the Parish Administrator. This is to ensure we remain COVID-secure and our numbers do not exceed the capacity restrictions required by social distancing.

Steve can be contacted on 07341 552732 or by email on Crosshousebramley@gmail.com.

See page 20 for details of the other services in our Benefice

Downsizing Sale at the Vicarage Saturday 3rd July, 10am – 4pm

Everyone welcome!

We're moving – and we have lots of things we don't need or want to take with us. Come and **have a browse** and take it away with you... from china dishes to pots and pans, pictures to garden tools... make a small donation in exchange, all proceeds to the church and the Foodbank.

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Alison Jones wrote about change last month and the speed at which it happens. I had hoped that by the time you read this, all the restrictions we have been living under would have been lifted. As I write, however, (14 June) change doesn't seem to be happening fast enough and it looks like we will have to wait a little longer for the return of freedom.

We have had to adapt a lot during the last 18 months and everyone has made sacrifices. We've missed personal contacts with our families and no amount of Zoom calls can make up for a hug or a family get-together at home. And that's before we even start to think about those who have lost loved ones and haven't been able to say goodbye properly; or those who have been furloughed and still struggle financially.

Many young people have not been able to enjoy university life fully and may wonder if they will ever be able to have a gap year. When will we be free to travel abroad again on holiday?

But lockdown brought out the best in many of us. We are more inclined, I think, to say "hello" to strangers when we pass in the street or out for a walk. Stories abound of people offering help to neighbours – even ones they hardly knew before. For a while the pace of life slowed and many of us welcomed that and enjoyed our surroundings – particularly when we live in villages as beautiful as Bramley and Little London.

As life eventually reverts to "normal" we will see more changes. Change



Nairn Glen

involves uncertainty and that can be a bit scary. So we may think "Oh, well, we can just stay safely in our bubble and enjoy being at home." But at some point we will have to decide what freedoms we want to embrace. No doubt we would all like to keep some aspects of our life over the last 18 months – who is looking forward to daily commuting again? And others we would love to see the back of – home schooling anyone?

So what is really important to us? Clearly health is vital and our acceptance of lockdown has demonstrated clearly the lengths we are prepared to go to in order to protect our own health and the health of those around us. Our families are also extremely important to us. We've all tried to keep in touch perhaps even more than previously.

We've also realised I think, that we are "social animals". We don't do well when locked up on our own, prey to all kinds of dark thoughts. We are longing to socialise again; perhaps that's why it's so difficult to get a reservation in a restaurant nowadays.

As well as these outward aspects of life there is an inward source of comfort we cling to – core beliefs or what

Christians think of as faith. This gives us resilience to cope with whatever life throws at us.

Chapter 11 of the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament begins "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." It's the inner belief that God will look after us even when things look pretty bleak. It's not the same as saying nothing will ever go wrong or we won't ever run into difficulties. But it's the conviction that, whatever happens, God will do what is best for us.

Back in the early days of the first lockdown, you may remember a broadcast by the Queen which ended with the assurance "We will meet again". And of course we have been able to meet up again, even if only in relatively small numbers. Her Majesty's faith, which she often refers to in her Christmas broadcasts, gave her that confidence.

Faith doesn't just happen: we have to work at it. You sometimes hear a team captain say at the end of the match "we had to dig deep to secure our victory today". What they mean is the team had to put everything into it – not just coast along. We have to "dig deep". But when we do, we experience the inner peace that can see us through the darkest hour.

So as we look forward to greater freedom, let's have confidence to hope – and work – for a better future; a cleaner, fairer world; a better balance between work and leisure. Let's try not to rush back to doing all the things we used to do that took up lots of time but gave precious little satisfaction. Let's focus instead on doing the things that bring us together and make life more worth living. That's change we can all embrace.

Looking Through the Window: a new project aimed at people who have experienced an increase in levels of anxiety or depression during Covid19.

Through a series of weekly workshops, either online or at a venue near to you, we will combine practical art activities to help teach you to draw and create with freedom. Plus, you will learn how past experiences affect our emotions and how effective techniques enable you to quickly and effectively deal with emotional situations.

You can be referred by your Social Prescriber at your GP Surgery, Support Services, Secondary Mental Health Care Teams or apply through self-referral.

Please take a look at our brand-new website to see some of the workshops and projects we are currently running. <https://artwell-basingstoke.co.uk>

Workshops last for 2 hours in a relaxing and informal atmosphere. You will meet people who share common experiences and begin your recovery journey with up to date jargon-free information, tools and techniques that will increase wellbeing and harmony. Absolutely no experience is necessary.

We ask for a small contribution towards the costs of each session. Based on ability to pay, these range from £1-£5 per session.

To book your place or for more information, please contact your care provider or Corinne. Tel: 07846779746 Email: hello@artWell-basingstoke.co.uk

This project is kindly supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council artWell is a trading name of Top Of The Town Studios and Gallery C.I.C. 11803970

Something a little different for this month's 'Meet The Neighbours'. To end our series celebrating people who have helped our community through the lockdowns, we asked the staff of Bramley Church of England Primary School to introduce themselves.

Bramley Church of England Primary School has evolved and adapted since opening in 1959, but one thing remains consistent; we are proud to serve the local community. As Bramley has grown, the school has reflected this. Originally built as a four-class primary school, we are now a two-form entry primary school with 409 wonderful children and more than 50 staff. We are a school where the well-being, happiness and development of every child sit at the very heart of everything we do. It is our belief that if children feel happy and safe, and are provided with experiences that inspire curiosity and imagination, then they will undoubtedly become reflective, resilient, life-long learners, ready for the future.

The last 15 months have been a challenge for everyone, and we are proud of how we have met that challenge head on. Our values of Love, Respect and Courage have underpinned everything that we have done for our pupils and the wider community since the pandemic struck. Staff, parents, governors and, most importantly, our wonderful pupils have worked hard to ensure that we have continued to learn and grow together.



Marquees helped us welcome more children

coming through our gates over the two weeks that they were here. Children had the chance to reconnect with their teachers and friends, who many had only seen through a screen for the previous months. This proved so successful that we will be hiring the marquees again to give us the opportunity to hold open days for the parents of our new starters as well as many learning activities for the children already here.

While we had a number of children of keyworkers attending regularly, the teachers also provided online learning for the children who were at home to complete. Our learning packs were provided through our online learning environment, which was overseen by our head of computing, Mr Taylor. Our teachers had to become technological experts overnight and all worked extremely hard to provide a meaningful learning experience for those at home. Many parents and children commented on how clear and engaging the online learning experience was, and the quality of work produced by the children showed us how hard they were working too. We can't finish this section without thanking all of the parents who became teachers overnight and supported their children both academically and emotionally through a trying time.

One of the lasting legacies of the lockdown was the school's partnership with St James' church, other local groups and businesses - including the WI and The Shop in Sherfield - and the local community to provide food parcels for some of Bramley's most vulnerable families. Special thanks to Steve Day at the church who has worked closely with our inclusion lead, Mrs Thompson, to arrange and deliver the parcels to those who needed them most.

Moving into the current term, it has been wonderful to have all of the children and staff back together - it's almost beginning to feel like we are back to normal. We're still adhering to government guidelines in order to keep everyone safe and the children have shown wonderful resilience and adaptability to our new routines. For some, it is the only routine they have known but we are sure they will readjust when things change; it's the teachers who might struggle! At the point of writing this, we have had no positive Covid19 cases since the start of the pandemic.

Part of our vision is to provide children with rich and engaging learning experiences, making lifelong memories in the process. Since our most recent reopening in March, this has definitely been the case. Aside from our ever-popular



Thank you Key Workers!

During the first lockdown, we are proud to say that we had 77% of all of our pupils in school at some point over the four months, compared to Hampshire's average of 28%. This is a testament to the commitment that our teachers and support staff put in and to the trusting relationship that exists between our school and our parent community. For the children in school, we tried to provide an experience that, while different from a normal school day, held some form of normality. All of the staff banded together to provide for our pupils and even held special events, like a mini sports day run by Mrs Hanson and Miss Oliver.

In summer 2020, we erected a pair of marquees on our fields so we could invite children whose parents were not classed as keyworkers to join us for a series of activity days with their teachers. This saw more than 100 extra pupils

topic launch days, we have also introduced some new and exciting activities for the children to participate in. The whole school were able to take part in science week and we have never heard so many children talking about science and wanting to be scientists when they grow up. Recently, Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 were able to travel through time and space (with the help of Virtual Reality headsets) visiting different countries and different civilisations. Year 1 had a wonderful day out at Wellington Country Park where they explored things that grow. Year 2 will also be taking a trip there later this term to explore their own topic. Year 6 are also looking forward to their residential at Runway's End where they will be spending 5 days experiencing a range of outdoor activities and challenges.



The magic of science in Early Years

term the school will be holding a whole week of sporting activities culminating in our yearly Sports day. They are also looking forward to next year - we're delighted to share the news that the school will soon be installing basketball hoops and an all-weather running track around our field, so no more wet feet on rainy days! Year 2 are also excited about taking part in a scatter ball contest later this month and we wish them the best of luck.

At Bramley, we are very lucky to have such extensive grounds with many different areas for the children to learn and explore. Our allotments at the front of the school are in full growth with many different varieties of fruit and vegetables; it's a highlight for every year group when they get to pick and eat their homegrown produce. Another popular area is our Forest School area, lovingly looked after by Mrs Kirby and her assistants. All of the children in the school get an opportunity to explore this wild area, often talking about it for weeks and months after.

The newest addition to our grounds this year is Oliver's Garden which was created in loving memory of our special friend Oliver Warner. As a school, we continue to be inspired by Oliver and his courage. As part of Oliver's legacy, we have created a place for the children across the school to learn and play in. It was opened by Oliver's brother and family on May the 4th, which was chosen to reflect Oliver's love of Star Wars. The children all agree that it is a magical place and really enjoy spending time out there.



Virtual Reality trip for Year 4

At Bramley, we believe in keeping ourselves healthy and active. Our PE and sports leads, Mrs Hanson and Mr Devon, have done an amazing job to provide many opportunities for our pupils to stay active. Every half term, we have a school mile run around our grounds and house games where children compete for the House sports cup. Later this



Enjoying the Bramley Mile

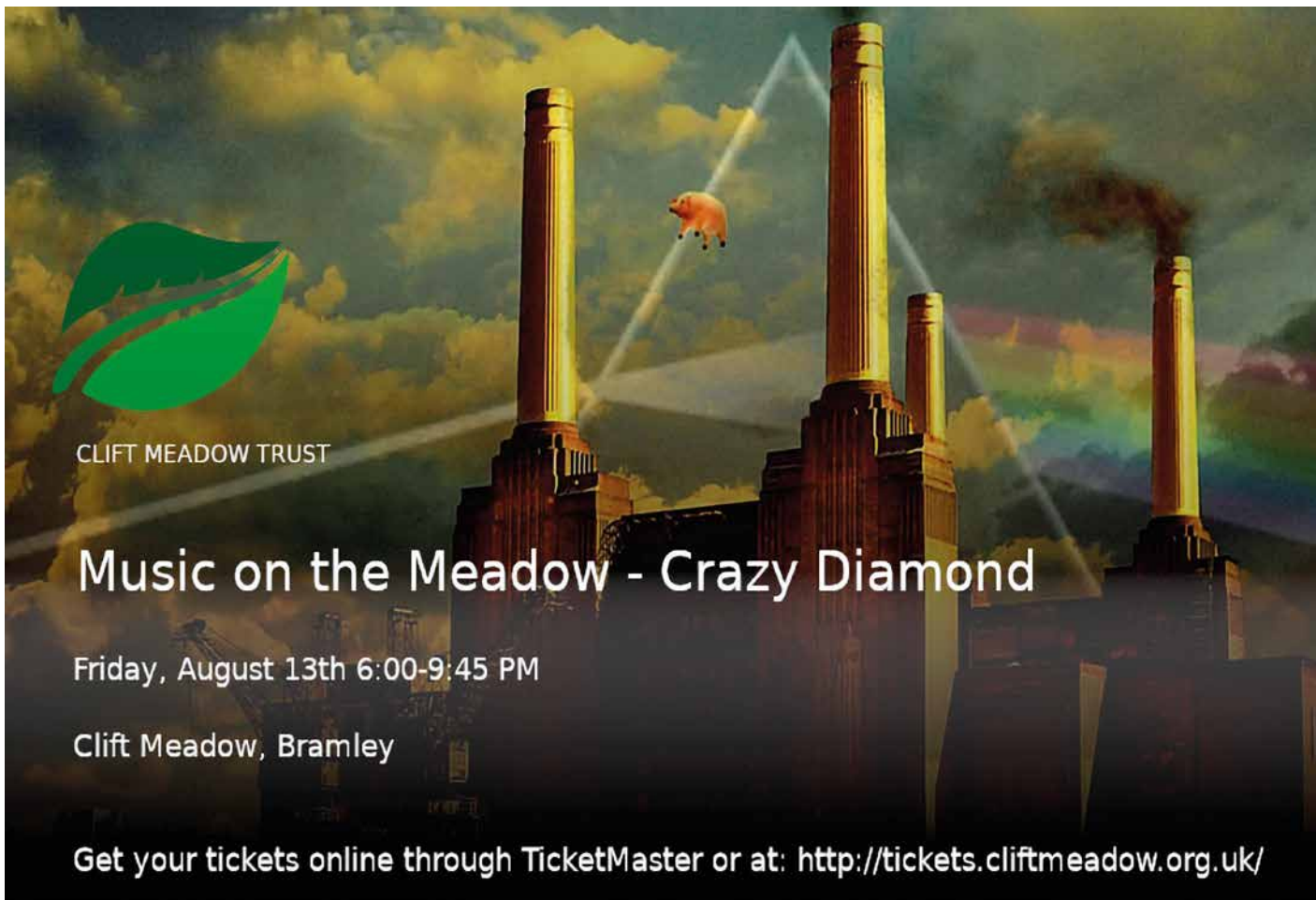


A very special place - Oliver's Garden

When restrictions ease and we can throw our doors open again, we look forward to welcoming you all to join us for our fireworks display, school fete or any other community events. If you would like our pupils to get involved with supporting Bramley in any way, please let us know. We have amazing children here who want to make a contribution to the community we serve; we are very proud of every one of them.

Knitting Club – meeting delayed

Please note that the meeting planned for 22 June has now been re-scheduled to 20 July. It will be held in Jean's garden at 2pm.



CLIFT MEADOW TRUST

Music on the Meadow - Crazy Diamond

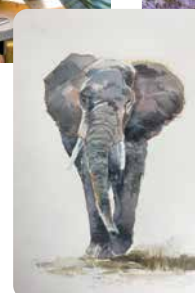
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Claire Berry, Practice Manager at Clift Surgery, reminds us that *"Kindness begins with understanding that we all struggle"*

Nobody can dispute that the past year has taken its toll on everyone: the pandemic, the lockdowns, changes to work patterns and workplaces, furlough, shielding, isolation, to name but a few, have all contributed to a feeling of fatigue, despondency and general apathy.

Long forgotten are the days of clapping for our NHS Heroes; in its place is frustration, annoyance, and impatience at not being able to access our GPs as we were able to perhaps before the pandemic hit. Whilst the world stopped for everyone else, healthcare delivery kept going. While everyone else makes a slow return to work and normal life, demand on medical time and expertise has more than doubled. It is spiralling out of control as GP surgeries and practices conduct regular appointments, engage in telephone consultations, prepare and deliver medications, keep patients and staff safe and arrange and administer countless life-saving vaccines. I was saddened today to speak with one of my staff members who had been reduced to tears by a patient's frustration and demand. She was left feeling worthless, insignificant and made to feel that she had been obstructive when all she had been trying to do was help. This is sadly not the first time and I fear it won't be the last. The truth is that all our staff really want to be able to say "Yes": "Yes, of course you can speak to a GP within the hour", "Yes, of course your prescription will be ready today".

Undoubtedly, access to General Practice has changed - and for good reason - but contrary to the rants in some of the national press, General Practice has remained open throughout, albeit it in a different way. Face-to-face appointments have been replaced, where appropriate, by telephone appointments. Video consultations have been utilised along with the arrival of E-Consult. Routine general practice has kept going: blood tests, immunisations, women's health screening as well as on-the-day urgent face to face appointments. At the same time, General Practice has bent and flexed to the constant barrage of guidance issued by NHS England, Public Health England and local Commissioners, detailing the safety measures to put in place for protection of our patients and our staff alike.

So, as the world opens up after lockdown and we move towards June 21 with hope, what does the future look like for General Practice? There will be challenges as we move towards a "new normal" whilst trying to keep our patients both happy and safe. Even as restrictions ease, Covid is still circulating and new variants remain a concern.

Safety is of prime importance so to continue protecting our patients we still need to limit how many can be in the surgery at any one time. Our waiting room capacity is, and will continue to be, significantly reduced, both in our reception and dispensary areas. This in turn affects the number of patients that can physically be seen each day.

Telephone and online consultations will continue to play an important role despite Covid becoming less of a threat, however our patients must be reassured that face-to-face appointments will increase as it becomes safe to offer them and where our capacity allows.

We will continue to communicate further updates via our Patient Participation Group, local magazines and our website. Please be assured that we are trying to help you the best we can with the availability that we have. We understand that times are frustrating, and we ask you to bear with our teams - a kind word goes a long way!

Job Vacancy – Clift Surgery

The Clift Surgery is recruiting two part time receptionists for 25 hours Monday -Friday.

Experience preferred but not essential as training will be given.

The job includes answering the telephone, booking in patients, administrative duties and checking emails.

All applicants should be aware that if they are patients at the surgery they will have to register at another surgery.

For any information or to send in a CV please email reception.clift@nhs.net.

The Bramley Village Knitted Map

As I am sure you will be aware, the map is ready to be displayed to the village in all its wooliness. But as the unlocking of England is still uncertain, we haven't been able to arrange an official unveiling for the village. If all goes according to plan, the map will be at the Clift Meadow Fete on Saturday 11 September 2021, where you can meet the knitters and purchase souvenir postcards and prints. We look forward to sharing this lockdown project with you.

The Bramley Village Hub

The hub is now up and running. This is a one stop shop for everything that the residents of Bramley may want to know. From bin collection days to health information, from booking the village halls to local events. The aim is to have easily accessible village information. So please take a look at www.bramleyvillagehub.com. If there is any information you think should be added, or you have a Facebook group you would like to add, please let us know. This web site is for you. Email: info@bramleyvillagehub.com

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Live Music and a Summer Fete on Clift Meadow

These last few weeks have finally seen summer arrive, which in itself is worth a small celebration but when put into the context of what we have all been going through over the past fourteen months, we are all hoping for sunnier days still to come. As we emerge from a truly extraordinary time, there are many questions about what we can and should expect for our futures. It's too much to debate in this column but what the Trustees at Clift Meadow are keen to do is start to help build that path back to normality. Clift Meadow sits at the heart of the village and it is with that in mind that we are desperately hoping that we can hold some events for you that will bring us all back together again.

For the first time I can recall, Clift Meadow will be hosting a live music event on **Friday 13 August**. Last year, many of you came to watch the excellent Pink Floyd tribute band, **Crazy Diamond**, rehearse on the meadow. This year they have kindly agreed to return for a full-on live performance of their two-hour set. It promises to be a great occasion: live music, a beer tent and some excellent pies – what's not to love about that? It will be great not only to have live music, but to have a band of this calibre perform on the meadow. What a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the finer things in life. So, come along, lie back in the fading sun of an August evening and soak up the atmosphere, and for the die-hards perhaps, raise a tuneable accompaniment.

We are also keeping everything crossed that we can go ahead with the **Summer Fete on Saturday 11 September** in conjunction with St James Church. While this is later than usual, we are hopeful that the weather will be kind to us and we shall be treated to one of those late hazy summer days. We have Bramley's favourite Fish and Chip van in attendance as well as The Bramley Inn providing a selection of ales and soft drinks. The Arena will once again play host to a wide and diverse range of activities and societies that show-case so well the broad range of interests and talent available in the village, from martial arts to line dancing, plus more live music and a 28ft climbing wall, which should exhaust the most energetic amongst us. The funfair will be there along with vintage cars and motorbikes, stalls selling local produce and goodies and the excellent Bramley Dog Show.

It promises to be a great village occasion so please mark your diaries from midday to 4pm and we look forward to seeing you there. If anyone is prepared to offer an hour or more to help out on the day we would love to hear from you via our Facebook page or website.

Simon Gill

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club, which has been running for at least 25 years, has been hit badly during the last two years due to a lack of members. The committee would love to get it running again for the elderly residents of Bramley. We would like to welcome new members to enjoy tea or coffee while chatting or participating in quizzes, bingo or other puzzles, before sitting down to a delicious two-course lunch at a reasonable cost. Dietary needs can be catered for, and helpers or carers would be welcome to join us. If necessary, it may be possible to arrange transport.

In the meantime, we are pleased to announce we will resume in September (circumstances permitting). However, due to lack of numbers, instead of meeting in Cross House we will be going out to garden centres, local pubs or restaurants to have lunch. If people prefer, for a change we could possibly meet for afternoon tea.

Please contact Christine on telephone 884065 if you would like to join us.

Freda Clark

BRAMLEY WI

This month we had a picnic at Clift Meadow. It was so good to get together and chat properly, rather than on a screen. We all brought our own lunch and chairs so we were Covid-aware.

We had a discussion about the Bike 200 (Chase the Sun) event which is coming through the village on 19 June. We are making the refreshments, which will be a big fund raiser for us. Although it will be hard work on the day, I'm sure it will be good fun.

Our next two meetings in July and August will be held outside and hopefully by September we will be back in the Village Hall.

Jane Matthews

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Geoff Tennant has recently moved from Bramley to Africa, where he has been closely involved with the **Kampala Christian Orphanage**

I worked in Tanzania from 2012 to 2017. On returning to my house in Baughurst I knew I wanted to come to worship at St James's Bramley, having worked with John and Ann Lenton in London some years before. I really appreciated being a member of the fellowship – and an honorary member of the Bramley community more widely – and being able to contribute through playing the organ and leading the prayers.



But once bitten by the Africa bug – sometimes literally! – it's difficult to get over it. I had the opportunity to come to Uganda in August 2019 to make a three-week visit to the Kampala Christian Orphanage and, on my return became more and more convinced that I wanted to return. I found a post at the Acacia International School in Kampala, started working for them in August 2020 and actually moved here in November. I've really appreciated becoming part of the school family, and working within a very clear Christian ethos is wonderful, including opening lessons with prayer and, when children are naughty, being able to say, "Do you repent of

your sins?" At least, I think this is great, not sure if my students would agree.....

A major reason for wishing to come to Uganda is my link with the Kampala Christian Orphanage. Despite its name it's actually near Wobulenzi, Luwero District, Central Uganda, about an hour by road from Kampala.

It is home to over 50 girls and boys aged 2 to 12. They may not be orphans in the literal sense, but they do not have families who are reasonably able to care for them in a country with a very young demographic – 46% of the population is under 14 compared with 12% in the UK.



Like children all across the world they love to play, sing songs and read books.

Over the last few years it has been an honour to support the



Geoff leads "Who's the King of the Jungle?"



The children read in English but amongst themselves they speak Luganda.

Kampala Christian Orphanage in various ways, including helping to raise money for a new dormitory block and also a kitchen with the scariest wood burning oven I've ever seen!

The children presented to the orphanage are carefully screened

to check whether there are wider family or community members who can look after them, with this effort continuing once they come into the orphanage. The orphanage is vital in providing care for children who could very easily otherwise be living on the streets.



The orphanage was founded by Ugandan people, and is run by Ugandan people, for Ugandan children. It is entirely dependent on foreign donations for its on-going running expenses and also capital projects. There is no state assistance, and getting foreign donations can be hard.

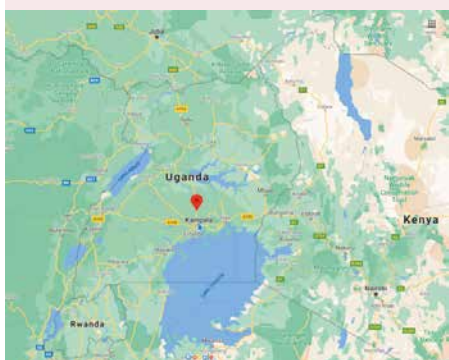
I'm really grateful to Bramley members for their support in various fund-raising ventures I've been involved with. I am very happy to provide any further information and to provide direct contact with the orphanage. Do please get in touch!

Email: geoff@geoff-tennant.com

WhatsApp: +44 7946 381918

Blog: <https://geoff-tennant.com/>

To give to the Orphanage:
<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/kcorphanage> or contact me for further options.





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**Now in
Bramley**

Jonah Halgoa, aged 6, recently climbed Mount Snowdon in Wales and in the process, he raised £740 for Bramley Primary School.

Jonah is in year 1, Rosen Class, at Bramley Primary School. He loves school and he loves nature, so he decided to combine the two by climbing Mt Snowdon and raising money for his school.

Mt Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales and England and so this was a challenge for anyone, but especially for a 6-year-old! However, Jonah made it to the summit in 3 hours 10 minutes. He stayed focused and on his own two feet the whole way.

It was incredible weather and so he and his family had some beautiful views. The hike down took 2 hours 45 minutes so it was a long day, but that hasn't put Jonah off. Far from it, he is hoping to make this mountain climb an annual event, perhaps tackling Ben Nevis or Scafell Pike next year.

Jonah and his family would like to thank everyone who donated and are so happy to be able to support the Bramley School. One area that will benefit is Oliver's Garden that we featured in the magazine last month: a fantastic new area for the children to play in and learn.



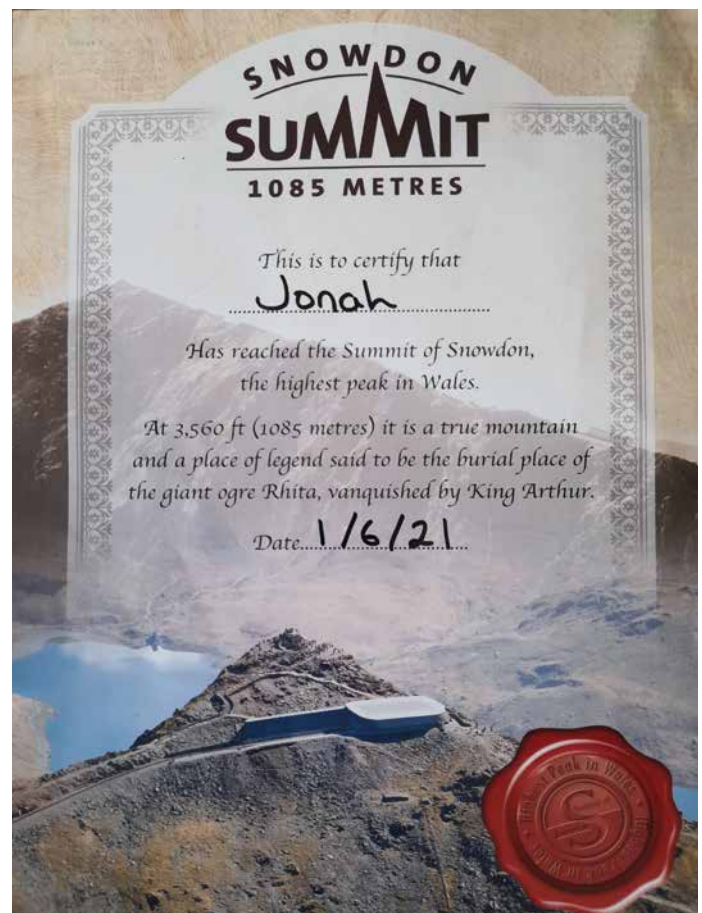
Jonah about to head for the summit



Jonah at the top of Mt Snowdon



Made it!



Jonah's certificate

Bramley & Romans Floral Society

The Society held a Zoom meeting on 10 June and Jane Hass demonstrated four arrangements with the title "Summer time".



Our next meeting on 1st July will still be on Zoom, a demonstration entitled "Fashion Trends" by Irene Hanson. Dusty will send out the link nearer the time.

Our regular meetings, when this is possible, will be at Sherfield on Loddon village hall at 1.30pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Eileen Gulston

The first was made around a metal work frame that she used for an exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show and included hosta leaves, laurel, yellow irises, antirrhinums, purple aquilegias, yellow roses and grasses to create a beautiful summer hedgerow.

For her second arrangement Jane used this summer's colours of grey and mustard yellow as she mixed dried and fresh flowers, including the beautiful velvety angels wings. Next she filled a stone effect vase with test tubes and covered it with a rustic holly branch with more test tubes attached. She mingled purple lilies between the branches and added orange allium heads and acer.

Jane's final demonstration used a hoop that she used to surround her daughter's wedding cake. This was decorated with pink hawthorn, roses and white gypsophila.



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Congratulations to our County Councillor Rhyddian Vaughan (here with the Chief Fire Officer) who has been elected Chairman of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority.

We may have said a very reluctant farewell to John and Ann Lenton, but we will receive some very welcome help from **Karen West**, who will be Licensed as an **Assistant Curate** in Winchester Cathedral on 4 July. It's been a long process of training for Karen to get this far.

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

Karen says 'thank goodness for that, since there's a lot of learning still to do'...

These words of Henry Ford seem very appropriate, even though Karen is closer to eighty than twenty. This month sees the end of Karen's three-year programme of learning at the Winchester School of Mission when, hopefully, she will be awarded her Diploma in Higher Education in Ministry and Mission and, more importantly, be as ready as she can be to begin her curacy here in the Benefice.

Most of the 17 modules of study began with a residential, followed by a number of Thursday evening tutorials for which there was typically 6-8 hours a week of study and preparation. Learning has been assessed through one or two written assignments per module - mostly academic essays that needed to be properly referenced, but also ('thankfully' says Karen!) there have been more practical assignments such as creating a series of Bible studies.

Many of the module subjects were obvious, such as Old and New Testament in Context, Apologetics (that's about how we argue for our faith - Karen has needed to learn a whole new Church language..), Mission and Evangelism and Interfaith studies. There have also been some very practical modules on preaching, worship and spirituality.

Here is Karen and her fellow School of Mission students at an early residential - you can tell it was a few years ago as there are no masks in evidence and definitely no social distancing. Those were the days!



Karen loves learning and writing and thanks to her gradual winding down from paid work, she's been able to make time to do the work needed to get to this point. The past year or so of the pandemic has made learning more difficult for the whole group as the School of Mission has needed to take its work on-line. Here's some of the group more recently on Zoom:



with monthly training days. At least the academic essay writing will be at an end and, if Henry Ford is right in his assessment, Karen can keep ever-young!

Karen will be a member of the Benefice Ministry team and so will be seen at St James', Bramley from time to time, conducting services and preaching. As an ordained Deacon, her licence allows her to lead baptism services. Assuming all goes well in the coming year, from July 2022 she will be ordained as a priest and will then be able to conduct weddings and preside at services of Holy Communion.

A few weeks ago, Karen's group enjoyed a long-planned celebration picnic, when they were again able to meet in person, in preparation for their ordination as Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers. However, for Karen and the other Deacons, their learning will continue for a further 2 years



Messy Church is returning!

Come and join the free picnic event in July, with games, food and fun.

All pre and primary school-aged children welcome.

Numbers are limited and we do need a RSVP to book your place and to cater for allergies, track & trace.

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We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces.





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Probus Hears about Doing Business In 1980s Russia

Probus Club member, Richard Stettner, spoke about finding export customers for specialised paper made by Basingstoke company, Wiggins Teape. This material, produced at their mill at Stonehaven, Aberdeen, was used by other companies as the base for the manufacture of imitation leather used in cars, clothing, shoes and upholstery.

The thought was Russia had business potential and operated a central buying organisation, so Richard joined London based Russo-British Chamber of Commerce who organised annual trade missions to meet the Ministry of Light Industry in Moscow.

“The Russian Embassy in London wanted details of our company and what business I wanted to develop in Russia” explained Richard. “Other than receiving my visa and learning the name of the hotel I had no further information about where, when and who I was going to see in the seven days in Moscow.” It was only on arrival at the hotel that he was presented with an envelope containing his meetings in the next seven days.

“We had been educated about the various surveillance techniques that would be used to monitor our activities”, said Richard. “And we knew the top floor of the hotel was given to monitoring the guest bedrooms.”

A taxi was at his disposal each day with the driver noting which offices were visited, the duration of meetings and how spare time was used. One night in the bar at the Bolshoi,

they were the only customers apart from a young woman. After a while, they asked her what she did for a living. She was a chambermaid at their hotel and worked on the same floor as their bedrooms. It was obvious she was there to monitor their movements that night.

Russian roubles were not traded in the West so currencies like US dollars, Deutschmarks and Pounds Sterling were permanently required. Shops existed that accepted Western currency and while \$10 would buy a pack of 200 Marlboro cigarettes their value to the Russian public multiplied many times. Richard explained, “Ten of us had a meal together and it was paid for by a pack of 200 Marlboro cigarettes.”

After several visits, some business was transacted but the Russians wanted to barter trade wood pulp, which Wiggins Teape need in paper manufacturing. The first delivery was of poor quality so could not be used. That was the end of the relationship. Other Eastern bloc countries turned out to be more productive.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



The Ministry of Light Industry in Moscow

Whom Do You Support?

I am writing this in early June, as the football European Championships begin, henceforth known as the Euros. So, by the time you read this, in July's magazine, England, or Scotland or Wales, or whomever you might support, could be eliminated and you may have lost all interest. But when a tournament is in progress, and 'your' team is still in contention, there are many things you have to consider.



But first, I must declare an interest. I am a football supporter. I became one in the late 1960s, having seen the World Cup in England: not in person but reported on TV and in the press. I first went to a game in 1968. My club is, and always will be, Crystal Palace. My national team is England. Over the years I have formed views about football, and especially about whom to support when 'your' team is not involved. These are my rules: you may form your own rules rather than following mine. They apply to club and country. And if you don't like football, and object to the blanket coverage on BBC and ITV, you probably stopped reading this several sentences ago!

Rule 1: always support the underdog. I think this is an English thing. We love it when a lowly team beats a highly rated one. Or even when two highly rated teams, with one who has already won something, get beaten by another team. I am looking at you, Manchester City and Chelsea. This works nicely with my own team, Crystal Palace: we are always the underdog.

Rule 2: There are teams that I never support, even if they are the underdog. In international football, they are Argentina and Germany. And here, they are Brighton and Millwall.

Sorry if there are any fans of those clubs reading this, but you will understand. And see rule 5.

Rule 3: In international football between nations, always support the other home nations, except if they are playing England. This rule probably only applies one way: if you are Scottish, you probably never support England. That is true at least with all of the genuine Scots fans that I know. Today I will be supporting Scotland against Czechia, as we must learn to call what was the Czech Republic. The name was changed in 2016.



Rule 4: There will always be a sweepstake in your workplace. If I was in a sweepstake (fortunately this time I am not) I would get North Macedonia. Never Spain or France. It never fails. Until the beginning of this Euro tournament, I did not even know that North Macedonia was an independent nation. I would love it if they win anything at all, as rule 1 applies here. I had a soft spot for El Salvador in the 1970 World Cup.



Rule 5: when you meet opposing team supporters on the way to a game, on a train for example, these are the most brilliant conversations. Away from the actual game, when much shouting is done, football supporters are some of the happiest, friendliest and most knowledgeable people you could meet. I have had many conversations like this. As you part company near the stadium, everyone always says 'Enjoy the game!' Even sometimes if it's Brighton. And that is why I love football.

Michael Luck

Sherfield Road/ Bramley Lane Junction improvement – update

Works commenced on 14 June 2021 and will last for a period of approximately 10 weeks. The scheme will be delivered in phases, to minimise the impact on traffic in the area and reduce risks relating to working around the railway crossing.

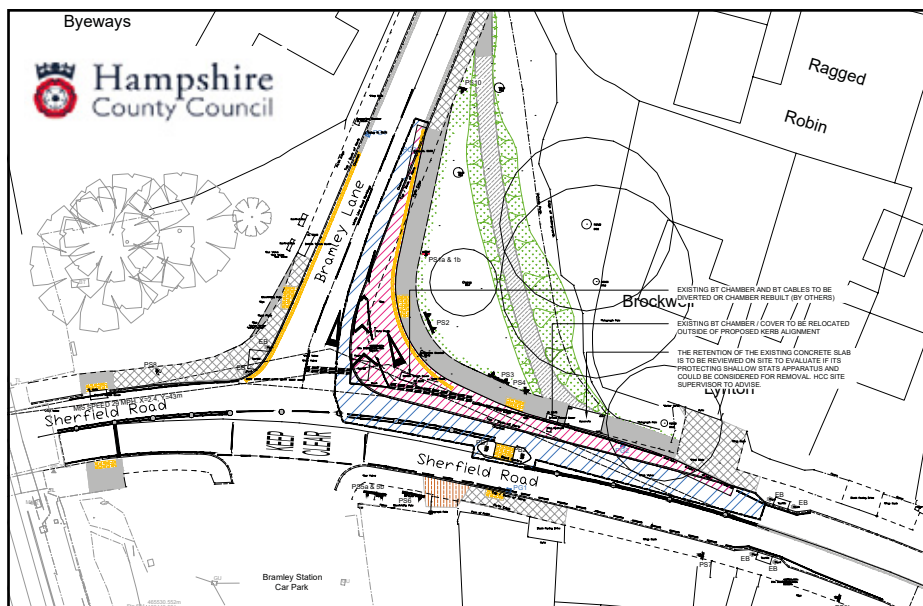
Much of the initial work will take place off carriageway, so disruption should be low. When there is work to do in the carriageway, this will need to be carried out under carefully controlled traffic management and for a limited duration, so the Council intend to do the most disruptive elements within the carriageway over shorter, concentrated periods. These phases of work will be programmed as the scheme progresses, and will be during periods where traffic flow is lower. This may require closures on Bramley Lane at times (off-peak) and there may also be a need to close Sherfield Road toward the end of the project, for final surfacing work.

Cllr Bruce Ansell comments: *The junction improvements are the final element of a package of work started*

by the Parish Council back in April 2016. A review of video traffic survey data provided by Bramley Parish Council was undertaken by Hampshire County Council's Hampshire Services (Engineering and Transport) to assess the extent of undesirable driver behaviour at the junction of Bramley Lane and Sherfield Road during the periods when the adjacent railway

level crossing was closed. This identified a number of associated safety risks. Recommendations on mitigation measures were made where the assessment identified a number of significant risks. The junction improvement is a series of work packages to reduce those significant risks.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan



Hold the date... It's the Bramley Fete!

CLIFT MEADOW | 12-4pm | 11 SEPTEMBER 2021

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AND MUCH MORE!



Last month, we introduced you to St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon, one of the four churches in our Benefice. This month, Rachel Barclay Smith looks at the other two churches – both dedicated to St Mary



St Mary's in Stratfield Saye is a classical church designed in the form of a Greek cross, with equal length transepts, and an octagonal central tower, surmounted by a copper dome. It was constructed in 1758 as a replacement for the original medieval building and is located on the Stratfield Saye Estate, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Wellington.

The 1st Duke of Wellington worshipped here, and his funeral hatchment hangs in the west gallery. The hatchment was raised outside Stratfield Saye House when the Duke died, and later moved inside the church. Just near the entrance is a striking Victorian font in the style of Sir Christopher Wren.



Both churches are well worth a visit, but they are not that easy to find. What3words may be the easiest way to locate them, if you recall my article a few months ago.

For St Mary's Stratfield Saye you need to use stems.dairies. recapture or postcode RG7 2DB. It is less than a mile from the Wellington Arms.

For St Mary's, Hartley Wespall you need – digests.diggers. wizard or Turgis Green Lane, Hartley Wespall, RG27 0BB



St Mary's in Hartley Wespall was largely rebuilt in 1868, although parts of the original massive beams in the half-timbered construction survive, along with the internal roof structure. It is thought that these parts of the church date from about 1330, making it one of the oldest and most beautiful original structures in the south of England.

During its restoration, the Bell Tower was moved from the west to the north side of the church, which can't have been an easy job. Two of the three bells are original, being cast between 1439 and 1450. The church also contains an outstanding collection of stained-glass windows. The north wall window is dedicated to William Grant Broughton who was Curate here in 1818. On the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington he was selected to travel to Australia in 1829 later becoming the first Bishop of Sydney and eventually, the first Archbishop of Australasia.



Services in the wider Benefice July 2021

4th	5th Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
10.00am	Family Service – St Mary's Stratfield Saye
6.30pm	Evensong – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
11th	6th Sunday after Trinity
10.00am	Morning Worship – Online/St Leonard's
18th	7th Sunday after Trinity
10:00am	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
6:30pm	Evensong – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
25th	8th Sunday after Trinity
10:00am	Together in Worship – Online/St Leonard's

Aug

1st	9th Sunday after Trinity
10:00am	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
10:00am	Family Service – St Mary's Stratfield Saye
6:30pm	Evensong – St Mary's Hartley Wespall

Online services - All are very welcome to join the Online services, For all services please contact Karen West for details - karenwaterside@aol.com.

IMPORTANT - Please still register in advance for In Church services. All Covid restrictions will be followed - social distancing, hand sanitising and the wearing of a face mask. To register please contact: St Leonard's Lesley Martinson for details - lesleymartinson@btinternet.com. Hartley Wespall please contact Pip Iles - pip.ilene@tiscali.co.uk.

Bramley Parish Council Update

The Parish Council hope that everyone has kept safe and well in these difficult times.

By the time you read this the longest day will have passed us by. Where has that time gone? Well, like many organisations and groups, the Parish Council has been as busy as usual. As you know, there have been elections, and we welcome two new Councillors, Colin Shimell and Steve Day, to our numbers. Both are well known in the village for the work they already do on behalf of the community. Sadly, we have "lost" two excellent Councillors, Alan Munday and Iain James who contributed much over the last few years. As with much in our lives, particularly in the last sixteen months, things change and evolve but a constant is that the Parish Council will continue to do its very best for the community. We cannot please everyone all the time but you will have the same commitment, transparency and sheer hard work that underpins all our activities.

Whether you see the point of it or not, the changes at the Bramley Lane junction address serious safety issues and are finally under way. This will create a safer crossing point, particularly for those on the school route, and help eliminate the dangerous overtaking activity between the shop and the level crossing. It cannot help the traffic flow either side of the crossing as there will still be a crossing! Developer's funds and local infrastructure grants have been used to finance the construction work.

The creation of a flower meadow on the Green has begun in earnest. We apologise for the delay in the larger grass cutting exercise and Burial Ground maintenance. We have new contractors and the earlier wet weather delayed the first cut. We thank the Bulpitt family for their years of excellent service and wish them a long and happy retirement.

We are working with Borough enforcement officers to get Persimmon to honour the work they need to do regarding

the path across Clift Meadow. The dangerous turning and flooding issues at the Minchens Lane entrance to St James' Park are in the hands of Hampshire Highways and Persimmon.

The hand over of the allotments from Persimmon to the Parish Council is delayed by their legal team and much remedial work will be needed on the site. The Parish Council will keep you updated on progress but we fear this year's growing season is lost.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is now in need of updating in light of the Borough Council's Local Plan update. A working group is being formed to look at this, and anyone interested in having a say and working on the NDP should contact the Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk

We have worked with residents and Borough departments to improve the brook area between the school and Bromelia Close/Strawberry Fields and the resulting path improvement, clearing and planned planting will improve the area significantly.

The damaged and overgrown traffic calming bollards are awaiting Hampshire County Council's contractor to repair them. Until then they remain a hazard so be careful, particularly at night.

The next Parish Council meetings are scheduled for 13 July for Planning Committee and 20 July for full Council. Details will appear on the Parish Council website and Facebook page in due course - www.bramley-pc.gov.uk and www.facebook.com/BramleyPC.

As this is written before 21 June, we do not know what "freedoms" may be granted but whatever the situation please take care and look after yourselves and others and have the best possible summer in these difficult times.

Cllr Tony Durrant

Bramley Parish Council

1st Bramley Brownies - We're Back!

Cuckoo, Goldfinch and Robin are so happy to report that we're back meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings.

It's been a while since we have been able to get together; some of our Brownies have flown up to Guides and we have nearly a dozen new starters who are either from Rainbows or who are new to Girl Guiding. We welcome all our girls, both old and new.

Our meetings take place each week and we follow strict Covid rules as advised by Girl Guiding and the government. Whilst following these guidelines we aim to make each week as fun as possible.

We will be starting our evenings talking to the girls about the 'Good Turns' they've completed that week. The Brownie Law is: *A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a good turn every day.* We always encourage our Brownies to be patient, kind and caring to one another and all those around them. The 'Good Turns' they can do now may be as simple as sharing a kind word

or sitting quietly with a friend/fellow student who may be feeling low; checking on an elderly relative or neighbour; helping mum and dad around the house; keeping their own bedrooms tidy or writing a letter to someone (we all appreciate receiving something other than the usual bills!).

During our first meeting we played a game of 'Getting to Know You Bingo'. Each Six worked through it in their groups and we then had a socially-distanced session together. It was great fun. One of the squares was 'has made a snowman' and it was a lovely shared moment when the whole unit stood up for that one: everyone in the room had built a snowman at some time!

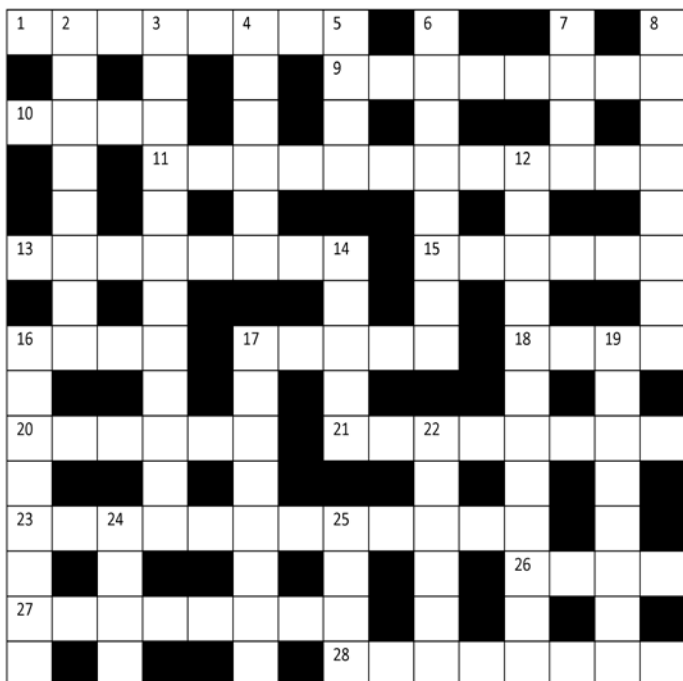
In coming weeks we have a lot of fun activities lined up for the Brownies and we'll share these with you after the summer break. If you have any enquiries about joining us, please look at www.girlguiding.org.uk - you will find a place to register your child and we will be in touch.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Cuckoo. Goldfinch. Robin.

Cryptic Crossword No: 50

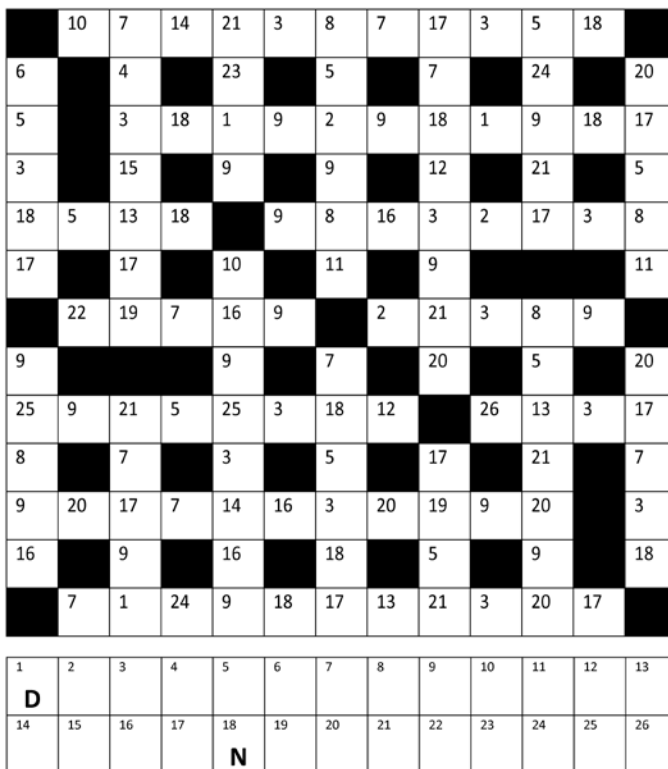
See page 31 for the answers.



- 3 Saying to look up to the one who has the answer to this clue. (3,4,5)
- 4 Police car ten for a godly drink. (6)
- 5 Part of tree or book. (4)
- 6 Status of desperate band perhaps ? (2,3,3)
- 7 Bargain or distribute cards. (4)
- 8 Grin late as a whole. (8)
- 12 The song to complete 6 down. (4,2,3,3)
- 14 A vein can be innocent. (5)
- 16 Downfalls occur when some muddle is to be scaled. (8)
- 17 Legal though sneaky delivery. (8)
- 19 Description of fruitless attempt perhaps. (8)
- 22 Tie rod somehow for publication editor. (6)
- 24 Close in night time scenario. (4)
- 25 Matured as good eggs do initially. (4)

CodeWord No: 36

See page 31 for the answers.



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

Across

- 1 A long aid used to find a straight line joining two corners. (8)
- 9 A German stone reveals physicist. (8)
- 10 A police department perhaps being a sour tasting substance. (4)
- 11 Surprise from the sky perhaps. (3,2,3,4)
- 13 Try a cold run for brewing pot. (8)
- 15 Forest keeper alone perhaps ? (6)
- 16 Part of a ship or cards. (4)
- 17 Bunions have a way of hiding a marriage. (5)
- 18 Either Dave or Alan passed internally by word of mouth. (4)
- 20 Further than the Fringe perhaps. (6)
- 21 We decided to elect Ron to find the particle. (8)
- 23 Cautious politician possibly ? (12)
- 26 First really awful item near to precipitation. (4)
- 27 Slow escape perhaps. (4,4)
- 28 Mad as deed rang to all parts. (8)

Down

- 2 Cub ate in haste to bring forth life. (8)

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Butter Daisy Nursery

It's been a warm and busy month at Butter Daisy Nursery. After our refurbishments last month, the pre-schoolers have been having lots of fun making use of the new equipment. They have been exploring a variety of activities including role playing characters in stories and exploring different occupations, builders being a particular favourite.

One of our favourite stories was a big focus this month, when the Toddlers tested out a big bed, a little bed and one that was just right. They also tasted different porridges and there were three different sized bears that came to visit. I wonder if you know which story this could be!

We are looking forward to joining in with the Scarecrow Festival next month, plans are underway. We are also planning an amazing Summer of Fun, with the theme being Occupations. Parents will be coming in to talk to the children about their roles and some will be giving demonstrations – we are very excited. Activities like this give our children so much enthusiasm for learning and wanting to achieve in their lives, as well as helping their awareness of culture and life around them.

If you would like to find out more about our Nursery, please do not hesitate to contact us on Butter@mydaisynursery.com.



Hello Everyone from Little Apples

The last half term of the academic year always flies past and this year has been no exception. The children have been learning about people who help us and thinking about summer and holidays. We have made a desert in our tuff spot and a travel agency in our Role Play corner. We have also had an under the sea area where the children explore the textures and properties of sand, shells, seaweed and water and learn the vocabulary to name aquatic creatures. During the lovely weather, the children have spent a lot of time in our outside environment, where we have a nature area and sensory garden as well as a lot of different learning opportunities.

On the last day of term, we will have a Teddy Bears' Picnic Party and treasure hunt for all the children heading off to school. It is always a little bit sad seeing the children leave for school, but we know they are ready for the next step of their adventure.

During the summer holidays, the village hall carpark is being refurbished. We are really looking forward to that as it will finish off the lovely refurbishment of the hall which the committee has been running for a couple of years now.

We are looking forward to welcoming back those children who are staying with us in September and meeting our new starters. Our theme will be "all about me", helping us all get to know each other and building the children's sense of self, which is part of their personal, social and emotional development.

Please contact us on manager@littleapples.org if you have any questions about our pre-school. We are now allocating spaces for next academic year, so please register your pre-school child now to avoid disappointment.

Information on help with childcare can be found at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> Some families qualify for 30 hours per week paid childcare, so it might be worth a check.



The Scarecrow Festival is here

Bramley is expecting some new visiting scarecrows this month, until mid August. This is a fun event that has delighted residents for the past few years and the number of entries has steadily increased. Any kind of scarecrow is welcome and when your scarecrow is ready, please let the Bramley Show know so that it can be photographed and judged. As last year, the photos will be posted online for the public to vote for their favourite. We can't wait to see who arrives. Email: thebramleyshow@gmail.com



I'm very annoyed with myself for missing the Flying Scotsman as it sped through the station in June. Fortunately, there were some expert photographers on hand to capture the moment. Here are some great shots from John Stubbs, Jenny Todd and Caroline Wilgar. The close up shows a toy badger sitting on the front of the engine. This was apparently placed there in memory of a crew member who died suddenly. His name was Badger.





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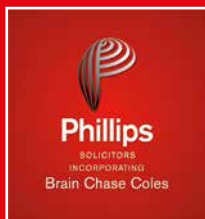

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It is so much easier to work with people who have this community spirit." These were the words of one of the organisers of the **Chase the Sun** event who was very impressed with the way the village worked together to make the day such a success.

945 cyclists took part in the Chase the Sun event on 19 June, starting at the Thames Estuary at sunrise and cycling 200 miles to Burnham-on-Sea by sunset. Bramley was the half way point and here the cyclists were welcomed with food, drinks and puncture repair kits. It certainly was a community effort. The WI must have been up all night making hundreds of sandwiches to sell, and goodness knows how many teas and coffees they served. The Clift Meadow Trustees were out in force to direct the cyclists, manage traffic and make sure everyone complied with the check and trace procedures. Clift Surgery, Butter Daisy Nursery and the Village Hall made their car parks available for off-road parking.

Here are a few photos of a memorable day. Well done to all involved.





Can you get divorced whilst living in the same house?



Elizabeth Ford

Our Family Law team are often asked “can you get divorced whilst living in the same house?”

The answer is ‘yes,’ you can, however as you can imagine, living under the same roof during separation or divorce is not ideal and is by no means an easy thing to do. This is invariably an emotional and stressful time, even more so if the costs rise because you have not received the correct advice.

If you want to rely on a period of separation to support an application for divorce, you will need to show that you are maintaining separate lives, despite living under the same roof. To comply with this, you must no longer share day-to-day activities such as sharing a bedroom, joint food shopping and eating meals together.

You cannot use grounds of adultery as a reason to divorce if you have continued living

in the same property for six months or more after you learned of the adultery, unless that physical relationship is continuing.

You may want to consider making a separation agreement if you cannot yet or do not want to apply for a divorce but want to make it clear when your relationship ended. Although not a legally binding court order, a separation agreement can give the court a clear indication of how you wish to deal with financial assets.

If you live in the same property but separate as an unmarried couple, you may both want to consider a separation agreement of ‘Deed of Separation.’ This can cover on-going maintenance, especially if you have children, and what will happen if you were to sell your home, setting out how the money from this will be divided too.

If you would like to discuss this or any other family legal matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Elizabeth Ford, a Solicitor specialising in Family Law at Phillips, by calling 01256 854628, emailing elizabeth.ford@phillips-law.co.uk or by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/family

When contacting Phillips, please mention The Bramley Magazine.

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If you thought the Flying Scotsman steaming through Bramley last month was exciting, wait until you read **John Stubbs'** account of **A Near Disaster** at the crossing.



If you squint a bit, and imagine that you're standing at the level crossing looking towards the Post Office, you can see that this car's pulling out of Bramley Lane, turning right towards the gates. Well, you'd recognise it if you knew the spot in 1935. Luckily the signalman just managed to close the gates before the express train hurtled past, with a maddened driver intent on catastrophe for all aboard. The car's driver knew his fiancée was among them. And, the doctor who could calm the driver was trapped in his carriage. And, the fireman had been knocked out. And, the guard was lying unconscious in the guard's van. And, the communication cord had been cut. And, there was a slow train on the line just ahead. And, there was no way to warn the other driver. And, the detective on board was drunk. And, it's getting near the terminal buffers. And, the Frenchman couldn't get to the gents.

In the next shot, you can see the express careering towards the slow goods train: in this case seen from Bramley Crossing



looking in the direction of Reading, when at that time there was a goods siding to the west. Both trains are on the 'down' line. But the signalman (a different signalman, though oddly enough in the same box) manages a near magic last-minute points change, diverting the goods engine in towards the Bramley Camp siding. Phew.

What's all this about then? The thing is, Bramley was used for some of the central filming locations in what film-buffs have described as The First Disaster Movie – heralding a long tradition of stories where a random group of the public find themselves catapulted into circumstances out of, or apparently out of, their control. There are half a dozen Titanic versions – plus Airport, Fire, Earthquake, Volcano, even Pandemics. Perhaps it started a trend, or possibly it was just inevitable: this one was The Last Journey, released by Twickenham Film Studios in 1936, with credits to GWR who appeared quite happy to help show what can go awfully wrong on their train line. The film crew took over this section of track for two Sundays in 1935: it must have been quite a spectacle for the village, in the early years of talkies.

The plot is fair enough, a driver with a grudge and a revolver. The poor passengers comprise, quite reasonably, a wide range from petty crooks to

big-time swindler, lonely child to harassed mother of seven, newly-possibly-weds, a medic summoned to an urgent operation, the detective, the hypochondriac, all with their stories that get thrown into the melee. Not surprisingly, some of the attempts at humour may now be seen as crass, puerile and feeble – as I guess present-day stuff could be seen in a few years' time. An awful lot happens, though, cleverly mixed and all rapid-fire. Many 1930s railway films used model trains, but to us sophisticates used to CGI in all its clever trickery, such scenes look pretty ludicrous; this film however is nearly all shot on location, in very short clips. This might have been partly due to the use of spring-driven cameras – they'd probably only run around 20 seconds at a time. But for dramatic effect it works well, and saves us from some of the more egregious episodes of over-acting.

At the time, though, when there was enormous enthusiasm for trains, planes and cars. This story had the lot, plus action, drama, scandal and just a hint of a moralistic problem. The locomotive engine in this shot was Wigmore Castle, built in 1932 and scrapped in 1963 – 30 years of service with GWR. The car that was chasing the train was a 1934 AC, a very sporting model good for some 80mph. Even so, the driver had to hop out of it and jump into a nearby fortuitously taxiing Avro Avian biplane: the pilot diving down over the train, shouting to his passenger that she must be making 100mph. The Castle locos could achieve such speeds, and Amelia Earhart's similar Avro Avian was credited with 105mph. I don't suppose, though, any such speeds would have been reached in filming round here. As ever, the final movie might not have precisely reflected the reality of a Sunday morning here in Bramley, 1935. And no, they didn't crash.

Garden dragons – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

If you have a wildlife pond you may well have dragons visiting your garden! These beautiful insects are awesome fliers and fearsome predators, and they are a real joy to watch.

Dragonflies might be a little more familiar to us, their robust bodies and recognisable silhouette as they dart around the water. Damselflies are a lot more delicate, with thinner bodies

and a more unsure flight. When these insects rest, damselflies tend to close their wings against their bodies while the dragonflies keep them open wide. Their eyes are another key difference – dragonfly eyes are enormous and touch at the top of the head like a visor, while damselflies have separate eyes more in keeping with their body size.

A wildlife pond is essential if you want to see dragonflies in your garden. The larvae of dragon and damselflies live in water, and the lifecycle can take years from egg to adult. The larvae feed on

much of the other pond life, and some can even take small fish! You might have seen their discarded skins which they shed as they grow. Eventually, the larvae will sense the days lengthening and the weather warming and will clamber onto the vegetation around the pond to transform into an adult. You might spot them as they warm up and pump blood into their wings to harden them, ready for flight. Species including the emperor dragonfly, common blue damselfly and large red damselfly will all be some of the first to colonise a garden pond.

Mondays

<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Tuesdays

<i>Parish Council Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Mother & Toddler group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis - 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

Wednesdays

<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga with Sam 6.45pm & 8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Thursdays

<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Lunch Club 2nd Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Yoga for Sleep and Stress 1st Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pregnancy yoga 6.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Petite Dance 6.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays

<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Cross House
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall

Saturdays

<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow

Sundays

<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley</i>	
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Do you have a listing on this page? If so, please can you check that the details are correct and let me have the timings if they are missing.

Any corrections or additions can be emailed to editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

THANK YOU

Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@gmail.com	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
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	
Brownies	Katie Slater and Jayne White	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Caterpillar Music	Jasmine McCarthy	07952 935021	jasmine.mccarthy@caterpillarmusic.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	John Huntingdon		john.huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)	Chris Stevens	07782 325094		
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
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		
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
Mother & Toddler group	Christine Delve	07739 763618		
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
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		
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Julie Wilson		juliebelam12@gmail.com	See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcoles37@gmail.com	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 50 Solution

AGED	25	DERANGED	28
HIGH	24	EDGEFREE	27
EDITOR	22	RAIN	26
ABORTIVE	19	CONSERVATIVE	23
UNDERARM	17	ELECTRON	21
DEBACLES	16	BEYOND	20
NAIVE	14	ORAL	18
BANDONTHERUN	12	UNION	17
INTEGRAL	8	DECK	16
DEAL	7	RANGER	15
ONTHURUN	6	CAULDRON	13
LEAF	5	OUTOFTHETREBLE	11
NECTAR	4	ACID	10
GODONLYKNOWS	3	EINSTEIN	9
INCUBATE	2	DIAGONAL	1

Down

Across

CodeWord No: 36 Solution

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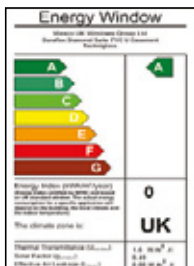
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