

Braishfield Village Diary

April				
6th	Mon	12.00	Lunch Club in Village Hall - All welcome	
7th	Tues	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council	
14th	Tues	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society - Spring Show Andrew McIndoe - Planting with Trees	
15th	Wed	12.00- 2.00	Police Presence in Village Hall Car Park	
23rd	Thurs	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society in the Village Hall 'A Fusion of Colour' demonstrated by Jenny Winstone.	
May				
5th	Tues	6.30	Braishfield Parish Council	
5th	Tues	8.00	BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	
11th	Mon	12.00	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	
11th	Mon	7.30	Wives Group Plus - Rectory Angela Jones - Holiday of a lifetime. Deanery journey to South Rwenzori	
12th	Tues	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society	
28th	Thur	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society in the Village Hall - 'A Fusion of Colour' demonstrated by Denise Bright.	
Weekly				
	Weds	10-12	Braishfield Toddler Group Term Time Only	
	Thurs	10-12	Braishfield Art Group	

All functions take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated. Please send details to the Editor if you would like dates of forthcoming events published.

BRAISHFIELD Village Association NEWS

Issue 174 April 2009



Braishfield Primary School Celebrate World Book Day

Distributed free of charge by the Braishfield Village Association to the residents of Braishfield and the surrounding hamlets

Braishfield Village Association

Committee 2008-2009

Chairman	-	George Elliott	368306
Secretary	-	Rosie Groves	368178
Treasurer	-	Sheila Still	368384
BVA News Editor	-	Mike Stevens	367801
News Distributor	-	Anne Edwards	368193
Website	-	Chris Balchin	368427
Committee	-	David Protheroe	367003
		Graham Bennett	368109
		Rosalie Gurr	368315

Editors Notes

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Written items for the 'News' should be sent to:-

The BVA Editor
 Goodhope
 Stockbridge Road
 Timsbury
 Hants SO51 0NG by the date shown below.
 Copy may be hand written, typed or on PC media but, ideally, by e-mail to news@mikopy.com

All items for publication must show the name, address and telephone number of the originator. Letters to the Editor should be on topics relevant to the villagers of Braishfield. The BVA attempts to deliver a copy of the Braishfield Residents Guide and the Village Design Statement to all new residents. If you have not received these publications please contact the News Distributor, Anne Edwards on 368193

Latest Copy date for the next issue is
 15th May 2009

From the Chairman

We are all grateful for the warmer weather but there is still some way to go.... before we can claim to be through to the sunshine of spring.

I have found that there is quiet a lot to catch up on. As predicted the Senior Citizens Lunch in January was a great success with over 70 attending the 21st Anniversary gathering. This is the moment to thank the 'initiators' all those years ago who launched the annual social event, which has been enjoyed by so many in the village down the years. May the lunch continue to flourish each year so that as many of us become less mobile there is a happy event which draws in closer our older community. Those who were there would like to extend a very big 'thank you' to both Mike Harris and Dave Old for starting the tradition we so enjoy. It is hard to believe that the 'two' were the first to cut the celebration cake in 1988 and were seen striding up to perform the ceremony yet again this year. The Social Club is a perfect venue and our grateful thanks go to the Club Committee for opening the doors to allow Ricky Dorley and his team to make a very happy event become a reality for so many of us.

The Church Lunch as usual was enjoyed on Monday 8

February (and also the 9 March) in the Village Hall. Despite the bleak weather the attendance was remarkable and numbers were up and the lunch was enjoyed to the full. The occasion was special, its eighth anniversary. Juliet and her chefs have achieved a landmark in the monthly diary of events which few regulars ever wish to miss. Sincere thanks from the lunchgoers to Juliet and her loyal helpers; also, to Andrew Lalonde for running the 200 Club and for providing amusement and drama in the closing minutes before we wend our way home feeling infinitely better than 'in the beginning.'

The refurbishment of the Church Room began on 9 February, the wettest day of the year, undertaken by Richard Ord (CBM Services) of the village. Details of the work proposed, are given in the December's copy of the News. Many of us will be looking with particular interest at the efficiency of the ground source heat pump, the heat being pumped round under-floor pipes inside the building, maintaining a constant temperature and doing away with any damp. A miracle surely!

These snowy days have forced us to avoid the car and take to the lanes and footpaths if only for a little fresh air. I have been pleasantly surprised to see others on the way and to

pass the time of day but, surprisingly not only that; I've enjoyed a cup of tea, benefited from an art lesson in acrylic, experienced a nature period 'how to entice pheasant and deer into your garden,' fed a cat (not mine) and filled a neighbour's bird feeder numerous times! As a result of these diversions I have felt more fulfilled and part of the village - so 'snow' for me has been a bonus. But in practice the 'walking time' is doubled, which is not easily explained away....

We are told that before very long we Britons will all be connected to the internet as a civic good - part of the Digital Life. I am not sure that all of us will welcome it, life is busy enough already. However it does have its blessings. Unexpectedly, through the ether I heard from Adrian Moore, our football Guru. We had not been in touch for two years. He tells me

that we now have 3 youth teams (under 8's, under 10's and under 12's). He has started training 5 and 6 year olds - the Braishfield Bee's - from our village school on Saturday mornings. This confirms real progress and encouragement for the future with the emphasis placed on the importance of the Recreation Ground in the life of the village.

The BVA Committee do hope that you will support the latest project - the House Archive - which is to create a unified record where the histories of the individual houses can be collated and extended, and preserved for future generations.

With natural optimism, let us enter into the joys of spring...

George Elliot
Chairman BVA

Donations for the Braishfield Village Association

We hope everyone enjoys receiving the Village News and the residents guide, hand delivered to nearly all houses in Braishfield and surrounding Hamlets.

Your help could make the village a better place. If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to "Braishfield Village Association"

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Many Thanks from The BVA
Committee

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Braishfield Primary School

Netball and Football

On Monday 9th of March three teams from Braishfield School participated in a special netball and football league. Two teams played netball and one team played football. The matches were friendly but all of our teams gave it their all and were fantastic.

The netball A team played against Cupernham and Romsey Abbey and had two fantastic games, for the first they won 8-2 and the second they won 10-0! Team B played three games and lost their first game 2-1, their second game they won 5-0 and their last game they lost 6-3!

The Football team gave it their all and one won both of their games. It was a fierce battle passing and shooting and they did extremely well. They won 1-0 and 6-0! It was a brilliant day for Braishfield School.

World Book Day

Braishfield School participated in a special event on Thursday 5th March. On that day pupils and teachers attended school dressed as their favourite book character. The staff took a Snow White theme with: Mr Smith as Snow White, Mr Boyes as The Wicked Witch and the other teachers dressed as the seven dwarfs. Everybody had great fun reading and colouring and doing other fun activities. During assembly Braishfield School received a special visit from Cruella De Vil and

Dennis the Menace, who told us about the special book vouchers that we could exchange for £1 worth of books, which we could spend at volumes or any other book shops. The whole day was great fun.

Meeting Ex Pupils

On Wednesday 21st January 2009, the Saplings class interviewed past pupils from the school to find out about their experiences of school life during and after the war years. Saplings found out about many changes to the school and were quite amused that the toilets used to be outside and would often freeze over in cold weather. The Saplings would like to thank the ex-pupils, they enjoyed listening to them.

Fun in the Snow

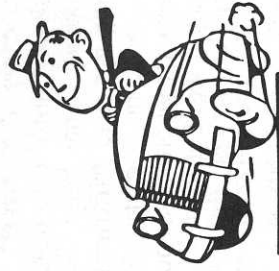
On Monday 2nd February Braishfield School pupils woke up to a blanket of snow covering the whole village. Some of the children couldn't make it to

school due to the dangerous driving conditions. However many children attended school just like any other day. During lunchtime the children went onto the Rec and played in the snow, making snowmen and having snowball fights. Everybody really enjoyed it including the teachers.

Then the lucky pupils got a Tuesday off the very next day because the snow got even worse (or for the pupils better)!

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An Incomplete History of the Old Village Stores

"Interesting house. How old is it?"
"Ah ... well ... we don't know, really ..."

This oft repeated and unsatisfactory conversation became the trigger for our research into the history of our home. It has been very interesting but also frustrating at times ... and, no, we still do not know exactly when it was built. We can say it was before 1841 and probably after 1774.

The oldest part of the house is a cob cottage (which was probably thatched) built from chalk dug from one of the numerous local pits. There are a number of later additions and alterations, including a bake-house (where the shop was) and a stable used for the horse that pulled the baker's cart. After 1952, when Miss Gertrude Abrahams sold the

property, it changed hands several times as a shop and off-licence until 1978 when the shop closed. We came here in 1984. We have altered it a little, but we have also been trying to restore its fabric as much as possible, after years of poor maintenance.

In 1672, George Churcher was granted a 1,000 year lease on a "close of pasture commonly called *Boares Garden* ... [which] contained 1 acre more or less" for a peppercorn rent. We know this from an *Abstract of Title* included amongst the deeds. This pasture was probably an attractive plot next to the road containing an orchard and a spring. We have no detail of to whom this lease was passed over the years. The plot is shown the 1774 Michelmersh and Timsbury Manorial Plan (a very large map held in the Winchester Record Office) as "Free Land" and no buildings are shown on it - but that proves

nothing. We know from Land Tax records that Mrs Elizabeth Parry held it in 1796, but this is a lead we have yet to follow. By 1800 it was probably in the hands of her executors.

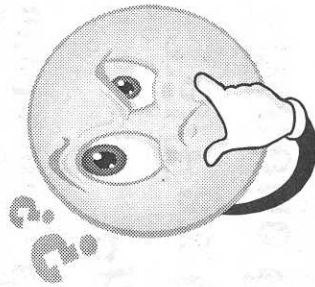
The first solid evidence we have is in the 1841 Census and in the Tithe records. At this time, William White (55) held the property and lived in this house with his wife Ann, his apprentice Richard Young and a five-year-old child called William Hoskins. William White was a carpenter - apparently the first of a series of carpenters and related tradesmen living and working on this site. We begin to get a picture of a hub of local commercial activity - with the smithy just across the road - during the 19th century. William died the following year. There may be trail from this which could lead back to the builder of the house - perhaps it was him?

At this time there were four houses on the front of the plot. Two of them were pairs of semi-

detached cottages: the house now known as *East View*, and what was *Fir Tree Cottage* - demolished and rebuilt; now called *Lionwood*. The fourth house was called *Porth Cottage*. No trace of the latter remains - it stood a little behind and between our house and *Fir Tree Cottage*. Another question we would like to answer is why they were built as they were - probably, we guess, for commercial reasons, and to get as many onto as a small frontage as possible (plus a change ...)

By 1861, we have John and Sophia Rumbold living here (probably as tenants) and they are grocers. In the other cottages with their families there are: Walter Gale, carpenter; Charles Saunders, wood dealer; and Albert Hockins [Hoskins?], baker. We think the bread oven was where our kitchen is today - we have found a disused chimney. Living a little up the road was the young Caleb Abraham (13) and his widowed father; both described as hoop makers.

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Caleb was later to marry the Rumbolds' granddaughter, Hannah, and take over the house and the business (together with the wood dealing.)

Robert Stanbridge Rumbold (who may have been a grocer in Lock-erly and Hannah's father) acquires an interest in the 1,000 year lease on the land with John Marshall in 1873. This is later passed on to Thomas Aylward who was the miller in East Dean.

In the 1881 census, Caleb (34) and his new wife Hannah (24) are living with the elderly Rumbolds; John is 80. There are hoop makers in some of the cottages at this time. They are making the wooden hoops used to bind barrels for the transport of dry goods. By 1891 sadly it seems that not only have her grandparents Hannah has also died. Caleb has a new wife Sarah and there are two children; Gertrude, 9 and Fred, 5. They are Hannah's children. Business goes on as usual however: Caleb is a "grocer & baker" now; John and William Trevis are carpenters and wheelwrights; Edward Dewey is a timber sawyer; and there is another family of Abrahams next door who are hoop makers.

A problem with the 19th century censuses is that the rural record is sparse on addresses, so without a lot more detective work it is difficult to be sure who lived ex-

actly where. This is work-in-progress at present.

There is an important change shown the 1901 census. We discover that not only was our house a grocer's shop, a bakery and the hub of the local wood business, but also a pub! It is called *The Butcher's Arms* - it was probably what is called a front-room pub. The name may reflect a connection with Butcher's Farm which used to stand on the corner behind where the War Memorial is now. Also in 1901, George Hewer (of Sussex) acquires the lease of three quarters of the plot (not the strip with "East View" on it) for £500. Hewer was a builder and he was married to Eliza Ann Abraham - we have yet to find her relationship to Caleb - and he converted the 1,000 year lease to a freehold.

In the 1911 census the house is called *The Stores*. We have a photograph of about this time showing Caleb and Fred Abraham with aprons and baskets standing by their horse and cart at the front of the house. Fred is 25 and is "assisting in father's business"; Gertrude is 29 and is a "shop assistant."

In Sussex, George Hewer died in 1907 and left this property in trust. His wife, Eliza, died in 1929 and a few years later in 1934 George Hewer junior and the surviving Trustee sold it to

Gertrude Abraham for £350. She transferred the *Fir Tree Cottage* portion to Fred, her brother. We do not know when *Porth Cottage* was demolished; it may have been about this time. It seems to have stood empty for some time. Later, in 1967, the central strip across which it stood was sold to Harold Kirkby and a new house, at first also called *Porth Cottage* and later *Boares Garden*, having been built at the back of the plot.

There are a number unanswered questions about this little cluster of working cottages, but that is in the nature of this kind of research. We can guess why they

were built - a commercial enterprise on a piece of scarce "free" land - but not precisely when. My current theory is that there were two phases of building. Firstly, a chalk cob cottage was built adjoining the orchard, a home for agricultural workers (and pig keepers?) This could have been at any time around 1800. Then someone (William White possibly) invested in building three new houses and extending this one (in solid brick) possibly around 1830-40. We may never know for sure, but the search for evidence goes on.

Alan Gurr



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A little over five years have passed since our village book, *Braishfield Memories*, was published to mark the millennium. This was a project which occupied the lives of the Braishfield Memories group of Tessa Allen, Ann Chant, Jill Fahy, Hannah Boothman, Rosie Groves and me practically to the exclusion of everything else, especially in the year before publication. We were lucky to have a great deal of help from the many people who shared their memories and photographs and a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative which supported the printing costs and several other allied projects.

One thousand books were printed and over half of them went at the Book Launch party in November 2003. A steady stream of sales in the first two years reduced our stock further. We now have only ten copies left. If anyone would like to take advantage of this last chance to buy the book please contact me at the number below. The cover price at publication was £14.00 however we are now offering them at a remaindered rate of £5.00 a copy.

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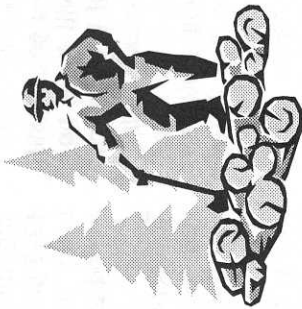
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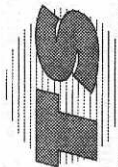


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Church Room Progress And Clues To its Past

As those who go round Church Lane will have noticed, the renovation of the Church Room is under way.

Richard Ord is carrying out the work and he started on the 9th of February. At the time of writing all walls and ceilings have been stripped of plaster, floorboards and timbers removed, the new opening made, walls in the old toilet area removed and footings for new inner walls for toilets and kitchen laid. The windows on the south side have been removed and the arched door has been taken out. The ground level inside the building has been taken down and is now being prepared for the first layer of concrete ready for the new floor.

Once the partition had been removed and then the plaster, it was interesting to see evidence of the original building. It was about half the length of the current building, built partly of flint. The building has been altered and extended since with varying degrees of competence to form the current shape; we are not sure when the changes were made. On the 1841 tithe map it is a short building, a 'school house' owned by Rev. James Davies, who lived in Braishfield House. He then gave it to the Parish in 1856. On maps and plans with sales particulars of houses

from 1866 it is shown as being a slightly different shape, then on a 1913 plan a definite 'block' of what looks like 2 rectangular buildings joined together.

The general appearance suggests it was built in late Victorian times, but there are some puzzles. The 'new' end, towards the Church, has cavity walls, but the road side of that end is built with a brick bond normally associated and with solid walls. The 'old' end also has part cavity walls, built, it has to be said, in an incompetent manner, some of the wall ties were put in upside-down for example. In most places, cavity walls like this were not allowed until the early part of the 20th century. One plausible suggestion is that it may have been rebuilt using old materials by returning soldiers after the First War. This end is part flint, has evidence of a window in the east wall and a hole which looks like the outlet for a stove chimney. The roof tiles at the Church end are Bridgewater number 3, but difficult to tell how old they are. We assume they are the same all the way along, but time will tell, as they will be removed when re-doing the roof.

We would dearly like to know when then building was made bigger, it must have been a fairly major happening in the village, and indeed how it was funded. When the Church was first built in 1854,

Braishfield remained part of Michelmersh Parish and we did not have our own PCC until 1920. There are virtually no references to Braishfield in the Michelmersh Church or Parish records. I have read all the Braishfield PCC minutes from 1920 to 1953 and the 'Parish Room' is seldom mentioned, although when it is, it is interesting. Concerns about ceiling and windows in need of repair, concerns about rifles being left in the Room untidily by the Rifle Club and later, in 1951 the need for a second door as they wouldn't be able to use the room to show films where, in the case of a fire 'a crowd at any time might cause a panic'. They agreed to put in an extra door, at the cost of £8.10.0 (£8.50)!

All this research shows that the building must have been its current shape in 1920 as no major work was carried out between 1920 and 1953. We will continue to search records to try to find out more. We did run a metal detector over the floor and found a button and some bullet cases; Dick has also found some clay pipe stems and bits of china and glass, tantalising snippets from the past.

It is expected that the refurbishment will take about 6 months, after which the 'Parish Room' as it was once known, will be ready to be used again.

Wendy Quarendon
wendy@quarendon.net

TAXI

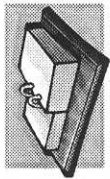
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- 2) Society AGMs - BVA, Horticultural,
- 3) Village events - Quiz, Flower Show, BMADs show
- 4) Special events - Planning mtgs (eg Abbotswood, 30 mph etc), Fundraisers, Concerts etc

Please send your email address to:

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with the title "missed village event" with the item number you require reminding of. You will be sent an email two weeks and one week before the events as listed in the Village Diary

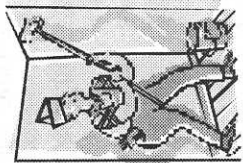
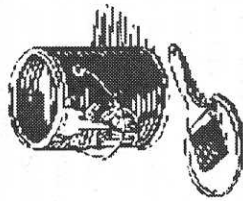
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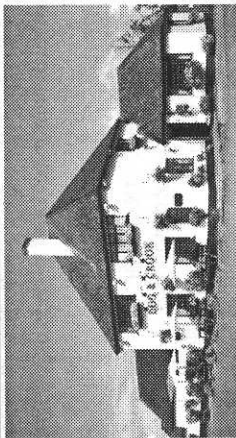
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Pauline M Melbourne (1934 - 2008)

Pauline and I (Alan) moved into Braishfield in late November, 1966, into the house "Little Meadows" in Lower Street which Pauline chose.

At that time Sam Boothman, Alec and Elsie Cottle of Newport Inn fame, and the indomitable Miss Bacon reigned supreme. There were then three shops in Braishfield and the BVA had yet to be dreamt up on the school bus carrying pupils from Braishfield to Peter Symonds in Winchester.

Our first visitor was Sam who announced that Nicola, our youngest then of 18 months, could be married in All Saints but the banns would have to be called in Timsbury! This was very prescient because a quarter of a century later Sam's superb successor Bruce King-ton duly performed the honours, just as he did in his magnificent funeral service for Pauline.

Our children began their education under the brilliant Mrs. Shepherd, and because Mr Gadd's shop was strategically situated opposite the school Pauline became a firm customer. Since we had just returned from the USA, possessed of an American station wagon Mr Gadd would often remark "I see that madam has come in the mini today!"

Pauline was born in Withington

for Poughkeepsie in New York State.

While there our second offspring David was delivered at Vassar Hospital (May 1963) in a room where Pauline overlooked the school where Jackie Kennedy was educated. Also, during this period we lived through the Cuban missile crisis and heard JFK pronounce that the USA would place a man on the moon before the end of the sixties.

Pauline always had the knack of making friends and could talk "the hind legs off a donkey"; the Americans loved this and would prompt her to keep talking because they enthused over her English accent!

Besides being a dual British American citizen David incremented our family size to four thus permitting us, under the IBM policy of the day, to travel back across the Atlantic first class on the Queen Mary! What an experience!

However, we did not return to England immediately since my next job was at a laboratory facility just South of Paris and we took up residence close to Fontainebleau.

Once this project was over I was offered another assignment working in New Jersey in association with Bell Labs. Despite being heavily pregnant, Pauline jumped at the possibility (by now living abroad had really taken hold) and we flew to New York at the latest possible time (then 6 weeks to go!) that a

pregnant woman could fly.

So Nicola, a second dual British American was added to the family in April 1965 and in October 1966 we returned to the UK where Braishfield was our next stop.

Pauline soon became acquainted with, and a friend of, Millie Dunford. Certainly, whatever Millie did not know about Braishfield was not worth knowing!

Soon, in 1969, we were off on our travels again; this time it was Geneva, a fantastic experience for our children where they learned French "for free" and likewise learned to ski. Pauline, became an expert in cross-country skiing and also performed locum physiotherapy at the nearby Nyon hospital.

The Royal Air Force Association Swiss Geneva Branch was a major social centre and in virtue of National Service I became a Life Member, and Pauline an Associate Member and soon she joined the committee. An harbinger of the time when she would become a Parish Councillor (1987-1999).

After returning to England in 1973 we retained our Geneva Branch affiliation and made the annual pilgrimage to the superb RAFA nursing home "Sussexdown" in Storrington, West Sussex on Swiss Day (August 1st). Subsequently, after contracting rheumatoid arthritis she would spend time here while I took "respite".

Our next port of call was Paris from 1976-1979. We lived about 200 metres from the Arc de Triomphe (or Etoile), and the children commuted on the RER to the English School of Paris. At this time Pauline's mastery of French really took off and she repeatedly put me to shame despite my superior School Certificate grade!

Also at this time French TV had the program "Chiffres et des Lettres" which was imported to the UK as "Countdown". Also on the pop scene the likes of Sacha Distelle, Michel Sardou, Claude Francois among others held sway. One of the latter's songs crossed the Atlantic, and with new words became Frank Sinatra's hit "I did it my way". This song so epitomized Pauline that Sinatra's rendition was played as her coffin was carried from All Saints.

Our final assignment abroad was to Florida in the early eighties. By this time our children were into the university scene, and so had the opportunity to visit us during their vacations.

After our return to "Little Meadows" Pauline became a golf enthusiast and played with success at Dunwood Manor. As mentioned earlier she became a parish councillor and managed to ruffle more than one set of feathers. She didn't stand much nonsense!

She was also a staunch conserva-

tive and served as secretary, treasurer and chairman of the Braishfield Conservatives.

I retired in 1989, but it was in August 1992 that Pauline was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, an auto-immune system condition. Eventually, both hips and right shoulder were replaced. Despite all of this she remained pretty active until she was struck with dementia in 2002-2003, a curse if there ever was one. It was ironic that in 2006 she was treated with an anti-TNF drug for her rheumatoid arthritis, a drug which proved almost miraculous. Pauline, but for dementia, would have been almost normal.

Then on October 23rd, despite having had the pneumonia jab (reckoned about 70% effective), she entered Southampton General Hospital with double pneumonia. She spent her remaining days there, in the last ten of which she succumbed to C. Difficile and passed away on Saturday 22nd November.

Since Pauline chose "Little Meadows" that is where we had her wake; a fitting remembrance.



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Braishfield Horticultural Society

Once again it is time to reflect on what has happened since our last report and think about what is yet to come. It does seem such a short time ago that Christmas was still very much on our minds and here we are with Easter just around the corner.

Our February meeting proved to be yet another highly successful event when Wolfgang Bopp, Curator of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, was our Speaker. Wolfgang first of all enlightened us on some facts surrounding the early days of the Gardens. He then went on to outline the manner in which the various aspects of the site had been developed and his thoughts and dreams for the future. Obviously a man who loves his job, Wolfgang spoke in an easygoing manner which held the attention of his audience for the whole time.

It was unfortunate that our Speaker for March, Francoise Murat, was unable to be with us due to a family bereavement and instead, Paul Templeton stepped in at short notice. The subject for this occasion was to do with the growing of vegetables, but I believe the outcome was not quite what perhaps we expected. Paul began by going back to the time of the "Big Bang" and how the great gardener in the heavens arranged the layers of

earth. His theme from then on was largely concerned with the fact that digging was quite unnecessary. He also emphasised the fact that watering and adding nutrients to the soil was something he never indulged in. Paul did, however, go on to explain how his system worked. Whether or not everyone could agree with what he had to say is debatable, but I suppose the proof of his particular pudding lies in what we saw of the crops he produced and which we saw on film. Paul was quite a showman and it has to be said, kept us well entertained during the evening.

On Tuesday April 14th, we welcome Andrew McIndroe once again and who this time will talk about planting trees. Andrew will also judge the Spring Show, so please do try to impress him with a good number of entries.

In May, on Tuesday 12th, Douglas Stewart will be with us once more. This time his subject will be on "Why Plants Talk To Insects". Always an interesting Speaker, Douglas is forever full of fun. Be sure to come along.

Although we are still a few months away from holding our Annual Flower Show, we do need to begin planning already. This year the Show will be held on Saturday 18th July. Due to changes in the timing of the School Fayre, the Flower

but if these events are to continue successfully, there has to be the support of the community at large. Come along with your cars and unwanted items. Sell a few things and maybe purchase a bargain or two, you may well find something you have always dreamed of but could never find. **THINK ABOUT IT.**

Until the next time, think Flower Shows. T.T.F.N.

Bob Thomson,
BHS Secretary & Scribe.

Show will be held independently as in the past. For this reason we are looking for fresh ideas to encourage more visitors to come along. In addition to perhaps having a few stalls on the Recreation Ground, we propose holding a Car Boot Sale which will be restricted to entries by villagers or their associates only. For this reason, we would be very grateful if anyone interested in taking part, contacts either Jill Fahy on 368533 or myself on 368553 to register. It is most important to do this if we are to go ahead with the idea.

Everyone is, I am sure, familiar with the phrase, "Use It Or Lose It". Not a saying usually coined when talking about flower shows,

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Fun Page— Australian Bricklayer Report

Possibly the funniest story in a long while.

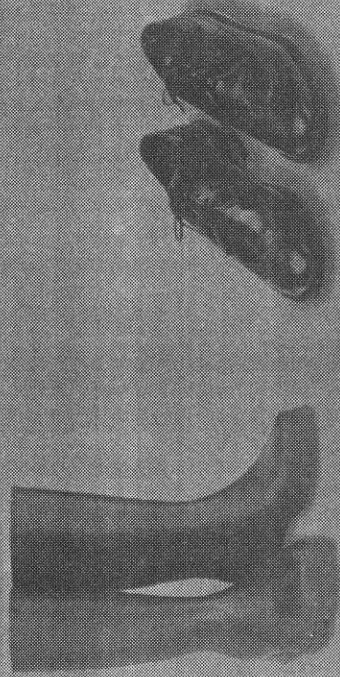
This is a bricklayer's accident report, which was printed in the newsletter of the Australian equivalent of the Workers' Compensation board. This is a true story. Had this guy died, he'd have received a Darwin Award for sure...

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block 3 of the accident report form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient. I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I found that I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later were found to be slightly in excess of 500lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the side of the building in the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the bricks. You will note in Block 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 135lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel, which was now proceeding downward at an equally impressive speed. This explained the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collar bone, as listed in section 3 of the accident report form. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of beginning to experience pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, that barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight. As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent, down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and several lacerations of my legs and lower body. Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks, in pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope and I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down onto me. This explains the two broken legs. I hope this answers your inquiry.

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Cricket Bat to ball, pen to paper

There are few sights more glorious than a full house at Lord's on the Saturday of a Test match, unless it is a village cricket green deep in the English countryside, bounded by ancient trees, abutted by a Norman church and with a pub - the Bat and Ball - just a stroll away. The moment the first ball of the modern game was bowled near the village of Hambledon on Hampshire's Broadhalfpenny Down in the mid-18th century marked a defining moment in our nation's social and sporting life. Over the centuries, the country may have changed, county cricket declined and the sport's power base shifted to the Indian sub-continent and the attendant razzmatazz of Twenty20; but village cricket, with its foibles and idiosyncrasies, its egg sandwiches and cups of tea (bless the Ladies of the urn), remains at the still point of a turning world, an essential British pastime, an emblem of nationhood.

It is not only in the countryside that beautiful cricket

grounds can be found, nor only in England for that matter. But which is the loveliest? Where can the finest pavilion be seen or the best view enjoyed? Our own Village ground can boast of its own particular setting, a square of green, the enticing wicket and an outfield to the boundary (for four). It is set in a gentle vale with grazing sheep nearby and surrounded by rising woodland and open skies with a few dwellings among the trees overlooking the field of play; Elm Farm stands guard with All Saints' Church just in view. The little pavilion stands modestly alone but comfortable in its setting, a welcoming feature and encourages young and old to have a go - whether with straight arm or straight bat it matters not - the

important thing is to 'play the game'.

We know that we will enjoy the coming season and have great expectations of success against our trusty opponents, some of many years standing of twenty-five years or more.

Our appreciation to Peter and Wendy Quarendon for allowing us the use of their land. It is just as well that all farmer's are encouraged to diversify! From all those who will soon be on the field of play and from the boundary - 'Thank You'.

Fixture List 2009

APRIL			
26	Sunday	RIOTEERS	A 2.30
MAY			
3	Sunday	COMPTON CHAMB	H 2.30
10	Sunday	WHEATSHEAF	H 11.30
17	Sunday	WINCHESTER COLL	A 2.00
19	Tuesday	STANBRIDGE EARLS	A 6.15
24	Sunday	VAGABONDS	A 2.00
JUNE			
31	Sunday	WILLOW	H 2.30
7	Sunday	IBM	A 2.30
9	Tuesday	STANBRIDGE EARLS	H 6.15
14	Sunday	CHELONIANS	H 2.30
21	Sunday		
24	Wednesday	LECKFORD	A 6.15
28	Sunday	TRIANGULAR TrophyTRO-PHY	H 10.00
30	Tuesday	WINCHESTER COLLEGE	H 6.15

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Good News: New Seat for the Pond

Over the years many people in the village have enjoyed being able to sit and enjoy the peace and quiet around the village pond. You may have noticed recently that two of the seats overlooking the pond have been removed; over a period of time, they had become unsafe.

Whilst the Parish Council are very

happy to replace the seats, we wondered if there was anyone in the village who would like to take this opportunity to provide a replacement seat in memory of a relative or love one.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Prince on 0174 368339.

Rubbish News

Recyclable materials in cardboard boxes left beside the brown bin on recycling weeks will be collected throughout the year

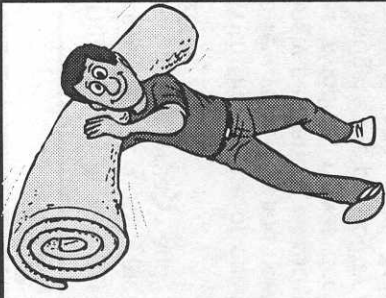
Recycle weeks beginning 13th & 27th Apr. 2nd, 11th & 25th May

Household weeks beginning 6th & 20th Apr. 4th & 18th May

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING In The Braishfield Village Hall

Tuesday 8th May
8-00 pm

After the monthly meeting that
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Braishfield Parish Council Notes

This report on the Parish Council covers the Council's meetings held on 3rd February and 3rd March 2009.

With the demise of our Post Office a few years ago and now the seemingly permanent closure of the one at Woodley, it was decided to investigate the possibility of having a 'mobile' one visit Braishfield at regular intervals. However, the Post Office states that the official position is that we do have a Post Office within a reasonable distance - Warren Gardens, Woodley! There is a three mile rule and until such time that the Post Office decrees that there will not be a Post Office within that distance nothing will be done to provide an out of area service. Rumour has it that the Woodley franchise will be advertised, but even if it goes to Viney Avenue, Braishfield will not qualify for an out of area 'mobile' service.

The usual three annual bookings for the Recreation Ground have now been received:

Romsey Road Runners Sunday 7th June
School Fete Saturday 20th June
Flower Show Saturday 18th July

The Flower Show will not be combined with the School Fete this year, apparently because the Fete date is too early for the Horticultural Society. The Council agreed to make a donation of £100 towards the Flower Show. In addition, the Council agreed to make a

donation to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the Churchyard.

The Braishfield Village Association is conducting discussions on the provision of a fitness trail on the Recreation Ground. The Council has given its agreement in principle to this but has not yet seen details of any proposal. The Clerk was asked to contact Kings Somborne PC with regard to some aspects of the operation of the fitness trail it has installed there.

The state of the highways continues to give the Council concern. Not only does HCC fail to fill in pot-holes (except on a very temporary basis) but it fails to respond to letters sent in notifying highway defects. It took four months for HCC to reply about the new 30mph speed signs at the entrance to the village and the removal of the twinning sign. The twinning sign was removed because "it was in poor condition" (Oh really?). The action taken by HCC in response to this was to do nothing.

The Council has written some rather terse letters to Hampshire County Council regarding the state of Bunny Lane. HCC sought to put most of the blame for the mud on the road on the waste management companies, but HCC was told it was responsible for highway maintenance and it was HCC which gave the waste management companies planning permission, so would HCC please do something about it. HCC

eventually responded saying that some extra kerbing would be provided to stop lorries going on to the verges.

Speeding drivers will have noticed that the illuminated speed sign was installed at Crook Hill at the end of January and turned to face the opposite direction two weeks later. Currently it is in Hook Lane, Ampfield, as it is shared between the two Parishes.

Some concern has been raised about the oak tree on the boundary of Chapel Close and the United Reformed Church. Testway Housing acknowledges that it belongs to them, having inspected all trees which belong or might belong to them. Testway Housing has stated

that the tree is safe. Maintenance work on the War Memorial has been completed. One of the stones has been replaced and the stonework has been repointed. 90 years has taken its toll with some movement having taken place which has caused cracking and the opening up of some joints. The work has cost £1000.

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 5th May, rather than in the usual April.

The rate at which planning applications come in has fallen dramatically. Indeed, TVBC has not received any for Braishfield this year. The only ones with a 2009 date are two tree applications in the Conservation Area.

The TVBC and HCC Planning Authorities dealt with applications as follows:

08/02903/ FULLS	Link corridor + 2 dormer windows etc	Bramble Cottage, Dores Lane	Permission
08/00474/ OUTS	800 houses etc	Abbotswood	Permission
08/02464/ FULLS	Extension to cemetery	Church Lane	Permission

The Council received very few planning applications but responded to TVBC as follows:

08/02947/ FULLS	2 storey extension and new vehicular access	Fairbournes Cottage, Braishfield Road	No objection
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For information on planning applications in Braishfield and for copies of Parish Council Minutes etc, you can find these on www.braishfield.org.uk