

## Braishfield Village Diary

December

6th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Braishfield Parish Council
7th	Wednesday	10.30-3.30pm	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Christmas Workshop– in the Church Room
9th	Friday	7.30-9.30pm	Wine Tasting in the Village Hall
12th	Monday	12pm	Lunch Club in Church Room – All welcome
15th	Thursday	7-9pm	Sherry and Mince Pies at the home of Shirley and Rusty “Eltoc”
18th	Sunday	6pm	Candlelit Carol Service at All Saints followed by mulled wine and mince pies
20th	Tuesday	7pm	Carols by Candlelight at United Reformed Church

January

3rd	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
9th	Monday	12.00	Lunch Club in Church Room - All welcome
10th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society–Interesting Gardens, David Poynter
17th	Tuesday	8.00	BVA Annual General Meeting
27th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society AGM
28th	Saturday	7pm	Murder Mystery Event in the Village Hall

Wednesdays	10.00 - 12.00	Braishfield Toddler Group, Tel: 367710
Thursdays	10.00 - 12.00	Braishfield Art Group

**Please check village notice boards for any changes or additions**



# ***BRAISHFIELD Village Association NEWS***

Issue 190 December 2011



**Our School points the way to a  
Very Happy Christmas!!**

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

## Braishfield Village Association

### Committee 2011-2012

Chairman	-	David Robinson	368774
Vice Chairman	-	Graham Bennett	368109
Secretary	-	Rosie Groves	368178
Treasurer	-	Sheila Still	368384
BVA News Editor	-	Mike Mullane	368099
News Distributor	-	Anne Edwards	368193
Website	-	Chris Balchin	368427
House Archivist	-	Rosalie Gurr	368315
Committee	-	David Protheroe	367003

### Editor's Notes

This magazine is produced by the Braishfield Village Association and the Editor reserves the right to elaborate, withhold or abridge material as space permits. The views expressed in this Magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Braishfield Village Association. Any form of re-producing or copying of this publication requires the prior written permission of the Editor. © Braishfield Village Association 2006

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

The BVA Editor

Mike Mullane

Hazel Cottage, Braishfield Road

Braishfield

Hants SO51 0PR by the date shown below.

Copy may be written, typed or on PC media but, ideally, by

e-mail to [mike@braishfield.org](mailto:mike@braishfield.org)

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.

**BVA Website:** [www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)

Latest Copy date for the next issue is  
18th January 2012

## Braishfield Village Association Notice of Annual General Meeting Village Hall Committee Room Tuesday 17 January 2012 at 8.00pm

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the BVA. Join us to hear about the Association's activities during the past year and what we hope to achieve in 2012, and also to let us have your comments and ideas.

Please contact Rosie Groves (368178 or [RosieGroves1@aol.com](mailto:RosieGroves1@aol.com)) if you are unable to attend but would like an issue raised. Anyone wishing to stand for election to the Committee please submit your name along with those of a Proposer and Secunder by 2nd January 2012. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

For information on planning applications in Braishfield and for copies of the Parish Council Minutes etc, go to [www.braishfield.org.uk](http://www.braishfield.org.uk)

## Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 5th & 19th December, 2nd, 16th & 30th January

Household weeks beginning: 12th & 26th December, 9th & 23rd January

Garden waste green bags are collected the same week as household waste, every other Friday morning.

**For Bank Holiday weeks (26th Dec & 2nd Jan) collections will be one day later than your normal day**



Are your **meringues** the envy of your friends?  
 Is your **trifle** a culinary triumph?  
 Does your **soufflé** always rise?  
 Would you share your favourite **recipe**?  
 If so.....we need your **help!**

**Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society**  
 are compiling a **Recipe Book** to raise funds.

We are asking you to submit your favourite recipe with an entry fee of  
 £1.50 (per recipe) to:  
 Carole Renvoize, The Old Stables, Lower Street, Braishfield, SO51 0PH.

Any enquiries to 01794 368766/stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com  
 There will be an opportunity to sample the recipes at an evening fund-  
 raising event in 2012

**Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Recipe Book Entry Form**

Name:.....

Address:.....

Email (if you have one):.....

Tel No.....

Recipe title (s):.....

Amount enclosed:.....

**From the Chairman**

**T**here's quite a bit to celebrate in this issue. The Cricket Club appeal has gone extremely well, as you'll read. The Football Club appeal is also making good progress, although they have a bigger hill to climb before they can replace their worn-out pavilion - they need all our help.

The Apple Day was really excellent fun, as you'll know if you were there. The big decision for the Horticultural Society now is whether to make it an annual event, or biennial, or triennial...

Also, my appeal for budding ukulele players has had a great response. So far it's definite that we'll have a trio, and quite possibly a quartet or even a quintet. (It depends if the extra two get a ukulele for Christmas or not. Santa please note.) We may also have the company of a balalaika player too.

The plan seems to be that we will have an inaugural meeting in the New Year to sort out how often we'll meet, and see what stage we each are at in terms of proficiency. In my case, that's still pretty woe-ful, but I'm hoping that some of the others aren't too great as well.

There's plenty of room for others to join us, so if you're tempted at all, give me a call and we'll include

you in the band! Ladies and gentlemen, young and old, all will be welcome. And if you think you'll be rubbish, wait 'til you hear me trying to play!

You'll see elsewhere in the News that we have two events coming up that we'd love to see you attending. The first is a Wine Tasting on 9<sup>th</sup> December, nicely in time for Christmas, and should be an enjoyable, quite informal but informative evening, with eight wines to have a sip at (so don't expect a heavy session!). And the second is our Murder Mystery Dinner at the end of January, which is explained in full in later pages. I've been to one of these events and they really are great fun. Do come along and join in.

Finally, you'll see a piece about the Boundaries Commission's proposals which affect anyone in Braishfield who is a voter in General Elections. If you're happy with what they are proposing you won't need to do anything but if you want them to reconsider their proposal, do make the effort to write in to them - full details are given about how to do it.

Our next issue will be with you around the end of January, so may I wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

## From the Editor

My job is to stitch together your great contributions, and otherwise keep quiet - so I won't take up too much of your time!

Quite a busy tail-end to the year—and we aren't finished yet! You'll read about a very successful and wide-ranging Benefice Day and equally fun Apple Day, both of which could qualify for at least bi-ennial repetition - enthusiasm and stamina of the tireless organisers permitting! In the immediate offering another opportunity to taste wine pops up on December 9th (stock up for Christmas?) . Early next year the 'Murder Mystery' evening 28th Jan. (p18) should be a hoot. Looming gently now, but accelerating rapidly, our Jubilee celebrations (p32) will become increasingly important as we approach June 4th.

A serious point, and I do not normally embolden any part of my text. You will have noticed the

'warning' on p.36 of the last issue (boundary tinkering is the simplest way to describe it). Well, John Bevan, of this Village, has placed an extremely good article here, on Page 26, which encapsulates how quickly local communities can be 'violated' by careless (perhaps deliberate?) manipulation. Please read his article and then, if you wish to, register your thoughts; **either through <http://tinyurl.com/6kq643a> or by contacting our MP, Caroline Nokes, in Romsey: Room 4, 13 Market Place, Romsey SO51 8NA (tel: 01794 521155).** Inevitably this is a short fuse - the deadline for registering dismay or otherwise is 5th December this year.

And now to the Festive Season. I can't thank you all enough for your support and contributions over the past year. Have a wonderful Christmas, and we will all meet up early next year to wish ourselves a great 2012!

Remember the BVA Website [www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)

### Braishfield Village Hall

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Tel:01794-368173

Braishfield Primary School fame) is amongst them, so Jesse - now at the Year 12 stage here - will have to be on her toes! Sheila will be helping with some Literacy teaching at WTA and also visiting the local primary school and disabled centre, where Helena Davies first made contact in 2009.

One major focus of the local team's visit is to help with the construction of the Lukomera Health Centre on the WTA land. This will be a vital base for health education, first aid and family planning with a training room and a pharmacy.

Many of you will have seen the excellent letter by Surgeon John Fowler (who is also coming out) in a recent Romsey Advertiser talking about the health centre.

The health centre will be built for only £10,500 - all money raised goes directly to the building costs, as ServeDirect has no expensive administration or salary costs. The health centre will be up and running by early next year.

Jerry and Phil have been putting in a lot of time recently preparing the site for the team, with the local team of builders.

In addition, Michèle and Jerry visited local clinics and hospitals to research the best way for this health centre to serve the local community. It will be a very exciting addition to the school facilities.

So all for now - the last 2 years in Uganda have flown by and we are extending our stay until 2013 until Jesse finishes school.



*Braishfield Team at the School Opening Day*

However, we will be back for a short while at Christmas to catch up with Jacob and Grace - we hope there might be some snow! The Ball family are staying here, as Michèle's mother, Brenda Cole is flying out to join them.

If you would like to contribute to the health centre building or for any medical supplies or text books for school, please see our website

[www.justgiving.com/health-centre](http://www.justgiving.com/health-centre) or contact Nick Allen [nick@servedirect.org](mailto:nick@servedirect.org)

Best wishes from us all -

Elsbeth, Jerry and Jesse Dugdale (Church Lane)  
Phil, Michèle and Toby Ball (Megana Way)

## Uganda Update

**G**reetings from a rain and wind-swept hillside in Kampala, Uganda! This rainy season here, we are told, is unusually prolonged this year. Although rain is vital to Uganda's green and fertile landscape, you can have too much of a good thing... the roads quickly become rivers and the storm drains overflow in a dangerous manner.

Firstly, huge thanks and appreciation to all of you who have been emailing us, texting us and supporting us over the last few months. At school in Wobulenzi, where we are working, they have nearly reached the end of the Ugandan school year, so this term has been totally dominated by exams, especially O'levels - crucial for the Senior 4 school leavers.

For the first time ever, WTA (Wobulenzi Town Academy) was able to function as a full exam



*Final Day of Exams*

centre and it was amazing to see the students excitedly entering the

brand new exam centre (being frisked and asked for ID on their way in!) to sit their first papers.

Students who pass their O' levels hope to come back, for A' levels. For many of them, this is a massive challenge as they often use the school holidays to earn money to pay for their own school fees.

I have been asking them to write down their stories and in doing so we have discovered the extent that many of them will go to, just to be able to go to school.

Gabriel, aged 19, buys and sells fruit and veg for a small profit, often cycling 60 - 80 miles in a round trip. (And to think I sometimes used to think twice about having the energy to cycle into Romsey, when working in Volumes!).

Another 17 year old, Moses, buys and sells goats to raise some money to support not only himself at school, but also his 4 younger siblings, as their parents have abandoned them. Despite these sombre stories, both these boys are full of fun and optimism and would never see themselves as victims - far from it.

Later this week, we will be hosting another intrepid team of volunteers from the Romsey area who are coming to assist with building and teaching. Mrs Sheila Rapley (of

## News Items

### School dates

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Play at 1.30pm and 6pm

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Choir to sing at Social Club

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service at All Saints 9.30 am.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - End of Term



At 11 o'clock on Friday 11th November, Armistice Day, wreaths were laid during a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Subsequently, on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, the Service started at the Memorial with further laying of wreaths, before the congregation walked on to the Church to continue the Service.

### Postal Scam

Can you circulate this around especially as Xmas is fast approaching - it has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website:

Thank you

**PCSO Jo Cole 13289  
0845 045 45 45**

Jo

## The Benefice Bash

**M**any, many months in the planning, Saturday 1st October eventually dawned as clear as a summer's day - in fact a lot better than many of the days we have had this summer. From 9am in the morning the wardens and their assistants were busy setting up in Braishfield Village Hall ..... and it was after 1130pm before the doors were finally locked and everyone had gone home to bed.

Congratulations and thanks are due to all our wardens and the other helpers for their hard work. When the Bishop of Southampton met with our PCCs in January he said he would like to see the benefice parishes doing more together. We certainly packed a lot of joint activity into our 'Benefice Bash'! There was a very happy atmosphere and people got to know one another better as they worked together.

During the morning all the lots for the Auction were laid out in the Hall and the cataloguing was completed. Tables were laid out for tea, and the hall looked very welcoming.

From 2pm people started to arrive for the Mad Hatters Tea Party, and to look at the items for auction. The wardens looked marvellous in their Mad Hatter's Tea party costumes and everyone enjoyed the



tea organised by Timsbury. Raffle tickets were sold then and throughout the day.

Roger Savage was a most successful auctioneer and moved through the lots at good speed, encouraging the bidders to keep involved. He managed to persuade people to part with £2,670, no mean feat in little over an hour. Once all the sales were completed, it was time to collect payments, and check that everyone took the right items away.

The hall was then cleared, and tables and chairs set out on the Recreation Ground. A large number of people had tickets for the Hog Roast/Barbecue, which was ca-



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**THE NEXT BMADS PRODUCTION WILL BE ON**

**29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Anybody who would like to be involved on the stage or  
behind the stage please contact  
John Edwards 368465 or Mike Allen 368014**

**WE ARE ALWAYS SEEKING NEW TALENT**

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tered by Richard and Sarah Whittall. It was such a warm, still evening that people were loathe to go inside - but Dave Butterfield's band, Innominata, was playing, and Ian Puffett, the caller, soon had everyone on the floor and involved in the dancing.

The final result included revenue from the raffle, teas, bar, barbecue and barn dance ticket sales. Once the expenses had been paid, an amazing £3,491.91 was the profit on the day, and this has been paid in to the Benefice Fund to

support the churches of Awbridge, Braishfield, Farley Chamberlayne, Michelmersh, and Timsbury.

This amazing result was due to the generosity of those who donated auction items and those who supported the day's events.

With our grateful thanks,

Jane Bennett  
Andy Brooks  
Churchwardens  
All Saints, Braishfield

## **WINE TASTING**

**In the Village Hall  
Friday 9th December  
7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Cory Erickson from WINESHAK in Romsey will introduce and present a selection of Old and New World wines

**Tickets £10 per person to include wines and nibbles  
from Sheila Still tel: 368384. e-mail: [BVA@f2s.com](mailto:BVA@f2s.com)**

**You will also each be given a voucher for 10% off your next  
purchase at Wineshak.**

**Come and learn about wine. Cory is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic  
speaker.**

**Numbers are limited, so book early.**

**(Any surplus money will be divided between the Football and Cricket Club  
Funds)**



## Apple Day

The first village Apple Day was held on Saturday 15 October in the Church Room. The event was organised by the Braishfield Horticultural Society but was open to all who lived locally. In the



event we had 38 contributions of apples from all over the village, even reaching the wilder parts of Lower Street, Eldon Lane and Pucknall.

The event was much enhanced by the presence of two experts, Peter Collet and Paul Barnet, who were able to give advice and identify all the apples contributed; many of which were unknown to their owners. Surprisingly there were 21 varieties recorded. The quality of the apples was rather mixed but there were some that were exceptional both for their lack of blemishes and their size.

David Robinson was personally complimented by the experts for his Cox's Orange Pippin - I have

never seen such large ones! Apart from the opportunity to taste the apples there was the attraction of freshly pressed apple juice from the presses of Ted Still and Ian Ross and apple chutney from Lyn Upson. However, the main attraction was probably the apple based refreshments, which were available throughout the day and proved



exceptionally popular, for which we should thank Jill Fahy and Carole Renvoize for the organization and several others who contributed cakes and helped out in the kitchen. The Church Room



proved to be an ideal venue and with the exceptionally warm and sunny weather the day was enjoyed by all who took part.

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## The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations 2012

As we move steadily towards the Great Day (June 4th) you will be kept fully in touch, through future magazines, with the evolving detail of the plans for the day. This is simply a short holding report on how things have moved forward since the October Publication.

- i. Bone china Commemorative mugs will be produced: competition for a design on one side and an 'official' logo on the other.
- ii. Hog Roast is now booked.
- iii. The music programme for the day is developing well.
- iv. 'Tentage' arrangements (marquees, bar tent, loos) are well underway.

v. The Social Club will run the bar: good variety of normal drinks.  
vi. General layout of the Rec to be designed.

vii. Competitions: Scarecrow, Best Dressed Table, Children's Dressing Up, Cricket and Football Club events. Sponsorship of prizes (Clubs/Pubs?) tbd.

viii. Supporting considerations; security, PA system, lighting, First Aid, photography.

Watch this space—and even more importantly, please come forward with offers of help, ideas etc. This is Braishfield's 'National Day' and it will be resounding!

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**Braishfield Brownies**  
an enthusiastic bunch of girls still hoping for volunteers!

**W**e were delighted to receive a response to our appeal for helpers for 1<sup>st</sup> Braishfield Brownies, to assist and support Charlotte Butterfield when she takes over as the leader. Gayle Wilde has generously volunteered to be an assistant leader and she is already becoming involved with our enthusiastic bunch of girls. However, she will only be able to help on a part time basis so we urgently need more people to join us.

There must be others out there who can help to keep our Brownie pack running, ideally coming every week or maybe just certain weeks of the term. Perhaps you have a particular skill which you would be willing to share with the girls? It's a fulfilling and rewarding volunteer role in our village community. Any enquiries will be greatly welcomed, so please get in touch with us (see below).

A brief snapshot of what we have been doing since September. India has been one of our themes. The girls have made colourful felt elephants and they loved our Indian tasting evening with new flavours to sample. A visit to the planetarium at the Winchester Intech Centre began with workshop activities about the solar system, the moon and the stars, followed by an amaz-

ing 'star show'. After further activities all the girls have gained their Stargazer badge.

Cooking is a favourite activity. At two recent meetings chocolate brownies have been baked and crumble mix prepared, in readiness for our Pudding Night. Parents and friends will join us - bringing good appetites - to enjoy a pudding (or two!) and a hot drink, to raise money for the Village Hall kitchen refurbishment.

We would have loved to give an open invitation to all, but unfortunately we have to limit the numbers. Back in the summer we pressed a variety of flowers which we will be using to make calendars. We'll end our programme with a Christmas party one afternoon after term has ended - more food!

Please contact one of us if you think you can help in any way.

Thank you.

Nicky Ayres 368423 email:  
[nicky@ayres46.freemove.co.uk](mailto:nicky@ayres46.freemove.co.uk)

Hannah Boothman 368143 email:  
[hj.boothman@btinternet.com](mailto:hj.boothman@btinternet.com)

Charlotte Butterfield 01962851010  
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*Hampshire County Councillor  
Alan Dowden,  
wishes all the residents of  
Braishfield  
A Very Happy Christmas  
And  
A Peaceful New Year*

### The Braishfield 200 Club

The monthly draws for October and November have taken place and the lucky winners were Anna Stratton Brown (October) and Victoria Dunn (November). Anna is the daughter of the Club's founder, Andrew Lalonde. The remaining funds for each month have gone to the Cricket Club and All Saints Church.

We've had some new members joining us recently, so the monthly 'pot' has grown - which is very gratifying. We still welcome any others who'd like to join in though. Give David Robinson a call on 368774 and he'll be happy to sign you up!

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## From our Rector

**M**y wife Teresa and I have very recently moved into the village as I have taken up the post of Rector of the Braishfield benefice. People have been so welcoming and friendly and we are both looking forward to getting fully involved in the life of the community especially as we enjoy our first Christmas here.

In All Saints Church and at Braishfield URC we will be celebrating the amazing news of God's love for us shown in the coming of Jesus. People sometimes ask me "how can we know what God is really like?" to which I answer "if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus."

Christmas tells us that with the coming of Jesus, God became man; he stepped inside his own creation. Someone has put it like this: "like your landlord becoming your lodger, like your managing director up

before you for an interview, like Beethoven queuing for a ticket for his own concert, like a headmaster getting the cane, like Picasso painting by numbers ... God lived among us"!

Because God shared our human existence, he knows what our lives are like. He can understand and help us in joys, sorrows, pleasure and suffering. What's more we can see in Jesus that God is a loving God, forgiving, merciful, caring for broken hurting people and those on the margins of society; passionate about justice. - not harsh, distant out to get us the moment we step out of line. In that bundle in Bethlehem, the person of Jesus, God is speaking to people and saying "I love you".

Have a great Christmas, and join us at a church service to celebrate!

Steve Pittis



payments as soon as possible. How about January?

During the evening, the usual scramble for places on the committee took place. Guess what? You are saddled with the same bunch again. We are a tough lot, what you might call survivors I suppose. The call of the wine and the inviting look of the food waiting at the rear of the room then became too great to resist and so the socialising began. We all enjoyed a great evening.

There being no meeting in December, the next time we gather together will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 when we will welcome David Poynter, who will invite us to join him on a tour of Interesting Gardens. Be sure to mark your diaries and do come along.

The following month on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Marcus Dancer, an

expert on growing Clematis, will be our guest.

Looking further ahead, in March, we are proposing to hold a Members Evening in which members are invited to share some of their gardening experiences, including photographs, which can be shown, via our new projector. Meanwhile, think about it and anyone willing to participate, have a word with a committee member.

Finally, with Christmas almost upon us, it falls to me once again, on behalf of your Committee, to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a Prosperous and hopefully Peaceful New Year. I know we say this every year and the unrest still goes on but we must be optimistic. Who knows, one day?

Bob Thomson,  
BHS Secretary & Scribe.

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## Braishfield Horticultural Society

Once again we have arrived at that point in time when we tend to look back and wonder where the past year has gone. It only feels as though we have not long celebrated Easter. It has to be said, however, that during the past months, there has been a lot of activity, which has culminated in producing yet another successful year for the Society. We have enjoyed the visits of a number of excellent speakers, several interesting garden visits mid-season, another great Flower Show and of course a new venture, the Apple Day which was the idea of Chairman Steve and which proved to be a great success. What more could one ask for?

Our final visiting Speaker for the year was Mike Read. As I commented before, he was not the comedian although it has to be said that he did have a good sense of humour. Mike's talk on the wild-life of the New Forest was well presented, very interesting and supported by some of the finest photography we have seen. It was obvious to his audience, that Mike was a man very much dedicated to the preservation of all things to do with the New Forest. Once again we were able to enjoy the improvement in the quality of viewing images on our new screen.

We then moved to one of the highlights of our year, the Annual General Meeting in November. Always a popular event, but on this occasion, a little down on numbers, caused mainly by the unfortunate circumstances of some of our members. All matters listed on the Agenda were dealt with swiftly and smoothly, a shining example to our members of parliament during question time. Perhaps we should invite them along. Perhaps we are too civilised.

Steve, in his Chairman's report, spoke briefly on the events of the past year and went on to outline the programme for 2012. He then thanked the Committee and all members for their help and support during the year.

Margaret O'Keeffe, our Show Secretary, gave details of the 2011 Show which had again been a success. Sue Ransom, our Treasurer produced the annual accounts which showed that at the moment we have a healthy bank balance. All things considered, we are in a healthy situation at the moment, but costs are rising and we may have to review things in the future. For the present, the annual subscription of just £5.00 per member remains the same.

Whilst on the subject, **Annual Subscriptions are now due.** Mike Ransom will be very pleased to receive

## Opportunities to Celebrate Christmas with the Village Churches



Everyone will be most welcome.  
Do come along!

A candle lit **Carol Service** followed by mulled wine and mince pies at All Saints on Sunday 18th December, 6 00 pm

If you prefer an earlier time, a **Carol Service** at St. John's, Farley Chamberlayne, at 4 00 pm, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### Services over Christmas itself:

Christmas Eve	Christingle Service All Saints	4 00pm
	Holy Communion All Saints	11 15 pm
	Family Service All Saints	10 00 am
	Holy Communion St. John's	11 15 am

Fuller details are published in the Open Doors insert which is distributed with the Village News.

## UNITED BENEFICE CHURCH - CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Thursday 15th December-** Sherry, Mince pies & Coffee evening 7pm-9pm at Rusty & Shirley's- Eltoc, Kiln Lane, .

**Tuesday 20th December-** Carols by Candlelight 7pm- Coffee & Mince Pies

Both these events will be in aid of The Dhruvotara Shobbor School, West Bengal, our 20011 church charity

**Christmas Day-** Worship at 9.30am-Collection for Crisis at Christmas

**You will be most welcome to join us for all. Please support.**

## Football and Cricket Clubs

### Football

We have now just tipped over £20,000 pounds, a truly remarkable amount for a committee formed just under a year ago! We thank you all for your generosity. Our quiz on the 11th November raised £433 and tickets are nearly sold out for our 60's music evening on 10th December. The 29th of December brings a huge 14 kilometre trek through the beautiful New Forest where all the junior and senior teams will take part together.

And a date for your diary: 4th February—an evening with

Lawrie McMenemy

Tickets will be on sale soon.

Sharon Fielding



### Cricket

Plans are afoot for the new cricket pavilion. Our efforts over the last 6 months, as well as a continued stream of kind donations, have put us in a great position and we have raised somewhere in the region of £10,000! This will hopefully cover the cost of replacing our pavilion and purchasing much needed equipment and machinery.

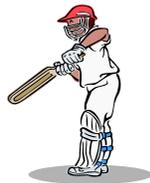
The club's committee are planning to meet and agree a way forward before the end of the year. All being well we will hopefully be working with a local company to design, manufacture and erect a new pavilion which will be in keeping with the local area and will be similar in size and design to our old pavilion. We will have new facilities in time for the 2012 season.

We really want to carry on our fine fund raising efforts into next year and we will be planning further events and will keep you all posted. We are especially keen to be involved in the Braishfield celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June and really wish to give something back to the community that has been so generous and supportive to our club!

And, dare I say it, while we have the 'walking bug' we may even start planning a new adventure to embark upon!

For now though we look forward to what 2012 brings.

James Light  
NICC Club Captain



the farthest part of Braishfield and is a place where most would never visit. So where should Ampfield and Braishfield properly sit in this proposal? My view is it should be in the same Constituency as it has always been - alongside ROMSEY as our nearest town and part of our community.

Looking at the rule applied of an electorate of no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473, it would make no major difference to the proposal if Ampfield and Braishfield were moved into the New Forest East and Romsey BC. This would give Eastleigh CC a total electorate of 77,988 and NF East and Romsey BC a total of 77,384 which fits the requirement

more equally than before. More importantly, it places these 2 communities in an area where they can be assured that the Parliamentary candidates will seek to show they have a proper understanding of the essentially rural communities they aim to represent. Eastleigh, on the other hand, will no doubt enjoy the same confidence but with a different emphasis".

I do sincerely hope that Braishfield will not become a victim of such dreadfully flawed thinking as I see in this shocking example of poor political engineering.

With kind regards, sincerely,

John Bevan



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## Boundaries: Braishfield & Ampfield Wards

John Bevan, Fairbourne Cottage, Braishfield. SO51 0QB (Tel: 368205) writes:

Dear Editor

You will be aware of the proposal of the Boundaries Commission (BC) to move the Braishfield and Ampfield Wards away from Romsey and put them with Eastleigh BC for parliamentary elections. Their terms of reference for doing this appear to be based solely on numbers of voters in neighbouring regions and communities; the lower and upper limits being - no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473 voters.

I have examined the proposals in detail and have placed my observations with the BC and also with our MP Caroline Nokes who finds the proposal equally bizarre. I offer you a copy of my considered objections below. It is clear to me having done so that the only way we could alter these proposals is for them to receive similar but more formal objections from the Parish Councils and its populace.

"The proposed Parliamentary Boundaries change appears to take little or no account of the basic requirement that an MP is elected to represent the community in which he/she has an understanding of the needs of the community he/she wishes to represent. As part of the overall area plan, the proposal aims to separate the wards of

Ampfield and Braishfield from Romsey and the Test Valley.

The Wards of Braishfield and Ampfield are exclusively rural where the addresses of properties therein have ROMSEY as their postal town. Their connection with Romsey, 2 to 3 miles down the road, goes back centuries and is where their children go to school, where they visit their doctor and where they do their shopping.

Moreover, all MPs elected to parliament by the people of these 2 communities have ALWAYS been local candidates who have fundamentally understood and supported the ambitions and desires of the people living in and around Romsey. Why, after all, would anyone vote for someone who did not understand the community and its desires? The MP representing EASTLEIGH would have a Surgery based in Eastleigh and, I suggest, will have as his/her focus the needs of the majority of the electorate who live in the township of Eastleigh. It is unlikely that they would correspond with the views and wishes of the country people of Ampfield and Braishfield.

To have an MP with no connections to Romsey makes no sense to the village people living in the surrounding countryside who see the town as the centre of the community in which they live. Eastleigh is anywhere from 15 to 20 miles from



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**Braishfield Village Association Donations**

The News is delivered free of charge to all residents of Braishfield and it is not run on a subscription basis. However we obviously incur costs to publish and any support you can give to keep the News viable during 2011 would be most welcome.

If you wish to make a donation please complete this slip and forward it to the address below:-

BVA Treasurer  
Mrs Sheila Still  
Orchard View  
Braishfield  
SO51 0QB

Tel: 01794 368384  
email: - [bva@f2s.com](mailto:bva@f2s.com)

Thank you.  
David Robinson - Chairman

As an alternative a Standing Order form to make annual donations to the work of the Braishfield Village Association is available. Please contact the Treasurer and she will send you one.

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**Braishfield Social Club**  
**Up and Coming Events**

**NEW! Zumba...**

Every Wednesday 6.30-7.30pm £4, anyone welcome

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December-** All villagers are warmly invited to Christmas Carols Evening with Braishfield Primary School Choir - 7.30pm

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Coach trip to Bath Christmas Market

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Quiz Night 8pm - bring your own nibbles

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Grand Christmas Draw

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December** - New Years Eve Party - £2 members £5 non-members

Mondays - Free Pool Table ~ Saturdays - Meat Draw ~ Sundays - Bingo  
Keep an eye out for our monthly Quiz - Next on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

For further information about any of the above events see the local notice boards or contact: 01794 368458 or braishfieldsocialclub@hotmail.co.uk

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## Murder Mystery Event

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Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> 2012  
7pm for 7.30pm  
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The Geriactors are a voluntary, unpaid local team whose only stipulation is that their evenings are held for Charity. Previous witnesses vouch that this is an enormously enjoyable outing where not only do you eat, drink and laugh but, most importantly, have to 'think for your supper' - not precisely true of course, because you will bring your own 3-course meal and drinks of your choice, but you get the gist! You will sit at tables of 8, be given a pencil and an "answer" sheet, and the actors will circulate between acts and courses to field your probing questions without 'intentionally' giving anything away. At the end, they will read out a humorous selection of your hopelessly wrong or perceptively correct 'who - me guv?' answers, before revealing the true villain! If you are a Holmes, Poirot or, perhaps even better, a Clouseau, you must apply! And there will be prizes!

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## Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

**W**inter is here, but the grass still grows and the sheep are very happy to eat it. They say that lots of late grass is a sign of bad weather ahead and that the sheep are topping up because they know what's in store!

Kate had a very bad day recently - her old sheepdog Poppy died and on the same day her rams, put together to get used to the new one, started fighting. They had behaved perfectly well in a barn, and indeed when first put out into the field. But checking them later that day she found that one had a badly damaged head, so the vet had to put the flap of skin back in place with sutures. Apart from a lop-sided ear he is now fine. He is the sweetest natured and smallest of the rams, so easy prey for some head banging.

The rams will be going in with the ewes in a few weeks; if you notice the rams, they are Suffolks, with the distinctive black face and lovely 'cloche' shape given to the head by the ears. Kate uses North Country Mule ewes as they are very good mothers; they are a cross between Swaledale and Blueface Leicester. She buys these in from 'up north' and the recent ones will be put to the ram in 2012; they are happily getting used to life here meanwhile.

The ewe lambs born next May will not be used by Kate for breeding as they take on the very strong Suffolk characteristics of their fathers and therefore are not such good mothers as the Mule cross. So Kate sells the lambs either for breeding purposes or to be further reared for meat.

One or two interesting things about sheep: they don't have any front top teeth, they have a split upper lip so they can pick the preferred leaves off plants, and they are able to recognize individual faces of at least 50 other sheep, for 2 years. I assume that means they can recognize some human faces too! Kate has several pet sheep, the oldest being 13 year old 'Minty', the first one she kept after starting as a shepherd; she is very wheezy and can be heard a distance away, but she will do anything for an apple, and happily chomps through them, preferably from the hand, notwithstanding no front teeth at the top!

Could we please remind people to keep their dogs under control near the sheep especially when the ewes are pregnant since any stress can cause them to abort. Even a little dog barking in front of a sheep 'worries' it and can cause harm. Please don't let your dog be the one that is a nuisance. Thank you.

Wendy Quarendon

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## Christmas Past in Braishfield

**R**eading Sid Scorey's writings about the Braishfield Brass Band, I thought it would be seasonal to repeat an excerpt regarding their Christmas activities. Sid was born in 1892 and brought up in the village, the family having lived here for many years. We are very fortunate that he wrote his memories in old age; they are an invaluable source, most of them have been reproduced in the Braishfield Memories book. He was a member of the Brass Band one hundred years ago and wrote:

'On Christmas day in the afternoon the band assembled and visited the Manor, the Lodge and Braishfield House. On Boxing Day the tour would start at about 9am with the walk to Ampfield calling first at Ampfield House, then the White Horse, the Vicarage and Rat Lake Farm. Our first call in Hursley was North End House, then the two Inns and one or two large houses. After a brief rest we moved to Park House (now IBM) where, after playing several tunes, we were given the invitation to see the large Christmas tree standing in the hall, awaiting the arrival later of children from Farley, Hursley and Braishfield in a number of farm wagons. It was a treat from Sir George and Lady Cooper. After viewing the tree we received the

invitation to go to the back, give an item or two (of music) and then go inside for refreshments. From there we made our way home via Slackstead and Pucknall. We were out again for a short while in the evening. We gave the village a good opportunity to listen to their band'.

How very different to our Christmas, but families were large and cottages small, so it was probably wonderful to be able to get out and have fun giving pleasure to people over the festive period. I'm not sure how many of us would be prepared to walk all that way, in the cold, without the modern protective clothing and footwear that we take for granted nowadays. They were tough.

Sid died in 1989 aged 97. He had been in the church choir for over almost 80 years and was the Verger for some 50 years.

Wendy Quarendon



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