

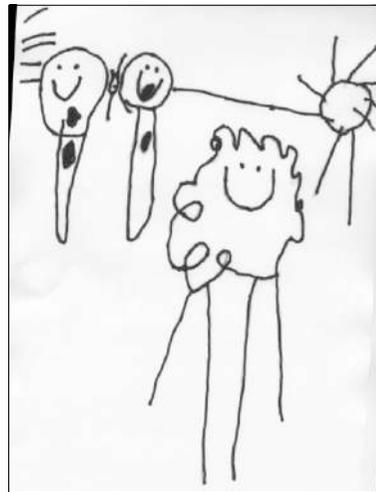


BRAISHFIELD

Village Association NEWS



Issue 196 December 2012



Two shepherds and a sheep

Our School sets the scene for Christmas: from top clockwise:
Jodie Newborough aged 5; Isabelle Knight aged 4;
Amelia Lees-Davis aged 6

Distributed free of charge by the Braishfield Village Association to the residents of Braishfield and the surrounding hamlets, and available on the BVA website:
www.braishfield.org

Braishfield Village Association

Committee - 2013

Chairman	-	David Robinson	368774
Vice Chairman	-	Graham Bennett	368109
Secretary	-	Rosie Groves	368178
Treasurer	-	Sheila Still	368384
BVA News Editor	-	Mike Mullane	368099
Website	-	Chris Balchin	368427
Committee	-	Sue Coleman	367064
News Distributor	-	Sue Mullane	368099

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 reproducing 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
Hazel Cottage
Braishfield Road
Braishfield
Romsey SO51 0PR by the date shown below.

Copy may be written, typed or on PC media but, ideally, by email to 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 on 368099.

BVA Website: www.braishfield.org

Latest copy date for the next issue is Wednesday 16th January 2013

From the Chairman

Trees. They're very much in the news at present. It looks as if the school is going to have to cut down the oak tree in the playground, as it has reached the stage of senility where it's actually dangerous. (One can only sympathise!) But it has been a part of village life for generations, and many of you will have played under it as children. It will be sad to see it go - one of the village icons - but needs must, I suppose.

I hope that there will be a plan for someone or some people to ensure that some of its wood can be made into a bench or something which records its longevity and the affection in which it has been held. School Governors, are you reading this?

Then there's the ash tree disease, *Chalara Fraxinea*, which is sweeping through the country and threatening to wipe out millions of our native ashes. We have a lot of them in and around the village. Ash trees like chalky soils. There's nothing we can do to stop it, it seems.

Here in Windmill Cottage we have two large ones, the older one being probably about 160 years old, and our own landscape will be most markedly changed if we have to take them down.

Maybe scientists will identify a resistant strain of ash which can be propagated in quantities for us to replant them, but the magnificence of the old giants will be gone for us and a few generations to come. Sad, isn't it?

The Horticultural Society has included in its contribution to the Time Capsule we're going to bury in the village (see page 5) a dried and pressed leaf of an ash tree, in case future villagers never get to see one. I'm sure they will still be living in a tree filled landscape with open fields and fresh air in abundance. Let's hope so anyway.

Christmas approaches. Plans are afoot, no doubt, about who goes where, whose turn it is in families to host the get-togethers, who wants what from Santa, who's on a diet anyway.... Why do we do all this to one another?

Because we love it really, that's why, and because we always have done it. And because we are still, just about, a Christian country and it's still a celebration of Christ's birth, although that has been almost submerged under the new gods of commerce.

Have a very happy one!

From the Editor

What can I say by way of thanks? At 48 pages I suppose you could call this a bumper Christmas issue; and since only 33% of that is given over to advertising, the financial lifeblood which allows us to publish, I have to thank you all for your amazing contributions; and I don't think I had to cajole or bully anyone!

I'm particularly delighted to have such a strong input from both the Scouts and Brownies, and the School (Front Cover and inside, p30) - wonderful, and please take time to admire the Cover and read the fresh, untrammelled pieces by the children.

My thanks equally of course, for your eclectic contributions - Church, Societies, Music & Drama, Clubs, Sports & Recreation, Lunches, Events: keep a careful eye on the Diary and Village Notice Boards to make sure you don't miss anything.

OK, Editor, calm down! If I was to single out one notice for attention, it is the Village Agent initiative (p6) - I believe it is self-explanatory, so please do use the mechanism available to air any concerns.

On a lighter note the "twitchers" amongst you may have read the Chairman's excitement (August Issue 194, p3) that he and Viv had spotted a red kite near King Somborne; well, and it proves he wasn't simply 'flying a kite' (groan!), Julie Holland ('Fernside') reported another red kite in the Dog and Crook area the other day. Keep your eyes peeled!

We've had a few comments on past layout and appearance. By applying a new programme, I hope that this has improved. As always, my thanks to Sue for her hard and dedicated work.

Finally, and no surprises here, have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful, comfortable and successful New Year.

Braishfield 200 Club

Our village lottery continues to flourish. The October draw was won by Mrs Hazel Davies and the November draw by Mr Dink Eldridge. We were able to make two donations to the Braishfield Football Club, to help fund the new pavilion.

We are always keen to support local (especially village-local) causes, so if you know of any who would benefit from a financial handout, please let us know.

And new members are always welcome, so if you would like to join in, and stand a chance each month of winning to draw, again, give us a call.

David Robinson (tel: 368774)

Remember the BVA Website: www.braishfield.org

Letters & Notices

Braishfield United Reformed Church

On behalf of the Braishfield URC I would like to thank the 200 Club for the generous donation presented the church.

A new notice board has been purchased and can be seen attached to the outside wall of the church.

Thank you once more 200 Club for this generous donation.

Pat Taylor

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Wine Tasting evening by the Naked Grape in Littleton Memorial Hall on 19 October 2012.

We had brilliant entertainment by Braishfield's very own ukulele band BUMS so a big 'thank-you' to them.

And we raised £912 for the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance.

Ian and Wendy Jeffery

Jane Bennett

The Time Capsule

Regular readers will know that we are going to bury a 'time capsule' in the village, containing information and objects which give a snapshot of life in our village in the year 2012. Maybe some time in the distant future it will be discovered, and will give future villagers (and local historians) an insight into how we live. I've been contacting village groups (churches, pubs, social groups, the school etc) to get them to contribute, and the response has been terrific. We still have room for more though, so if you have something you think may be of interest, I'd really like to hear from you.

Call me on 368774, and if you are a member of a group which I haven't contacted (either out of ignorance or forgetfulness) please give me a call.

Come and see all the contents before they are loaded into the capsule in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on 14th December between 4.30 and 5.30pm.

Come and witness the 'burial' on 15th December at 11.30am by the Village Pond.

Letters & Notices cont.

Braishfield "Shoebox" Coffee Morning

*"Bright coloured shoe-boxes tied up with strings.
These are a few of our favourite things"*

The Church Rooms in Braishfield were "buzzing" on the 9th November as about 45 people drank coffee, ate and bought scrumptious cakes. They arrived bringing wonderful shoe boxes filled with gifts, and love, to send overseas.

They stayed to wrap and fill even more, and there was a wonderful atmosphere as we engaged in activity together, along with several very enthusiastic young helpers, to make Christmas time special for so many needy children.

Thank you for all your support, the generous donations, the filled boxes, the 'fillers', the paper wrappers, the cake makers, furniture removers and kitchen crew. At the end of a very successful morning 35 boxes were ready to be transported.

The total amount raised is £160 so far, because there is always a need for more donations!

Alan and Wendy Lord

Village Agent

Since May 2011 Hampshire County Council (HCC) has been trialling the concept of a Village Agent in various villages (not Braishfield so far), coordinated by Age Concern on behalf of HCC, and run by the HCC Older People's Well-being Team. In essence the Agent is the point of contact within a village who maintains awareness of any concerns voiced by older people, passes those upwards and, equally, channels back any information passed back to him/her. The BVA Committee took the view that, rather than assigning this task to a single person, the Committee as a whole would shoulder it. To that end the Committee members, as they go about their normal daily business, will stay alert to any trends or worries, but anyone who does have concerns or ideas that they wish to air is strongly encouraged to pass them directly to any member of the BVA Committee. This will then be passed from the Committee directly to the most appropriate body or organisation formed and equipped to deal with it.

Village Notice Boards

Would villagers wishing to place a notice on any of our 4 notice boards please try to keep them at A5 size or smaller. It only takes 4 x A4 size sheets to overwhelm the space available!



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Letters & Notices cont.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Sherry/coffee and mince pie evening

Thursday 13th December 7 - 9pm

Elttoc, Kiln Lane (Rusty and Shirley's home)

In aid of our 2012 charity - Romsey Young Carers

Everyone welcome

Carols by Candlelight in the Church

Tuesday 18th December 7pm

Followed by coffee and mince pies

Retiring collection for Romsey Young Carers

Everyone welcome



Braishfield Senior Citizens Lunch

It is time once again to start planning the Braishfield Senior Citizens party. It will be held on the 27th January at 3.15pm in the Social Club. Invitations will be out in the new year. If anyone aged over 65 and living in the village would like to join us please ring Sharon on 368164. We would like to thank everyone who has given generous donations towards this great event. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Sharon Fielding and Committee.

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Letters & Notices cont.

Braishfield Village Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Village Hall Committee Room

Tuesday 22nd January 2013 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 2013, and also to let us have your comments and ideas.

Please contact Rosie Groves (368178 or 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 Seconder by 2nd January 2013. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Village Hall

The Village Hall is now over 30 years old and is in need of a bit of a face lift. The Village Hall Committee are planning a refurbishment programme but before starting would like to get your views on what you think needs to be done to help put the Village Hall at the heart of village life.

If you are a user, potential user or you simply have an idea to improve the facilities and increase the usage we would love to hear from you.

Please e-mail us at hall@braishfield.org or contact Iain Coleman on 367064.

Iain Coleman

Mobile Library

The Library will be in the village from 1315 to 1345

December 5th
January 2nd
January 30th
February 27th

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Letters & Notices cont.

Checked Past

During the Summer Holidays two red and white checked tablecloths went AWOL from the Church Room (between our July and September lunches). The Village Lunch, in particular, are missing them as we have just had two months without the tables fully covered! I am sure someone borrowed them and they are sitting in their airing cupboard!! Please contact me if you find them. I would be most grateful.

Meryl 368427

Parish Council Notice

Please find below the link to reporting any road problems (potholes, flooding, hedge growth) on the Hampshire County Council website.

As I mentioned at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday evening, Michelmersh & Timsbury put an article with the link in their village newsletter and many parishioners have made good use of it since.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/index/transport/roadproblems.htm>

Kind regards,
Katie Hardy
Acting Clerk

Braishfield Parish Council

Jubilee Photograph Presentation

At a short gathering in the Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 20th November, attended by Parish Councillors, Village Hall and BVA Committee members, our Chairman David Robinson presented Richard Brazier, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, with a framed photograph of our Braishfield Jubilee party on the recreation ground. This has been placed on the north wall of the Committee Room.



Please note: Postal subscriptions will be increased from £6 to £7 from January

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Consecration of the extension to All Saints' churchyard

Living hopefully and thankfully

Sunday 21st October was a significant occasion for Braishfield Church and Parish. It marked the consecration of an extension to All Saints churchyard and the dedication of new churchyard gates and bench.

The Bishop of Southampton, the Right Revd Dr Jonathan Frost preached at a service of dedication and thanksgiving in All Saints and then all present processed to the churchyard where the bishop spoke the formal Sentence of Consecration.

The legal document, the Act of Consecration was signed by Bishop Jonathan and witnessed by the Rector, Canon Steve Pittis, and one of the Churchwardens, Mrs Jane Bennett.

The Bishop then dedicated the new bench located in the churchyard and given by the Hillier family of Awbridge in memory of Pam Hillier's parents and brother, Reg, Kate and Derek Elkins, who used to live in Braishfield.

Finally the bishop dedicated the new gates that had been given by the Lalonde family, who had a connection with Braishfield village.

All this marked the culmination of a number of years of developments in the church and churchyard including the building of the church room that has proved a great asset to the church and parish.

Thus the service included the note of thanksgiving for the many people who had worked hard and given generously to enable these developments.

In his address the bishop spoke powerfully about the need for us all as followers of Jesus to consecrate, or give ourselves wholly, to the service of the risen Christ.

He urged us all to dedicate, fully commit, ourselves to sharing the good news of Jesus and to live hopefully and thankfully in the light of God's amazing love for us.

In consecrating the churchyard, the bishop reminded us that whilst a place of burial is perhaps a place of mourning, it is also a reminder of the hope of the resurrection from the dead because Jesus, who died for us, rose again and offers hope to all who trust him.

The bench in the churchyard was a place for quiet reflection; a place to remember with thanksgiving those we love but, for the time being, see no longer.

The gates were a vivid symbol of the invitation to all to enter the kingdom of God. The bishop prayed that all who entered there might find eternal life in Christ.

The service included a prayer that brought these themes together:

'Heavenly Father, grant that the beauty of this place may be a sign to all who come here of the victory of your resurrection power over sin and death.

May those who mourn find comfort in your promises of eternal life; and those who are bereaved look forward to the final reconciliation of all who trust in your unfailing love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Risen Saviour. Amen.'



The Bishop of Southampton consecrates the extension to the churchyard before dedicating the new churchyard bench and the new gates

Steve Pittis

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Village Lunches 2013

This has been another very successful year for the Village Lunches. They have been very well supported and everyone enjoys the social interaction.

We are still waiting for the wine to appear as one villager keeps mentioning he is going to bring a bottle! The lunches are incredible value at £3/head with a choice of three homemade soups with bread followed by a choice of 5 puddings plus coffee or tea.

We have a brilliant team of volunteers, without whom the lunches could not happen. They bake, cook, move the tables and chairs, clean, collect the money and volunteer in the kitchen. Thank you one and all for your unstinting support.

Two volunteers - Elizabeth Elliott and Mary Mortimore - also organise the lunches in my absence for which I am extremely grateful.

Rosalie Gurr has now moved to Hereford. Not only have we lost a fantastic member of the 'kitchen' team (and cook) but I

have lost a dear neighbour and friend of 31 years. She will be missed tremendously but we all hope to see her on her visits back to Braishfield and hope that she and Alan have a wonderful time in their new home and surroundings. We wish them every happiness.

HELP WANTED! Volunteers to make a pudding, soup and/or help on the day are always welcome (it helps to spread the workload!). I would be delighted to hear from you if you feel you could offer any form of help - this applies to both men and women!!

VILLAGE LUNCH DATES 2013 below:

Our lunches, advertised in the BVA News DIARY, are usually held on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August), from 12 noon, in the Church Room.

Whatever your age, please come and join us. For new villagers it is a wonderful way to get to know a lot of people quickly. Just come along. You will be warmly welcomed. You do not need to sign in!

Meryl Balchin

2012 Christmas Lunch, Monday 10th December

VILLAGE LUNCHES 2013

MONDAY 14 JANUARY
MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY
MONDAY 11 MARCH
MONDAY 15 APRIL NB This is the 3rd Monday
MONDAY 13 MAY
MONDAY 10 JUNE
MONDAY 08 JULY
AUGUST - no lunch
MONDAY 09 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 14 OCTOBER
MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 09 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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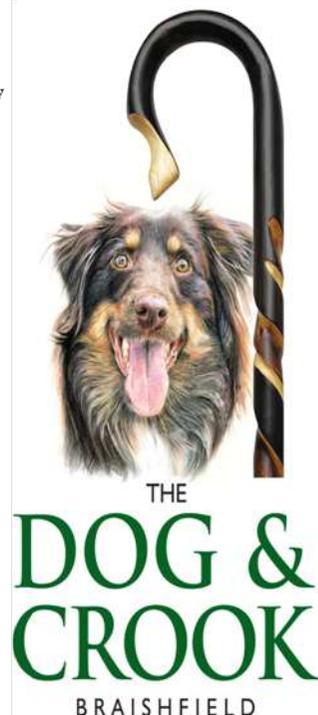
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Football and Golf News

Braishfield Football Club

November is a very exciting time for Braishfield Football Club. After the wonderful news that we have been awarded a grant from Biffa, and after a small hiccup with the planning, permission was granted to build our new pavilion.

Saturday 3rd November saw the first sign of movement when a small group of helpers started to demolish the inside. The following weekend saw the delivery of two skips which were filled up in no time at all! The following weekend will hopefully see the whole building be demolished and maybe by the time this News has been distributed it will be completely gone.

Our aim was to see the new pavilion in use by the last game of the season, let's hope that will be met! But then best laid plans and all that! On behalf of the football club I would like to thank everyone in the village for their donations and support throughout this campaign.

We are still fundraising and news on our next fundraiser will be in the next issue.

Sharon Fielding and Committee.

Braishfield Golf Society

Our second meeting took place at Romsey GC on Friday 7 September.

10 members ventured forth and enjoyed a warm and sunny day.

Graham Sell again came out on top even after a cut in Handicap.

Steve Lumb and Geoff Briggs were 2nd and 3rd.

All enjoyed the day including a hearty meal and some beers to follow.

Our final meeting for this year will have taken place by the time this article is published. A dozen or so are meeting at the Southampton Golf Course on Friday 23 November and we are hoping for fine weather.

So endeth our first season and I get the impression this will be the first of many!!

New members are still welcome and should contact me in the first instance

Richard Brazier

rdbrazier@hotmail.com

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On Sunday 11th November, a beautiful sunny morning, many parishioners gathered at the War Memorial, accompanied by the Church Choir and contingents from The British Legion, the Scouts and the Brownies. There followed a United Service of Remembrance, conducted by the Rector, The Reverend Canon Steve Pittis and the Minister, The Reverend Terry Hinks.

The Two Minutes Silence was encompassed by the two bugle calls sounding the Last Post and the Reveille, flawlessly played by Polly Boyles, an A Level student in the Parish.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of All Saints and The United Reformed Churches, the Parish Council, The Braishfield Village Association, the Braishfield Horticultural

Society, the Braishfield Scouts and the Braishfield Brownies.

After this ceremony the Churchwardens, followed by the Choir, the Clergy and and Uniformed Organisations, led the procession back to All Saints Church where, following the receiving of the Colours, the Service continued.

This was a well attended Remembrance Ceremony and Service which powerfully underlines our humble gratitude to all those who have fallen, and continue to fall, in the name of Freedom.

During the Offertory Hymn a collection was taken for the British Legion Poppy Appeal; this raised £351.15, with a further £22.50 from gift-aided donations.



Two scouts lay their wreath



The War Memorial after the Service

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BMADS Castalian String Quartet Concert

In the Church Room on the 6th
October...

...was indeed a treat!

As we had hoped we achieved a sell out of the 64 seats. (especially due to Wendy Quarendon's efficient sales records!) We now know that the Church Room makes a superb, intimate venue for chamber music concerts.

The acoustics are excellent, the last row heard as much as the first. Thanks to the new platform that Peter Quarendon had made specially for the occasion one even had the chance to see the performers from the back row!

Christoph Gotting who had organised the concert introduced proceedings with a few words thanking all helpers and then gave way to the four talented young musicians. Daniel Pioro, guesting in place of their indisposed leader, Sally Fields, played on a brand new violin made in Christoph's Michelmersh workshop.

This was pure coincidence and not, as rumoured, because she had been poisoned by Christoph! The other members of the Castalian Quartet are Daniel Llewellyn Roberts - second violin, Charlotte Bonneton - viola and Rebecca Herman - 'cello.

The programme consisted of Haydn's String Quartet in E flat major Opus 64 no 6.
Beethoven's String Quartet opus 95 in F minor 'Quartetto Serioso'.

Mendelssohn's String Quartet No 4 opus 44 in E minor.

The playing had the combination of excitement, engagement and intimacy which is what makes chamber music so special. The world of each composer was brought to life, from the elegance and earthy, gritty humour of Haydn, to the wild contrast of abrupt phrasing and tender songlike writing in the unique Beethoven work, and then to Mendelssohn's graceful and exquisitely crafted writing.

Particularly memorable in this last work were passages duetting between the second violin and viola which showed the real finesse of the players.



Many of the listeners were highly enthusiastic in their comments and expressed the hope that other concerts may follow.

Thanks must again go to all who helped to make this evening one to remember (Wendy's hot cheese treats complemented the glass of wine perfectly!)

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E-mail:- ben.holdaway@btconnect.com



A Pilgrimage to Lourdes

In early October I joined the Hants/Berks group of the Jumbulance Trust as a voluntary helper to take some disabled and sick people (known as VIPs) to Lourdes on a Pilgrimage. This was a special trip because of the location but the Trust also organises other holidays to a variety of places both home and abroad 3 or 4 times a year. Many VIPs would never otherwise have the chance to travel without the support that the Trust provides with its specially adapted vehicles - known as jumbulances.

The experience was rewarding and fulfilling and at the same time humbling and inspiring. Over the course of 8 days, I witnessed VIPs, their own carers, relatives and the helpers find their lives enriched and enlightened: bonds were formed, barriers broken down, lasting friendships made: some found the peace they had been searching for, or comfort and the strength to carry on.

This was humanity at its very best and in spite of sometimes quite challenging and hard work, it was a privilege, not a chore.

Knowing that we, the helpers, were making such a difference more than made up for the work involved.

Lourdes is a peaceful and spiritual place, We found ourselves being drawn back to the Grotto several times but also spent one day in the mountains and another by the beautiful Lourdes lake. I am thankful that our weather was perfect and feel for those who were affected by the flooding which occurred only a week after our return.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Chris Chisolm, our group nurse and Jumbulance Trustee for her guidance and inspiration throughout. She has been making a difference to people's lives for many years by working tirelessly with the Trust. She is always looking for helpers, so do give her a call on 01794 368250, email: cookchris@aol.com and to find out more about the Jumbulance Trust, have a look at the website: www.jumbulance.org.uk.

Sue Mullane



Our group at the Grotto, Lourdes

October 8th 2012



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Romsey (Braishfield 3rd) Scouts & Cubs Group

Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Rangers from Romsey District met on 13 September 2012 at Testwood Lakes, Totton to give Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust a hand after they had completed their grass cutting in the education field.

So, armed with pitch-forks, rakes, wheelbarrows and gloves we were put to work raking the cut grass into piles around the edges of the field. This will provide a great habitat over the coming winter for many small animals and insects looking for a safe haven in the cold weather. It was amazing that in 2 ½ hours we completed the work that the Trust volunteers would have had to spend two days completing.

A great thank you to Grace for helping us organise this event, it was great fun and a different way to start the new term! And our next date helping out has now been set for June 2013 to remove Himalayan Balsam from the local waterways - and we can't wait!



The workforce assembles and is briefed by our mentor, Grace

Below are some articles from members who took part - I hope you enjoy their viewpoint!

Sarah Beaman

District Scout Leader, Romsey

Our trip to Testwood Lakes

Last Thursday our cub pack went to Testwood Lakes. Once we got there we had to wait for everybody because we were early. When everybody did eventually arrive we met our instructor named Grace, and she told us we were going to do wildlife conservation.

After that we went up to the field where we set to work. We had to clear the dead grass so animals and insects could make their homes and I got to use a pitch fork and started to shovel grass into wheel barrows which was a lot of fun!!!

I really enjoyed myself when we went to Testwood Lakes and I would definitely like to go back there.

Jamie

On the 13th September we went to Testwood Lakes to help with the tidying up of the hay in the education area. We picked it up with pitch forks and wheelbarrows and placed it around the edges of the circle so that all the young animals can make their homes in it for the cold winter. It was quite cold and got dark earlier than I thought it would.

Joe

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On Thursday 3rd Romsey Scouts went to Testwood Lakes, Totton to do some community work. We were told to wear activity wear. When we got there, those that needed them were issued with wellies. I had one size 7 and one size 8! Then we hiked out to where we would be working. We were briefed on our task which was to rake up all the loose grass on the ground. The grass had been previously cut and strimmed by staff. We then set out to raking up the grass. We had to make big piles which were

then put into wheelbarrows. These were then emptied around the edge of the clearing which we were working in. After an hour of raking, we walked back to the centre, where Sarah did a badge handout on a mass scale. Then we went home. It was all good fun and we enjoyed it.

Tim

Katie
Cub Leader
3rd Romsey Cub Pack

DIGGER'S DAY 2012 - WATER DAY

Each year Romsey District Scouts hold Digger's Day in memory of Peter Digby, ADC Scouts, who passed away due to cancer. He left a legacy which Romsey Scouts & Guides use to keep his passion for adventurous activities alive.



"Messing about on the water"!

Over the years the Scouts and Guides have been caving, dragon-boating, rafting, climbing, shooting, street sports and even wind tunnel flying. On Saturday 29th September, 6 Scouts from 3rd Romsey joined 30 Scouts and Guides from Romsey District on a lovely bright and

sunny morning at Southampton City Sea Scouts HQ, near the Itchen Bridge. Some had kayak experience, but most were there to try something new! The Scouts and Guides aimed to try kayaking, canoeing and rowing. Some were initially hesitant but very shortly all were cheerfully messing around on the water.

After lunch it was time for the highlight of the day - Bath Tub Racing! Not so much racing against each other as racing against the inrush of water - bath tubs apparently are not the most watertight vessels in which to sail. There was a great deal of laughter, some very wet Scouts and Guides and the safety boats took their revenge and spent most of their time helping the water in too!

Huge smiles all round; so a massive thank you to Tina for organising it, the Romsey Guide & Scout Leaders who came along to help afloat and ashore and to the Leaders from 25th Southampton City Sea Scouts. We are very grateful for their enormous support and assistance.

Braishfield Horticultural Society

Forget the gloomy days that we have lived with, for what feels like forever, just take a look at the colour of the trees at the moment. They could, perhaps, be described as the one bright spot of the past few months. What a pity they will soon be undressed.

In October, our final Speaker for the year, Phil Crib, came along to talk to us about his search around the world for new Orchids and what an adventurous occupation that turned out to be. I imagine that most of us think of the search for plants as simply trekking around the countryside - not some of the hair-raising situations in which Phil found himself on so many occasions.

At the other end of the scale, one new species was discovered when an organised group stopped in the wilderness for a comfort break. Ladies went one way and lads the other. A new but tiny specimen was discovered by a lady; the mind boggles. Work it out.

We enjoyed a thoroughly good evening with Phil Cribb. His talk was not only informative, but supported by a lot of humour and some brilliant photography.

The Society AGM, held in November, was well attended and as usual proved to be an enjoyable occasion. The business side of the proceedings ran smoothly and speedily as it always does and no one questioned our performance for the past year. One important issue discussed was the rising cost of our activities. The annual subscriptions we have been

paying until now, together with money raised from the raffles, no longer covers the cost of Speakers as it has done in the past, and the fee for the hire of the Village Hall has also increased.

The result is that our financial reserves have been reducing over the past couple of years. We therefore decided that it was time to increase the annual subscriptions to £7.50 per member. The motion was passed unanimously by the Members present. When you think of it, it is a small price to pay for the twelve months meetings we enjoy.

Once again, the Committee was re-elected en bloc with the exception of Sue Buxton. Sue had expressed her wish to step down after serving on the Committee since 1996 during which time she has been a very supportive Member of the Society. Always enthusiastic, Sue will be missed at our regular Committee Meetings. We did have one nomination and Hazel Davies has stepped into the breach. Welcome aboard Hazel.

We then moved on to the important part of the proceedings, the wine, the tasty morsels and the socialising. What a lovely life we lead.

We now have a break until January, when on Tuesday 8th David Stuart will be with us to talk about the History and Development of the Longstock Water Gardens. He will be followed on Tuesday 12th February by Victoria Ennion, a Garden Designer and Horticulturist who will talk on the subject of Blackthorn Winters and Other Myths.

One last thing: Margaret O`Keeffe, our Show Secretary, will be publishing some important advance information on the next Flower Show. See page 44.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

Bob Thomson

To conclude, once again, on behalf of your Committee, I wish everyone a very

BHS Secretary& Scribe.

Flower Arrangement Society



Tuesday Dec 11th 2012 Christmas Ikebana Workshop with Lunch
Church Rooms, 10.30pm - 3.30pm
3 tickets remaining £25 - available from Carole Renvoize 368766 or Sandy Morwood 511335

All meetings are held in Braishfield Village Hall at 7.30pm
4th Thursday in the Month
Membership is £20 per year.
Visitors are very welcome at £4.00 per evening.

For more information please call:
Denice Bright, Chairman on 02380 741299

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Braishfield School Update

It has been a pleasure working with the children and staff at Braishfield. When I first visited in April 2012 I was taken by the bright and articulate children and the hardworking staff. It has been a real pleasure to be part of the life of the school. So much has happened this year and the school has been well supported by the village. Though there have been difficult times the future for Braishfield school is positive. Christmas is a time of year for people coming together and I look forward to enjoying this time of year with this very special school and community.

Jeremy Malessa-Thompson
Interim Head Teacher

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new headteacher of Braishfield Primary School and I am looking forward to leading an already high-attaining school towards outstanding progress and attainment. Having spent time in the school since my appointment, it is clear that I will be working with a committed, hard-working and supportive school community. I plan to extend that collaboration still further to ensure that we are creating sustainable links with other local village schools to the benefit of our children, and to ensure that Braishfield Primary school remains at the heart of our community.

Frances Hardy
Head Teacher from January 2013

Auction of Promises

24 chocolate brownies; a session of lawn scarifying; hire of the church rooms; a website design; babysitting; a reflexology massage and a catered dinner party - where in Braishfield could you buy such a wide and varied selection of items? The School's Auction of Promises of course, which offered all these things and more - in fact 34 lots were available to the very willing bidders who turned up on 13th October in the Village Hall. Although attendance was disappointing those who didn't come missed out on a well-stocked bar in an unrecognisable Village Hall, transformed as it was into a mini-jungle, courtesy of Rupert Sprague and Hilliers, and an evening of raucous laughter, thanks to the repartee of our auctioneer

for the evening, Neil Pearce. **Over £1,800** was raised for the school, which will be used to buy extra resources that might otherwise be unaffordable, and to fund trips. Thanks to all those who bid so generously and who offered promises to auction, and thanks also to the Village Hall who very kindly offered a reduced rate for the hall hire - all of which contributed to this magnificent total. "I got my Elm Grove lamb and my Christmas Wreath so I'm happy", one successful bidder was heard to comment. "I think we should do it again", said our chairman - watch this space!

Kate Marshall (for the BSA committee)

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Braishfield House Archive

It is now three years since Rosalie and Alan Gurr started soliciting for input for the Braishfield House Archive.

We are now ready to publish the first Work-in-Progress document. There are about 45 houses included with some information, so far, out of about 250 in total within the Parish boundaries.

The description of each house has been collated from information given by current residents, Census records, Test Valley BC 'Listed Building' information and *Braishfield Memories*. Its extent varies considerably from house to house.

As circumstances may have changed since you passed your information to Rosalie and Alan we are giving you the opportunity to review your data.

If your property is listed below and you wish to review the content please request a copy from webeditor@braishfield.org.

We need your review to be completed by 31 Dec 2012 so that we can publish the document on the Braishfield web-site early in 2013.

If your property is not on the list it is not too late - please contact any committee member of the BVA.

If you have any concerns about information which you would rather not publish please contact the web editor (webeditor@braishfield.org tel: 368427.)

Property list:

NORTH - down to The Rectory

Pitt Farm House
Windmill Cottage
Manor Cottage
Braishfield Manor
Braishfield Lodge - including
Braishfield Lodge East and West
Chalk Pit Cottage
Coombe Willow
Braishfield House
Pond Cottages
Fishponds Farm
The Old Forge, Paynes Hay Road
The Thatched Barn, Paynes Hay Road

CENTRAL- The Square & Church Lane

Cherry Hill
Orchard Lodge
Orchard Hill
Dellwood Cottage
Oakrood
Forge Cottage
Anvil Cottage
Spring Cottage
The Old Village Stores
Lionwood
Hazel Cottage
Barnside
Long Barn
Colsons Barn
Yew Tree Cottage

SOUTH- Hillview Road to The Dog & Crook

The Homestead
Brook House
Fernside
Orchard View
1 Hillview Road

Fairbournes Farm House
Fairbourne Place
Fairbourne Cottage

NEWPORT LANE & around

1-3 The Terrace, Newport Lane
Newport House
Stone Cottage
Swallowfield Cottage
7 Blackthorn Close

WEST - Eldon & Lower Street

Broom Hill Cottage
Hall Place Cottage
Hall Place
Paynes Hay Farm
The Red Cottage
Sharpes Farm

Sharpes Cottage
The Cottages, Lower Street
Little Meadows

PUCKNALL & around

Whites Cottage
Cromwell Cottage
Elm Grove Farm
Pucknall Cottage
Wellbrook Cottage
Pucknall Lodge,
Hawkes Farmhouse
Churchers Barn

CROOK HILL

Abbotsdene

Braishfield Tennis "Masters"

Following hot on the heels of a certain Mr A Murray, Braishfield under the stimulus of Richard Brazier (aka Ivan Lendl) ensured we enjoyed our first Summer of Tennis.

Richard earlier this year put in this magazine a "call to arms" for potential players and a gauge of community interest in Tennis. Braishfield has a large amount of private courts so there were hopes of strong interest.

Starting in early June, playing on a regular Tuesday night, 14 hardy souls braced all that a "glorious" Summer could muster and played mixed doubles, usually followed by well-earned liquid refreshments.

We were lucky to have a number of tennis courts kindly provided by the community so no home advantage was ever gained! Games were always tight, independent of ability, fun with more

than a few giggles and comedy moments, whilst the standard also improved as the season progressed and the competitive edge came to the fore.

Matches were played on a rota basis which allowed each player to mix in completely and experience different evenings and styles of play.

Further to this and perhaps most importantly we also achieved a sense of community spirit with the players meeting new people - this applying particularly to myself being a "newbie".

For 2013 we are looking to add to the group and consider some different options, so everyone - and I mean everyone - is welcome and I would warmly encourage you to call me to join in the fun.

Please contact Tony James at Hall Place, on 367889 for more information of how to join in.

New players wanted for;

Ultimate Frisbee.

From ages 16 to 60. If you are reasonably fit, want to get fitter and think you can throw and catch a Frisbee, join in. Tuition given, rules are simple (similar to basket ball except throwing a Frisbee). Learn trick throws over time. All you need is trainers/old t shirt/track suit joggers.

Every Sunday evening on Romsey School astra Turf (round back of school), 6pm until 8pm rain or dry. £2 per session.

This is really big in the US and professional leagues have started up. Check it out on you tube.

Just turn up or for more info call/text **07816 985808** or email

malc.stag@virgin.net



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Group Fitness

It's 9.15, it's Thursday morning on Braishfield Recreation Ground. The children are safely deposited at school, the sun is shining. Slowly a group of people gather on the grass, some full of confidence and enthusiasm and others more apprehensive.

They have all seen the posters, got the fliers and been generally cajoled into coming to Michelle and Sam's first Group Fitness session on the Rec.

exercises. (Quite a lot of fun and frolics are had clambering over the log wall).

Just when you think it's all over a couple of bouts of high intensity hard work for 30 sec are thrown in, aptly known as finishers! The session is brought to a close with a gentle cool down and lovely stretch ...phew!



After an introduction from Sam and Michelle & the necessary form filling in we are all off for a brisk walk and



Michelle and I are both local girls who generally work as mobile personal trainers. We both wanted to provide a circuit style class in the outdoors for local people so we joined forces.

general warm up.

Next are some group games/drills with a medicine ball (bringing back memories of school days & a few giggles).

The Rec. lends itself perfectly for this with its wide open space and great Trim Trail which we regularly use, (though not always in the way it was intended!).

Nicely warmed up we head over to the Trim Trail for a host of different

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We always aim to exercise outside though we do hire the hall as a backup plan. Only once have we had to beat a hasty retreat from the pouring rain. The circuit style nature of our fitness session means we are able to provide the majority of ages and abilities with a great workout whilst making it fun and not intimidating.

After 6 weeks of running our Group Fitness Class we can honestly say it been great fun and we have made some lovely new acquaintances.

We'd would love to see some new faces and make more friends with our neighbours.

Please do come and join our lively group for a bit of fresh air and as my Gran always says "to shake your liver"!

Sessions run for 1 hour and are £5 if you pay for a block of 4 weeks or £6 on the day.

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Alternately Join Michelle and I on Braishfield Recreation Ground for Group Fitness session.

Thursdays 9.15 am. (£6 per session £5 if paying block of 4 sessions)

1st Braishfield Brownies Pack Holiday

From Sunday 28th to Wednesday 31st October Braishfield Brownies and some friends from the Ampfield unit had a holiday staying at Sparsholt Memorial Hall. The theme for the stay was London.

Taking part in cooking and housekeeping activities allowed the girls to earn their Brownie Holiday Badge. The girls also had plenty of time for craft, singing and games. One of the Brownies has written a report of our stay which follows.

Charlotte Butterfield
Brown Owl, 1st Braishfield Brownies

1st Braishfield Brownies Pack Holiday

We started our holiday by arriving at Sparsholt Village Hall at 10am on Sunday. We made posters for our bed and around the hall. After pinning up our posters and listening to a talk on safety issues we sat down to eat. Feasting on a picnic lunch we chatted to each other about the things we like and enjoy.

Later on we went on a walk, following the footpaths around Sparsholt. Unfortunately we didn't manage to get to the park, but we had a good time anyway.

Tea was pasta with bolognese or pesto sauce with cheese; it was yummy in my tummy! After tea we made guardsmen pencil holders as our theme was London.

At 8pm we all had a pyjama parade, before climbing in to our beds, having brushed our teeth, and thought about our fun day. Listening to Brown Owl

reading "Gangster Granny" by David Walliams, we all slowly drifted off to the land of nod, dreaming about what tomorrow might bring.

For breakfast on Monday we had a selection of cereals followed by pain au chocolat and a drink. Whilst we were filling in our log books the visitors arrived one by one and were taken on a tour of the hall. The "visitors" were the Brownies who couldn't come for the whole four days. The Brownies who were the cooks on Monday were asked to peel the potatoes and carrots ready for the roast dinner later in the day.

As our morning craft activity, we each painted a crown candle holder, started sewing cup cake pin cushions and made some Hama bead shapes. Outside we played one of our favourite games, King Neptune. When we were cold we went inside for our roast dinner.

After our food we had an hour of free time, where we could choose to do anything quiet. The messengers took the sweets round to each Brownie and we were allowed two each. Lucky us! When free time had finished we played some new games as well as some old favourites, 'Tom and Jerry', '1,2,3,4' and 'Come into the giants house' to name a few.

We had yummy scones with cream and jam for our tea then played some board games. When we were in bed Brown Owl read some more of Gangster Granny and we were all soon sound asleep.

On Tuesday we all woke up early and were raring to go to London. First we took a bus to Winchester station, from

where we took a train to Waterloo. We walked down the South Bank and were amazed to see living statues, buskers and street artists.

We caught an old fashioned bus which had a driver in his own cab and a conductor, conducting him! We arrived at the Tower of London and ate our lunch outside in the shadow of the Palace walls. We all made our way inside. We were let through by security so hopefully they realised we weren't going to try to steal the crown jewels.

We toured around the Palace and I enjoyed seeing the Traitors Gate and the ravens. Legend has it that if the ravens all fly away the Tower will fall! We were glad to see so many ravens. After queuing to enter the Jewel House, we studied the history of the jewels, before seeing the Crowns glistening in all their glory. The biggest jewel was over 400 carats in weight and was broken into seven different diamonds for the Queen.



One was in her sceptre, one in a crown, one in a necklace, two in a pair of earrings and one in each of two bracelets. We found out that rubies can be different shades of red, depending on their size and how the light shines through them.

After taking a bus back to Waterloo we went to Azurro, an Italian restaurant where we had a lovely meal. When we had all finished, we headed by train and bus back to Sparsholt where we all got into our beds and quickly fell asleep. We had all had a fantastic day! Wednesday was the day we all had to leave, but not until 5pm.

We had to complete all our crafts ready to take home, play more board games and colour some pictures in. Everyone played Kim's game with Snowy Owl. One by one we packed our bags and stacked them. Whilst some were packing others were finishing log books. When one of the leaders had finished reading our log books we all sat in a circle and the leaders gave prizes for interesting writing.

All too soon our parents came and just like that our pack holiday ended but boy, wasn't it a good one!! (With thanks to all the Owls for a great holiday)

India

Cricket Club News

Now that winter is here and we have worked hard to prepare the ground for the coming months, we can reflect on what has been a very satisfying and successful season. We are certainly better placed than we were this time last year!

As I mentioned in the last edition, we did suffer an attempted break-in during September and we have put some extra security measures in place which will hopefully deter unwanted visitors.

We would really appreciate it though, if residents could be extra vigilant during the winter and spring months and report anything suspicious to the police via 101.

The cricket does go on through the winter since we have joined the Romsey and District Indoor League, playing on a Sunday evening. So keep an eye on the back pages of the Romsey Advertiser to keep up with our progress!

In the meantime if you would like to join the club next year as a player, grounds person, umpire, scorer or spectator please contact me via email on j.light79@yahoo.co.uk. You will find a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere at the club!

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year!

James Light, Club Captain
Newport Inn Cricket Club



Hampshire County Councillor
Alan Dowden
wishes all the residents of
Braishfield
A Very Happy Christmas
And
A Peaceful New Year



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Is the Green Deal the right deal for you?

The government's Green Deal scheme aims to help more homeowners refurbish their homes by spreading the costs over future energy bills. But is it the right deal for you?

Under the 'Golden Rule' any technologies installed must be so energy efficient that loan repayments should be less or equal to the money saved. So, for example, a 30% more efficient boiler could be installed. It delivers the same heat with 30% less fuel.

You are then saving money on heating your house. Under the scheme this saving is used to repay the loan for the boiler. You get a new boiler, the house heats up faster, it's more comfortable and you aren't out of pocket.

So, what's the catch? Firstly, the sums aren't simple. For example, as energy suppliers charge more for the first block of units, a 30% reduction in gas use does not equal a 30% reduction in bills. Secondly, basic loft and cavity wall insulation are unlikely to remain cheap or free under the scheme. Thirdly, interest payable on the loan might be 6 - 7%. If you have money and expect to stay put, you may get a better return paying for the work yourself.



If you are unsure, talk to someone who has already greened their home. SuperHomers host free Open Days in spring and September. They can explain both the benefits and challenges of eco renovation.

See the website to book a visit or, for the latest on the Green Deal, see www.superhomes.org.uk/greendeal

BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

Weekly Events

Monday Nights - Free Pool

Wednesday Nights - Zumba 6.30pm

Saturday Nights - Meat Draw

Sunday Nights - Bingo

We also have Pigeon Club, Dart and Crib teams always looking for new members.

Snooker Room, Table Football, Skittle Alley all available to Non Members.

Forthcoming Events

• **Quiz Nights** held fortnightly on Friday Nights

• Wednesday, 19th December: **Christmas Skittles** (to include American Supper - Members & Non Members Welcome - 8pm start)

• Monday, 31st December : **New Years Eve Party Disco** - (£3 Members/£6 Non Members (own food permitted but no beverages - thank you)) Ticket Only

Also

Large Function Room For Hire and;

We now hold the village Wheelchair - Please contact Graham on details below.

01794 368458 (Evenings)

braishfieldsocialclub@hotmail.co.uk



BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Advance notice for all you crafty types & photographers entering the Handicraft & Girlie Old Sections of the 2013 Flower Show

SECTION G - HANDICRAFTS

Class 80 Needlework

A hand , machine or combination sewn item; a piece of embroidery; or any item of patchwork, quilting or appliqué

81 A Hand-Knitted or crocheted item

82 A handmade item of any material - for example: wood, metal, glass, pottery

83 An item of tapestry

84 A painting or drawing - any medium

85 Make a Tote Bag (any fabric)

THE GIRLIE OLD CUP Photography

Class 86 "CLOUDS"

A photograph, maximum size 7 x 5 inches, titled and mounted on A4 paper or card.

Margaret O'Keeffe - BHS Show Secretary

Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 3rd, 17th & 31st December: 14th & 28th January 2013

Household waste weeks beginning: 10th, 24th December: 7th, 21st January 2013

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

For Bank Holiday weeks (24th & 31st December) collections will be one day later than your normal day. There will be no garden waste collection between 24th December and 6th January 2013. First January collection will be 11th January 2013.

SAVE THE DATE !!

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th NOVEMBER 2013

the return of

The Village Variety Show

After the outstanding success of the Show in April 2010 The Village Hall Committee are planning another and as before all user groups and Villagers are invited to participate to prove once again

BRAISHFIELD HAS TALENT!!

We are looking for acts - whether it be sketch - musical or not, a dance performance, a poem - whatever !!

Also behind the scenes helpers leading up to the show and on the night.

Even if it is still a long way off please start thinking how you could be part of this event.

Please register your interest by calling or

emailing:

Richard Brazier 368414 or

rdbrazier@hotmail.com

Braishfield Village Diary

December

4th	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
10th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome – Christmas Lunch
11th	Tuesday	10.30-3.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society – All welcome Christmas workshop with lunch in Church Room Ikebana Workshop for Beginners
13th	Thursday	7 - 9	Sherry, Coffee & Mince Pies at Eltloc in aid of Romsey Young Carers
14th	Friday	4.30-5.30	Contents of the Time Capsule on Display
15th	Saturday	11.30	Burial of Time Capsule by the Village Pond

January

1st	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
7th	Monday	7.30	Five Alive Fellowship - Church Room - AGM
8th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society
14th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome
22nd	Tuesday	8.00	BVA AGM in VH committee room
24th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society
27th	Sunday	3.15	Senior Citizens Lunch – Social Club

February

4th	Monday	7.30	Five Alive Fellowship - Church Room
5th	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
11th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome
12th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society
28th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society

Weekly

Wednesday	10.00 – 12.00	Braishfield Toddler Group, Tel. 367710
Thursday	10.00 – 12.00	Braishfield Art Group

All functions take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated
Please refer to Braishfield.org or your Residents Guide for contact telephone nbrs
Please send details to the BVA News Editor or Web Editor if you would like dates of forthcoming events to be published