



BRAISHFIELD

Village Association NEWS

Issue 197 February 2013



What were the two Chairmen thinking before burying the
Time Capsule ?
(See P4)

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
Editor	-	Mike Mullane	368099
Website	-	Chris Balchin	368427
Distributor	-	Sue Mullane	368099
Committee	-	Sue Coleman	367064
Committee	-	Tessa Allen	368014

Editor's Notes

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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 20th March 2013

From the Chairman

It's a new year so thoughts tend to be about what it will bring. Not having a Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics on the horizon means that it may be a rather calmer year, but not without its high spots here in the village. Like, for instance, the BMADS performance of Noel Coward's Hay Fever in March, and the Village Variety Show in November! Two very good reasons for not emigrating, as I'm sure you'll agree.

Our own BVA committee is not averse to putting on something that gives villagers a chance to get together, and we've had a preliminary 'brainstorm' of ideas. But what do you think you'd like, gentle reader? Give us your ideas, and if they're not downright illegal we'll see if we can bring some of them to life. It would be especially good to have ideas that appeal to the younger generations in the village, such as families with young children.

We've said goodbye to two committee members in the latter part of the year. Rosalie Gurr and husband Alan have departed to new life in Herefordshire, and David Protheroe has given up owing to pressure of work. They've both given great service to the Association and the village, and we are really grateful for all they've done. Scouting around we've been very fortunate to be able

to persuade Sue Coleman and Tessa Allen to take their places, so the committee's up to full strength again, and with *fresh blood!* (Sorry about that, I've just been reading about cannibalism at sea!)

We've just been able to recognise and thank a small, select group of people without whom you would not be reading this. They are the dedicated team of volunteers who distribute the News around all the houses in the village. Many of them have been doing it for years, in all weathers - heroic stuff, and well worth an MBE apiece at least. We invited them and their partners to a little drinks party to meet one another and the committee, and tell them how much we appreciate what they do, and nearly all could attend. It made for a very jovial couple of hours.

Finally, a plug for the new central heating oil-purchasing consortium which our committee member Graham Bennett has set up. We had our first delivery in December, and by buying in bulk we were able to get a price at least 2p per litre cheaper than all the other quoted prices. I had 1000 litres delivered here, and saved £20 on the deal, so it's well worth doing.

If you're interested give Graham a call (tel: 368109) and you can join in next time. Every little helps in these straightened times!

From the Editor

We must nearly be at the end of the allotted date for this, so I'll slip it in while I can: Happy New Year!

As the Chairman mentions, we had a very plucky little party the other day to thank all the very dedicated distributors who ensure that you get the magazine on time, every time, without fail.

Enormous thanks to them again, and equally to all of you who keep the magazine alive with your contributions. Never stop - I always publish!

I draw your attention to the article on the Time Capsule (pp 22/23), an unusual initiative which even caught the eye of the Romsey Advertiser. Just for amusement, please send me any scurrilous thoughts you may have on the cover photograph: published next time if printable! Great thanks are due to our Chairman for the considerable personal time he dedicated to the project; cajoling, collating and, with a

true archeologist's eye, itemising all the pieces before finally stowing them.

We have two notable events lined up: the BMADS production of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* in late March (page 6) and, in November, the Variety Show again (p41). In addition we can look forward to all the Societies' activities and any further initiatives that may emerge within the Village.

I have always harboured a wish to get colour into the magazine. Sadly we cannot afford it, but don't forget that it appears in full original colour on our website!

On affordability, our contributions (see p36) help to keep the BVA Fund (currently surviving though down on last year) in reasonable health, as they might the Church General Fund (p10) after its boiler crisis. Difficult times. Enough supplication. We'll see what we can do!

Missing BVA News copies

The archive of the BVA News, which started in April 1980, is missing some copies. Do you have any of the following 12 missing copies tucked away in a cupboard or loft?

Nbrs 15 Sept 1982, 97 & 98 June/August 1996, 110 August 1998, 116 to 121 August 1999 to June 2000 inclusive, 123 October 2000 and 140 April 2003
Obviously your historic copy would be returned, if requested, after we have copied it.

Chris Balchin, 368427, webeditor@braishfield.org

Remember the BVA Website: www.braishfield.org

Letters & Notices

200 CLUB

The Braishfield 200 Club operated throughout 2012, with a monthly draw to select a prize winner and monthly donations to charities and other local good causes. The total prize money over the year was £1404, with an average monthly prize of £117. Donations were made to All Saints Church of £611 for the maintenance of the Church Rooms, £522 to Braishfield Football Club for their new pavilion, and smaller sums to the United Reformed Church, Countess Mountbatten Hospice, SaveDirect, the Braishfield Social Contact Group and the Senior Citizens' Lunch. Our only expense was a £20 licence fee paid to Test Valley Borough Council.

The promoter is David Robinson and the trustees and certifiers are George Elliott and Tony Chant. You can join in by buying five or ten numbers per month at £1 per number, either paying monthly by standing order from your bank, or by cheque for six or twelve months in advance. There are currently around 300 numbers paid up each month, so the chances of winning are around 1 in 60 if you have five numbers. Beats anything Camelot can do!!

Call David Robinson on 368774 or email davidbrobinson@talktalk.net.

The December draw was won by Mr David Gower, and January's winner was Mrs Sally Dale. Donations have been made to the Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity and the Braishfield Senior Citizens' Lunch.

BRAISHFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The congregation of Braishfield URC had much pleasure in witnessing a cheque for £1643.37 being presented to Mr Tim Ballantyne from Romsey Young Carers on January 20th.

Romsey Young Carers was the chosen charity for 2012 at the AGM.

This amount was raised by holding coffee mornings, a Diamond Jubilee tea party, sherry and mince pie evening at Christmas, filling jars with loose coins plus several other events.

On behalf of the church a big THANK YOU goes out to all who contributed by either organising, helping or supporting these events so as this wonderful amount was achieved.

Pat Taylor

Letters & Notices cont.

BMADS TO STAGE NOEL COWARD'S 'HAY FEVER' IN MARCH

As this edition of the 'News' goes to press, at BMADS we have just started rehearsals for our next production. It is Noel Coward's 'Hay Fever' and it will be performed in the Village Hall on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March.

'Hay Fever' was the first of Coward's plays to gain an enduring place in the theatrical repertoire. Since it first appeared in 1925 it has been performed all over the world, but this will be its Braishfield premiere! Set in the roaring 20s, it is a scintillating comedy about four eccentric members of an artistic family who each invite a guest to stay for the weekend - unbeknown to the others. As the action unfolds, unexpected 'collisions' start taking place between the characters.

We are delighted to have a combination in this production of some newcomers as well as BMADS veterans. It promises to be a lively evening, so keep a note of the dates in your diary - Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March. Details of how to get tickets will be available soon - watch out for posters around the village.

SPECIAL REQUEST!

Does anyone have a small 2 seater settee, with arms that people can sit on, that they would be prepared to lend to the production for use onstage? It would be eligible for an award for best supporting furniture! If so, please contact Peter or Wendy Quarendon on 368015.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH MOWERS 2013 SEASON

The merry band of Mowers (that's men and machines) will start their duties again in March. We number well over 30 but still welcome new recruits. Each of us cut either North or South no more than twice each season so not an onerous commitment over the summer.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact me in the first instance. We will meet at the Newport in early March to set up the rota and all available dates can be accommodated.

Richard Brazier

rdbrazier@hotmail.com TEL: 368414



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Letters & Notices cont.

Anyone for Table Tennis?

Please let me know if you are interested in playing Table Tennis in Braishfield. I have made some enquiries and the Social Club is willing to let us play there.

Please give me a call if you are interested in playing.

Jane Bennett
01794 368109

Braishfield Ultimate Frisbee nights.

Until Easter we are playing at the Romsey School Astro Turf (park in the school car park and walk round the back, to the floodlit pitch), Sunday evenings from 6pm until 8pm. All men welcome from ages 16-60!

If you think you can throw a Frisbee and run around a bit, join in and keep fit during those boring winter nights. We will play come rain or snow!

This sport is really taking off, it's big in the U.S. with professional leagues now.

Contact me on malcolm.baker192@btinternet.net

or tel 368579 for more info.

Errata

With apologies, there were 2 errors in the last magazine (Issue 196 Dec 2012) :

a. P20. 'We Will Remember Them' : in the first paragraph, the Service was conducted jointly by the Rector with Lay Preacher and Elder of Romsey United Reformed Church Dick Duley (not, as printed, the Reverend Terry Hinks).

b. P30 'Auction of Promises': much as the BSA may wish it were true, the event raised £1800, not £18,000 as published. Nonetheless a very good result!

Editor

Mop 'Til We Drop

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Please contact me for further information

All Saints Church

“Keep the Home Fires Burning”

The fire in question is the church boiler! After 20 years of sterling service it was condemned during a maintenance visit in September, which was a bit of blow to us all.

A temporary repair kept it going for a few months while quotations were sought and contracts agreed and it was replaced at the end of November with a new, more efficient model, in good time for the Christmas services.

Thanks to the hard work of many people, including the plumbing engineers who got the boiler up and running in a temporary capacity before a weekend and returned on Monday to finish off, there wasn't one Sunday without heat.

So far, very good!

The further good news is that our Treasurer, Graham Bennett, has been able to pay the bill. The full cost of the installation was £4,996, and we had £4,500 in our Fabric Fund, which was there for just such an emergency.

There was just sufficient in the General Fund to make up the difference. The less good news is that we now have very little in our reserve funds.

Good housekeeping suggests that we should invite donations towards the cost of the boiler. Whether you are a regular worshipper or an occasional

visitor to the church, any gift you would like to make would be greatly valued.

Cheques made payable to All Saints PCC can be given or sent to Graham Bennett, PCC Treasurer, Acorns, Braishfield Road, Braishfield, Romsey, SO51 0QE. If you can Gift Aid your donation, that would be really good.

We are always grateful for the many ways in which our village community supports the parish church, both practically and financially, and we are most relieved that we have been able to replace the boiler and keep the building warm and welcoming for everyone.

Steve Pittis, Rector

Jane Bennett,

Andy Brooks, Churchwardens



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Braishfield School Update

The Brilliant Braishfield Bazaar

By The Oaks

Braishfield Primary School held its Christmas Bazaar on 24th November 2012.

It was full of excited children and it was a lovely place for adults to chat. The children had made bright colourful stockings and Christmas cards to sell. Many children lined up for Santa's grotto; the elves, who were yr 6 children, worked amazingly well in half hour shifts. There were many stalls such as stationery, hair braiding, toys, lucky dips and a fantastic raffle. The children all enjoyed the sweet stall with haribos, flying saucers and popping candy. There was delicious food like hot dogs and chilli and space to relax with a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

So make sure you come along next year; you don't want to miss out!

.....

Twist takes the limelight and

Baby Jesus is born! By The Oaks

On 13th December 2012 Braishfield Primary School held a fabulous musical production of Oliver Twist.

After many weeks of practice, it was a huge hit; the hall was packed and the audience weren't disappointed! It opened in style with a fantastic synchronised dance and everyone was brilliant from the soloists, to the actors, to the chorus. The costumes were fabulous and the show was a huge success. We even managed to squeeze in some Gangnam Style!

We left the audience, just like Oliver, saying "please can we have some more". Our thanks go to Mr Stuart, Mr Dayus Jones and Mr Puffet and the fabulous hair and makeup team.

KS 1 led a beautiful nativity and were all very talented and cute to watch! They did wonderfully well to remember their lines and songs and their parents and families were all very proud! The animals did a brilliant street dance and Mary and Joseph arrived on cue. We enjoyed all their lovely singing and hope you did too.

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Village Quiz

The annual Village Quiz on 23rd November saw a record turnout, with over a hundred villagers and friends packing the village hall.

The queue of people waiting to get in 5 minutes before the start sent one of the organisers scurrying home to print more answer sheets, but after this initial panic the quiz got underway.

The questions were greeted with the usual scratching of heads, and the answers with (mostly) good-humoured protests.

The first running round, on “animal sayings”, provoked some risqué alternatives to the official answers.

There were some spectacularly good scores for the local knowledge round, whilst the sports round was difficult. “Food and Drink” was a popular choice for playing the joker.

The final running round, cropped photos of “Celebrity body parts”, provided some surprises.

Jessica Ennis’s mouth and nose were attributed to Ed Milliband, Dame Ellen MacArthur’s eyes and hair were confused with Daniel Radcliffe’s and all twenty seven teams thought Nelson Mandela’s smile belonged to Barack Obama.

One team mistook Brad Pitt for Richard Brazier!

The quiz was won by “Revs all gone” (Mike and Tessa Allen, Richard and Rosie Groves - who were the quizmasters in 2011).

The top six teams all went into a ballot for the honour of setting Braishfield’s Quiz in 2013 and the “lucky” winners were the team “Hook, line and sinker” (Anne Edwards, Clive John, Dorothy Shore and Graham Roberts).

Many thanks go to Rebecca and Rachel Doughty for keeping the score, and to the Village Hall Committee for organising, including Terry and Margaret O’Keeffe and Meryl Balchin who ran the raffle and Jerry Metherell who collected the money.

A profit of over £400 towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund was a great result.

And thanks to everyone who took part and for supporting the quiz. See you next year!

Catherine and Colin Kennedy

Mike Edwards

Richard Brazier

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Wet weather, Watercourses and Ditches Matter

The recent very wet weather has made us all notice the state of surface water drainage in the village. Older villagers will remember Mr. Dewey who used to spend many hours and much care keeping the roadside ditches in good order.

Sadly the days when the council did this are gone. Now, as pointed out in recent letters to the Romsey Advertiser, adjacent landowners are generally responsible for them under what are called 'riparian rights and responsibilities'.

We are responsible for the ditch running from the allotments down to the war memorial and along Dummers Road and we hope to do a bit of maintenance over the winter as it has become rather overgrown in recent years.

Although we are responsible for the ditch itself, it is often the 'grips' which take the water from the roadside into the ditch which become blocked. These are still the responsibility of the council.

Braishfield lies on the edge of the chalk aquifer which runs along the whole of the South of England. Apart from the rain, there are also a lot of historical winter springs where the chalk goes under the clay basin, for example in Kiln Lane. A water diviner once identified one under our house

although we have never been aware of it.

From times past, there are a number of traditional water courses in the village to take this water away, joining the chain of ponds.

From the pond at Pond Cottages, water used to flow down the road to the village pond, then across the field to the pond at Elm Grove, as it still does.

A few years ago, in particularly heavy rain, a couple of goldfish got washed from the village pond to Elm Grove. In spite of the heron and a bounty on its head, we still occasionally see one of them.

There are some benefits in the riparian rights! From Elm Grove pond, surface water goes along a ditch to where the cricket pitch now is, then down Dummers Road to the pond at Pucknall House. From there it runs into the 'Crook Ditch' eventually going under the bottom of Crook Hill and away.

As those who venture up the footpath in the winter will know, Fernhill Woods is very wet at this time of year. Surface water has always flowed down Fernhill Lane and used to end up in the chalk pit at the bottom.

Since there is now a house whose occupant would rather not be flooded periodically, the water now continues down Church Lane, where there is no

ditch, to the village pond then continuing on its way as in the past.

On the subject of the water from Fernhill woods, there is an old bank down Fernhill Lane which keeps the water running down the lane. At times the bank has been broken down allowing water to go into the field presumably in the hope of keeping the lane drier.

Unfortunately, there is no water course in the field so no way for the water to escape and it is creating a

swamp, killing the grass, causing reeds and nettles to grow and giving the sheep bad feet.

We would be grateful if the bank could be left in place; one of the delights of country living is to walk through wet lanes after all and it never lasts for long.

Peter and Wendy Quarendon



The village pond: water receding but still covering the viewing platform

'Who are you?' - Finding our true identity

How would you define yourself as a person? What is your identity, what gives your life value and significance?

It's been said that we live in a society that has a profound identity crisis. Old values, old securities have been eroding and we feel we have 'lost our moorings'. Many feel a sense of alienation, loneliness, insecurity, even pointlessness.

So who are you? I suggest having a clear answer to that question gives security, peace and freedom.

Some confuse identity with image.

Image is what you are on the outside - what others see. The fashion world and designer labels are all about image; 'you are what you wear!' And then there is the pressure to be a certain shape or size to have the perfect image. But is image what gives us identity?

Some confuse our roles, what we do, with identity.

One sociologist has said that 'we are no more than the by-product of the things to which we are committed', i.e. the functions I fulfil define who I am. Interesting isn't it that the next question we ask of someone after 'what's your name?' is often 'what do you do?' So I'm a husband, father, clergyman, counsellor, lepidopterist, mountain-biker, etc. Many roles - but do they define who I really am? What happens when we no longer fulfil our roles? Perhaps when someone is made

redundant, or health issues restrict what they can do? Who are they then?

Some confuse fulfilling other's expectations of us with identity. A lot of people spend their lives living according to the agendas and expectations of others, hoping that by fulfilling these they will be accepted, approved of and valued. Thus their identity is found in doing what others want.

The liberating news of the Christian faith is that **our true identity is found in a relationship with God.** Jesus came to make it possible for us to know God as our Father. The Creator of the universe invites us to become his children. Once we put our trust in Jesus we are forgiven, accepted as we are and have access to God at any time and any place. We are loved more than we can ever imagine, God calls us his children and he delights in us. What's more, we have a marvellous inheritance in store - a new body free from sickness, disease, sin decay and death; a new home with God in paradise restored.

The result of knowing that my identity is defined by my relationship with God is that I have nothing to lose and nothing to prove. I can live free and serve others from the secure base of knowing that I am already loved and accepted by God. I can never earn that or pay him back. But I can live freely and give freely.

Steve Pittis

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Braishfield's 2012 Time Capsule

On December 15th 2012 in a short ceremony conducted by Mike Prince, Chairman of the Village Parish Council and David Robinson, Chairman of the Village Association, witnessed by villagers, a Time Capsule was buried close to the Village Pond.

The concept is to record, in a different way, a physical snapshot of the Village during the Queen's Jubilee Year, another historic memory.

Over the year, as we all know, we have been encouraged to contribute anything considered suitable to reflect our life here, and thus a wide variety of artefacts, documents and photos were collected and now reside several feet underground!

The thought is that at some unpredictable date in the future, hopefully at the very least 50 years away, if not hundreds, somebody will stumble upon our slice of history and, wide-eyed with excitement, bolt off to the British Museum with it!

And, as with all good plans, there is a back-up in case future residents don't play the game; the burial is lodged with Hampshire Records Office.

Whilst the Capsule itself contains a list with expanded explanations of the purpose/provenance of all the articles, they are reflected below in severe shorthand. As always, for the

'full Monty', consult the Village Website (not the Time Capsule!).



Items on display ready to load into the Time Capsule

Following a short preface describing the purpose of the Capsule and its contents, the items are then presented and described in turn:

1. A Millennium mug.
2. A Diamond Jubilee mug.
3. A copy of the book 'Braishfield Memories', produced at the Millennium.
4. Six editions of the Braishfield Village Association's 2012 News.
5. A copy of the Village Residents Guide.
6. A copy of the Village Design Statement.
7. An early draft of 'The House Archive'.
8. Signed Braishfield School photograph of children playing and the Oak Tree.
9. The Newport Inn Cricket Club 2012 fixture list, and batting and bowling statistics.

10. Braishfield Football Club Newsletter: Teams achievements/ New Pavilion.

11. Village scout and cub pack groups photo-montage.

12. Brownies information pack.

13. Pubs: WI: Christmas menu/ D&C: brochure and menus/ NI: a variety of beer mats.

14. BHS; 2012 talks programme, Annual Flower Show, and a pressed leaf from an ash tree.

15. Information about the Village Hall, taken from the village website.

16. BMADS "charter" and copy of 2012 production programme .

17. Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society and 2012 programme.

18. The Braishfield Social Contact Group; activities and a photograph.

19. Braishfield Ukulele Music Society, formed in January 2012, 'action' photo.

20. Village Lunch Club: a card, signed by those at monthly lunch on 12th Nov. 2012.

21. Village Book Club: meeting dates, list of the books read and discussed during 2012.

22. Photos of village notables: oldest/ youngest resident; Mrs Ann Bird (94) and Isaac Holland (5 months). Mr Norman Fielder (90), oldest villager *born* in the village.

23. Photos: 3 famous sporting residents; David Gower, Laurie McMenemy, John Mortimer.

24. 2012 Olympics/Paralympics, London; views/involvement from Braishfield.

25. Farm heritage: Braishfield Manor, Fishponds & Fairbournes farms - observations.

26. URC: 2012 copies of monthly magazines and Orders of Service for special events.

27. All Saints Church; annual report 2011, magazines, Orders of Service, Consecration.

28. Parish Council; photo of 'honours board', and minutes of 1st and latest meeting.

29. A photograph of the 'Braishfield Tapestry' and some explanatory notes about it.

30. A memory stick; holds a full copy of this document with acknowledgements.

31. Christmas and New Year Greetings from Braishfield 2012 to AD....?!



Villagers witness the sealing of the capsule

VILLAGE LUNCHEES 2013

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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Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 11th & 25th February, 11th & 25th March 2013

Household waste weeks beginning: 4th & 18th February, 4th & 18th March 2013

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

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From Braishfield to Wobulenzi

Another Servedirect team travelled to Uganda before Christmas, including two Braishfield residents, myself and Petra Allen. We went to cover the last two weeks of term, traditionally known as the "lousy" or "redundant" weeks locally, when the students are left to their own devices whilst teachers mark papers and finish reports. From the name it doesn't seem to be a popular time.....but, not at Wobulenzi Town Academy!

The team provided an exciting mix of extra-curricular activities including crafts, drama, science investigations, sports, IT and fine arts! All were attended by an enthusiastic mix of students enjoying the opportunity for some free-choice and a taste of something new.

In the midst of this fun the Wobulenzi staff ensured that oases of calm remained for the final O and A-level exams to take place, including Fine Art where a tethered goat stood patiently, waiting to be sketched by the truly talented art students!

Petra and I last went to Uganda in 2009 when the school was still on the old site and we were blown away by the amount that has been achieved in the last three years! Not only a completely new school on a new site,

but a largely new team of dedicated teaching staff, led by Mr Charles Opio, new science and IT facilities, a new Primary Resource Centre, a new Health Centre and a guesthouse for future teams!!

The school site is light years away from the old school that we saw in 2009, with fresh water pumped from a bore-hole, brightly painted dormitories, secure fencing, large bright classrooms and a sports area.

These and other improvements have meant that the school can now meet the government guidelines to enable it to sit O and A-level exams. The happy and hard-working students and staff were clearly enjoying the new school.

While we were there I visited the local Primary School with its attached Deaf and Disabled Unit that I last saw three years ago. The contrast between the government-provided Primary school and Wobulenzi Town Academy was shocking! The building looks derelict and there are virtually no books. The school that I work in here in the UK has been fund raising for and letter writing to them all of this time. I was greeted with such heartfelt warmth and gratitude that I have returned with a renewed commitment to continue to "do my bit", however small!

We were a mixed bag as a team, including builders, teaching staff, a retired engineer, an IT project manager, a radiographer and a graphic artist! Everyone had something different to offer. We all worked together to clear ground for a new rest area for the students and had lots of fun.

We were all deeply impressed by the achievements of the Servedirect

Team; and to think that they all come from little old Braishfield! If you are interested, have a look at their website (www.servedirect.org), visit them on Facebook or feel free to talk to one of us. It was, again, a remarkable experience.

Helena Davies.



From L to R; Petra Allen, Helena Davies, Servedirect's Elspeth Dugdale and Michelle Ball.

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Obituary - Mrs Simone Hughes

Listening to the priest at Simone's funeral in December, he described her as a beautiful person, but Simone's beauty went beyond, in that she had the quiet beauty of a soul who was beautiful within, she was also a lady.

When we were first approached to write about her, we felt it an honour to have been asked. It was also a very humbling thought because Simone has been part of this village for so long that many other people could write as much if not more than us.

It was our privilege to have been good friends of Simone and her late husband Roy for 37 years; during this time we have all laughed, had the most amazing fun, also some anxious and stressful times and shared her sadness at the death of Roy some 10 years ago.

Occasionally she would speak of incredibly bad times, which affected her family and friends during the war in occupied France. Simone's humour and strength came through it all and with her delightful French, simple gestures and shrugs which we all knew and loved so well, she would say, 'it happens that way, life has to go on'.

Indeed she did go on; she spent some of the war in Caen doing her teaching exams, got bombed out of her lodgings, then following the war went on to marry Roy in 1946, after, to use her words "he parachuted into my life in France in 1944".

Her father was unhappy that Roy wished to take his beautiful daughter away to England but Roy promised faithfully that he would bring Simone back to her family at least once a year, which he did and in 1948 Tony, the first of their two children was born.

They lived in London for a few years where Simone worked as a Seamstress

and one of her claims to fame was that she stitched rosebuds for a dress that Queen Mary was to wear. She also began to give lessons in French before the family moved to Cheam. During this time Caroline had been born, and in 1965 the family moved to Braishfield.

In 1969 she started teaching at La Sageesse, where she had to retake her exams in English, passing with Distinction. It is well known that she became a firm favourite with her pupils until her retirement in 1991. After she retired she continued to give tuition to those of us who needed a little extra help with our French diction ... patience and understanding were one of her many virtues!

Simone and Roy were instrumental for many things which were to affect the village for many years to come. Two of the most important follow:

When we arrived here in the '70's, the Braishfield Country Fair was under discussion. Roy, always backed by Simone, had this idea with the late John Saunders to stage some kind of event within the village. Simone helped to lead the support of many friends to get involved, and after several years the Braishfield Country Fair was launched and most of the village either attended or helped; it was a resounding success until the last one in 1981.

At the same time Simone, with several others, commenced feasibility studies with regards to twinning the village with another in France. She had relatives and friends from Bayeux and her cousin Jacques was the Mayor (for 27 years) in Crouay; he and the rest of the village of Crouay were as keen as Braishfield to get it off the ground.

With this in mind it caught the attention of BBC South and Simone was asked by them to find a young couple to

accompany her and Roy to Crouay so that the BBC could film the two villages, their views on the common market, twinning and on each other! That young couple was us. We accompanied Roy, Simone, BBC presenter Peter McCann and two camera men plus five rolls of film and script across the channel on a cold, wet and windy day.

The two camera men were very ill on the crossing, and Simone did her best to comfort and alleviate them of their sickness. I think they were so impressed by her charm and her soothing voice they very quickly recovered to complete the journey without further turbulence to their tums!!

The visit was incredibly funny, Simone's sense of humour prevailed throughout, in spite of the hard filming and the very late nights.

One morning two cameramen and Beth were suffering the effects of drinking very cloudy suspicious looking French cider until 3.30 am. Simone did no more than whisk us off to her sister's house, whereupon she produced the most memorable Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding (the last thing we wanted), telling us all that we would be fine after the meal. She was right!

Whilst filming, Roy and Simone told us and the BBC that the previous summer the Mayor of Crouay and Roy and Simone had planted a tree in Crouay on behalf of the two villages to symbolise the growth and long lasting strength of our friendship. However when they next made a visit to Crouay, sadly the tree had died but the stake had caught root!

By the time we all arrived in France, even the stake had died; there did not seem much to say about that and everyone was very solemn and fidgeting about in the most awkward manner until Simone's chuckles led the rest of us into helpless fits of laughter. There has since been another tree planted, but not with

such a chequered history as its predecessor!

We could go on forever, indeed everyone in the village who knew her could add more to our memories as it is not difficult to write about Simone; we all knew her, loved her, cherished her.

When Roy became ill she nursed and cared for him and was continually by his side until he died after many years of amusing, varied and interesting married life; there had never been dull moments in the Hughes household...anyone who knew Roy can imagine.

After Roy's death she moved to Romsey and spent her last years in a lovely house by the river which, to her own design, she had completely revamped and redecorated and had the garden lain exactly as she wished.

She always maintained her contact with her many friends and neighbours in Braishfield, where she had spent so much of her life.

Simone was a founder member of the Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society, only standing down from the committee in the last year or so. She delighted us all with her talents, and it was only in recent weeks through her failing health that she did not attend our meetings.

She enjoyed her church and quietly got on with her life always giving her own brand of love and care and attention to detail.

She loved her family and delighted in telling us all that she had become a great-grandmother.

Yes indeed, a beautiful lady. Goodbye Simone, Braishfield will never forget you.

Grahame and Beth Thomas

Whites Cottage

Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society

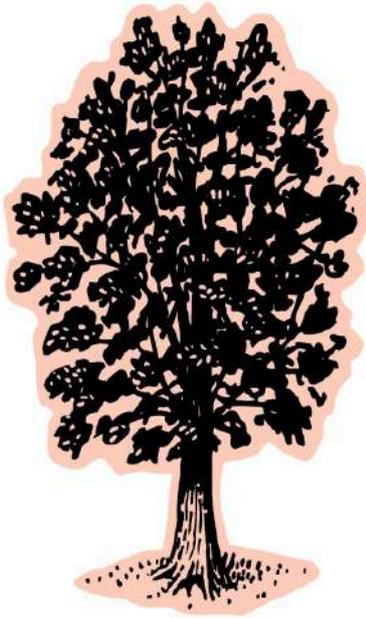
Programme 2013



Meetings held in Braishfield Village Hall 4th Thursday in the month at 7.30pm

- February 28th 'Country Living' , Emily Gordon
- March 28th Club workshop with Hot Cross Buns!
- April 25th 'Got the T-Shirt', Carole Norman
- May 23rd Title to be advised, Christine Evans
- June 27th 'Funky Festivals', Pamela Welch
- July 25th Summer Party in The Church Rooms
- September 26th 'From City to Village', Helen Gibbons
- October 24th 'It's a Gift', Ann Marie Dicker
- November 28th OPEN EVENING - 'A Carol for Christmas'
Michael Bowyer, NAFAS National
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Braishfield Horticultural Society

The year 2013 is now well under way, as I am sure everyone is aware and bringing with it the fear that the figure 13 strikes in so many people. What is it about that figure that controls the decisions of so many?

For example, orders for new cars have slumped so much that numbers of car salesmen have lost their jobs, all because people prefer to wait for that figure to change. There is, however, no need to worry about the forthcoming activities of our Society, you are in safe hands and there is much to look forward to.

We started the year by welcoming David Stuart who entertained us with a very interesting talk on the history of the Longstock Water Gardens. Anyone not present that evening missed what proved to be an excellent start to our programme.

The Gardens, which form part of the Leckford Estate, are owned by the John Lewis Group and cover some 4000 acres. David positioned his talk around 1870 when Longstock House was built, through to the creation of the Water Gardens, all shaped by manpower, there being no excavators around in those days.

Much of the produce we purchase from Waitrose comes from the Leckford Estate, but sadly it appears that they are to cease the production of apples and mushrooms; such is progress in today's world.

David's talk was well supported by excellent photography, some taken from old prints. A great start to what I am sure will be another successful year.

The next item on the programme will be a talk about "Blackthorn Winters and other Myths" and presented by Victoria Ennion, a garden designer and horticulturist. Tuesday 12th February is the date for your diaries when we trust that there will be plenty of support for quite a change of subject.

On Tuesday 12th March, following the resounding success of the first meeting, we will once again hold a Members evening. We are therefore looking for more volunteers willing to talk about somewhere they have visited, or maybe something they have done that may be of interest to their fellow Members. Around ten minutes or so is all that is required and if supported by some photographs which can be shown via our projector, so much the better. Last year's Speakers are welcome to offer again.

The Annual Flower Show may be some way off but now is the time to start thinking of some items. Providing everyone read their BVA News in December, it would have been noted that Margaret O'Keeffe had published one or two changes we have made to the Handicraft Section.

It is hoped that by knowing these details more people will be

encouraged to enter. For this reason I repeat the details as follows:

Class 80: Needlework. A hand, machine or combination sewn item; a piece of embroidery; or any item of patchwork, quilting or applique.

Class 81: A hand knitted or crocheted item.

Class 82: A hand made item of any material- for example; wood, metal, glass or pottery.

Class 83: An item of tapestry.

Class 84: A painting or drawing- any medium.

Class 85: A Tote Bag, any fabric

Class 86: The Girlie Old Cup. "Clouds". A photograph, max size 7x5 inches, titled and mounted on A4 size paper or card.

With all this advance information, perhaps we can look forward to a bumper crop of entries to the Handicraft Section. There can be no shortage of interesting shaped clouds; these days we are spoilt for choice.

Finally, payment of any outstanding subscriptions would be appreciated; we need the money. Until next time, keep smiling.

Bob Thomson,
BHS Secretary & Scribe.



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Please make cheques payable to the Braishfield Village Association.

Thank you to all those who have made a contribution this year.

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

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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

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The War Memorial



The Newport Inn

Two of several 'Then (1950s) and Now' photos forwarded by John Rhodes before his accident. Our thanks as we wish him a continued and sure recovery .

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From the Parish Council Chairman

January 2013 is now here, and as with all New Years, we look back as well as forward; back on the new friends we have made and old friends we have had to say good-bye to. We also extend a warm welcome to all those who are new in the village and hope that they will enjoy a happy life in Braishfield.

2012 was a year that many of us will never forget. In June we celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee on a recreation ground transformed into a party with marquee, stage and many gazebos and colourful tables. The entertainment and competitions were a great success and my thanks go to all who contributed and helped. The day concluded with a Barn Dance and Hog Roast in the marquee, including our Police on their rural patrol who joined us briefly for a bite and a dance.

The Village and School Oak tree in the School playground has a fungal disease and has been condemned by both HCCC and TVBC and will be felled in the future. Planted around 1900, a photo on page 37 of the Braishfield Memories shows it as a sapling in 1906. The Oak Tree will be replaced.

Abbotswood occupancy grows fast and this year should trigger the release of funds to install the new roundabout at the Jermyns Lane/Sandy Lane/Braishfield Road crossroads. The Affordable Housing Development planned for the village is still in its discussion stage with fresh proposals from TVBC awaited by the Parish Council after which village consultations will follow. Also,

Southern Water are planning to replace most of the water mains in the village during 2013 and when their plans are finalised they will be published and open to village discussion.

During the year Camilla Horton and Nick Virgo resigned from the Parish Council and I thank them for their valuable input to the Parish Council. I am pleased to welcome two new members to the Council, Beverley Murtagh and Peter White and look forward to their equally important input.

As many know, our clerk, John Rhodes, was involved in a serious car accident in September in Bunny Lane and has undergone many operations with more to come. He is recovering slowly and we wish him well and hope to have him back soon at our meetings, keeping us in order. Meanwhile, the Parish clerk from Michelmersh & Timsbury, Katie Hardy, has stepped in as clerk and my thanks go to her.

The building of the new Football Club pavilion has started on the recreation ground whilst we are finalising our discussion with the Charity Commission over the Lease; the Parish Council are the Trustees of the Recreation Ground which is controlled by Charity Rules, and the original Trust Deed that was drawn up on the 22nd November 1922.

And, on behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, may I wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2013.

Mike Prince

Chairman Braishfield Parish Council

The Village Variety Show

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th NOVEMBER

THIS YEAR

**Following the announcement in December six acts
have already signed up for this years show**

Please register your interest now

**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.**

**We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with
Musical skills to help with the production.**

Please register your interest by calling or e mailing:

Richard Brazier 368414 or rdbrazier@hotmail.com

BRAISHFIELD HAS TALENT!!

Braishfield Parish Council

As Acting Clerk for Braishfield Parish Council for the last three months, I have compiled a summary of the Parish Council's activities over that time.

Firstly, I am pleased to report that John Rhodes is recovering well after his car accident and is still keenly involved in Parish Council life. He is currently liaising with the Charities Commission in regards to the proposed Football Club's lease with the Parish Council. He is also doing a splendid job of reminding me of the most important job as Clerk - not forgetting the 50ps for the heating at the Village Hall!

John's accident was the catalyst for the Parish Council to write to Hampshire County Council Highways Department to identify if any safety measures can be adopted on Bunny Lane in a bid to prevent further road traffic accidents.

In response, Hampshire County Council Highways has agreed to place road markings on several stretches of the road and will cut back any overgrown hedgerows. HCC will continue to monitor the safety of the road in the future.

COUNCILLOR UPDATE

At October's Parish Council meeting, it was agreed unanimously to co-opt Mrs. Beverley Murtagh onto the Parish Council as a Councillor. Braishfield Parish Council now has full occupancy.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Keeping Braishfield Tidy

Councillor Clive John has purchased litter pickers on behalf of the Parish

Council. The litter pickers have been distributed to volunteers who make use of the pickers while walking the village footpaths and bridleways. If you would like to get involved with Keeping Braishfield Tidy, please email me at mtparishclerk@btinternet.com

All Saints Church

The Parish Council has agreed to make a contribution of £272.34 to the newly laid church path gravel.

War Memorial

Prior to Remembrance Sunday, the Parish Council had the War Memorial cleaned. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council at the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Playground Surfacing

The Parish Council is currently exploring various alternative playground surfaces to the bark chip currently in place. There are concerns that the bark chip wears thinly under the play equipment and retains water and dirt which in turn soils the children's clothes.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

TVBC Councillor, Martin Hatley attended January 2013's Parish Council meeting. He stated that the 'Core Strategy' will now become a 'Borough Local Plan'. He stated that the revised Local Plan will be available for Public Consultation around March/April 2013 and following various submissions and Inspector's reports, will be adopted in October 2014.

Cllr. Hatley also informed the Council that Duttons Road Council offices are now closed to the public. Public meetings will now take place at Crossfield Hall, Romsey. Any planning issues will be dealt with by the Duty Planning Officer at the Magistrates Court.

PRECEPT INCREASE

At January's meeting the Parish Council agreed to increase the 2013/14 precept by £500. The decision to increase the precept was made due to an anticipated increase in expenditure over the next twelve months as a result of necessary tree works, playground maintenance and potential legal expenses as a result of the Football Club lease. The precept has remained at £10,000 since 2008.

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

The following applications have been determined over the last three months:

12/02162/TPOS

Oak, crown lift to 5m above ground level also prune to 3m clear from building - Land Adjacent To, 5 Megana Way, Braishfield

Decision: Consent given

12/01780/LBWS

1. Lower sitting room floor 2. Valuted roof and trusses to kitchen and bedrooms (modern additions) 3. Change 3 pairs of external doors to fully glazed purpose made oak 4. Oak cladding to modern brick extensions to kitchen and bedroom Sharpes Farm, Lower Street, Braishfield

Decision: Consent given

12/02436/TREES

Fell 1 Conifer -

Meadow View, Newport Lane, Braishfield

Decision: Withdrawn

12/02128/FULLS

Renovation and conversion of Hall Place Barn

Hall Place, Eldon Road, Braishfield

Decision: Permission granted

12/02446/TREES

Fell one Birch -

1Swallowfield Cottage, Braishfield Road, Braishfield

Decision: No objection

12/02405/TREES

Fell one Oak -

Braishfield County Primary School, Common Hill Road, Braishfield

Decision: No objection

12/01617/FULLS

Demolition of existing and erection of new pavilion

Braishfield Recreation Ground, Braishfield Road, Braishfield.

Decision: Permission granted

12/01515/TREES

Wengen, Church Lane

Decision - No objection

12/01424/TREES

Boares Garden, Braishfield Road

Decision - No objection

12/01347/FULLS

Erection of Agricultural Barn, Hawkes Farm, Dores Lane

Decision - Permission granted

12/02396/TREES

Braishfield Recreation Ground, Braishfield Road

Decision - No objection

Decisions on previous planning applications are recorded in the Parish Council minutes or can be found on the Test Valley Borough or Hampshire County Council websites.

Katie Hardy, Acting Clerk

Braishfield Village Diary

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 - Special
12th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society - 'Blackthorn Winters & other Myths', Victoria Ennion, garden designer and horticulturist
27th	Wednesday	1.15-1.45	Mobile Library in Village Hall Car Park
28th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Emily Gordon – 'Country Living'

March

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 - Members evening
27th	Wednesday	1.15-1.45	Mobile Library in Village Hall Car Park
28th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Club Workshop with Hot Cross Buns!

April

1st	Monday	7.30	Five Alive Fellowship - Church Room
2nd	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
9th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society
15th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room -- All welcome
27th	Wednesday	1.15-1.45	Mobile Library in Village Hall Car Park
25th	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