



# BRAISHFIELD

## Village Association NEWS

Issue 198 April 2013



Braishfield's Inland Sea!

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](http://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
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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](mailto:mike@braishfield.org)

All items for publication must show the name, address and telephone number of the originator. Letters to the Editor should be on topics relevant to the villagers of Braishfield. The BVA attempts to deliver a copy of the Braishfield Residents Guide and the Village Design Statement to all new residents. If you have not received these publications, please contact the News Distributor on 368099.

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

Latest copy date for the next issue is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013

## From the Chairman

**W**hisper it not in Gath' as they say, but maybe we're through with winter nearly? Our daffodils are out, finally, and trees are budding. But it has been a 'proper' winter!

We've been active in objecting to the proposed change of use of the offices known as Blackthorn Close, to a residential property - a four bedroom house I believe. The grounds for our objection were that it was a condition of the permission to build the houses in Blackthorn Close, that we would have a business providing employment opportunities, and also to serve as a sound buffer between the houses and the Village Hall. As the back of the property is only a few yards away from the Village Hall entrance, there would inevitably be conflict between its occupants and the Hall. Most probably the Hall would have to impose conditions of use on any hirers (for example, leave no later than 9.00pm) which would mean that its attraction for parties, barn dances etc. would be seriously curtailed. It struggles as it is to keep itself financially viable. We could find ourselves without it! As well as a letter of objection we went to the TVBC Planning Committee to object, along with Mike Prince (Parish Council chairman) and Richard Brazier (Village Hall Committee Chairman),

and we each said our piece. As a result the councillors voted to refuse the application (against the advice of their planning officials), by 14 votes to nil. Our ward councillor Martin Hatley and county councillor Alan Dowden spoke up in support of us, as did several other councillors. Victory? Not necessarily! The decision now has to go to another body, the Planning Control committee, who will review the matter. (Presumably this is because the applicant will appeal and it will have to go to the Planning Inspectorate for a final decision, and this will involve TVBC with a cost burden). However, we'll be there to repeat our objections. If you see or hear about the date of the meeting and would like to add your own objections. please do - in writing or in person.

And finally, a note for your diaries. We're planning a family picnic and 'fun and games' day in the Recreation Ground to coincide with the annual flower show this year. It happened spontaneously a couple of years ago for the Royal Wedding, which seemed such a nice idea that we'd like to facilitate another one. And it will be followed by a barn dance in the evening, probably starting earlyish, so that parents with young children can come along with them. Older residents will be allowed in too, of course, as long as they behave themselves!!

## From the Editor

Judging by the inrush of contributions to this edition, I may be forced to set up an Editor's flood barrier shortly! I'm joking - absolutely wonderful, and please keep it coming.

I floated the idea for a Caption Competition for the cover photograph on the last magazine. No names, no pack drill, but a small selection:

- \* Small girl on left to her brother: "Go on, tell them where to stick it!"
- \* Sophie to Samuel: "Samuel, will we even remember where they buried it in 50 years time?"
- \* "NASA has denied all responsibility".
- \* "I'm tempted, but the Village Hall loo is only just up the road!
- \* Have you got the the Bomb Squad's number?"
- \* "That's a huge sheet of instructions for something with no moving parts!"

Enough trivia! I do encourage you to look through the magazine carefully.

### Braishfield 200 Club

We've had two draws so far since the last News. February's winner was Mrs A-M Devereux, and March's was Miss V Dunn. Our donations were made to All Saints Church, to help repay the cost of the central heating oil that was stolen, and in March we gave a cheque to ServeDirect, the charity in Wobulenzi in Uganda supported and largely run by Braishfield residents, and which you read about from time to time in these pages.

To join in, and help support local good causes, contact David Robinson by telephone (368774) or e mail ([davidbrobinson@talktalk.net](mailto:davidbrobinson@talktalk.net))

Next month's winner could be YOU!

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

## Letters & Notices

### **Proposed Temporary Road Closures – Various Roads, Braishfield**

**Description:** temporary closure of various roads in Braishfield to allow for the laying of a new water main. The roads subject to the closure and the extent of closure are as follows:-

Road Name	Length affected	
Dores Lane	From: Dummers Road	To: Farley Lane
Lower Street	From: Paynes Hay Road	To: Newport Lane
Braishfield Road	From: Church Lane	To: Braishfield House
Eldon Road	From: Paynes Hay Road	To: Hall Place
Church Lane	From: Braishfield Road	To: Braishfield Road
Newport Lane	From: Braishfield Road	To: Kiln Lane
Paynes Hay Road	From: Braishfield Road	To: Lower Street
Rudd Lane	From: Bunny Lane	To: Casbrook House

Alternative Routes: As signed on site.

**Duration of Order:** From 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 for a period of 12 months or until completion of the works, whichever is sooner.

**Period of Works:** It is expected a closures will be required for the periods to be signed in advance on site.

If you have any queries regarding the diversion or works please contact Mr Steve Seager on behalf for ClancyDocwra c/o Southern Water. Telephone 01962 716257. For any enquiries relating to this Notice please contact Mr Adam Smith, telephone 01264 368728 on behalf of the Head of Planning Policy & Transport Service.

### **Oil Thefts**

**Beware**, oil thieves are on the prowl. There have been at least 3 instances of theft in the village recently that I am aware of, one of which involved a member of the consortium.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HEATING OIL TANKS ARE SECURE AND REGULARLY CHECKED. The local police are more than happy to give crime prevention advice. I might soon be able to give some tips if required.

Regards,

Graham Bennett

## Letters & Notices cont.

### **BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 15 April 2013**

**7.30 pm in the Committee Room**

**ALL WELCOME**

### **BRAISHFIELD GOLF SOCIETY**

#### **Review of 2012 our inaugural year**

The formation of the Society in 2012 appears to have been justified due to the numbers who have signed up and taken part.

After a very successful first meeting at the Hampshire Club in June (previously reported upon) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. All enjoyed the day including a hearty meal and some beers to follow. Our final meeting of the year took place at Southampton Golf Course on Friday 23 November on a cold sunny day, but in very wet conditions under foot.

14 players joined in with Richard Brazier taking the overall prize (with Ed Oakley second) and Jenny Oakley winning the ladies prize in a count back from Diana Brazier.

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

#### **2013 season**

Our first meeting will be at The Hampshire Golf Club on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April and those who have not been contacted can apply by 12 April by contacting me.

**Richard Brazier**  
[rdbrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:rdbrazier@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 368414



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## Letters & Notices cont.

### Email Alerts

If you wish to receive regular alerts covering such matters as thefts in the village, suspicious vehicles, road closures etc, please let me know by email ([braishfieldclerk@braishfield.org.uk](mailto:braishfieldclerk@braishfield.org.uk)) so that I can add your address to the village mailing list.

John Rhodes, Clerk Braishfield Parish Council

### Proposed Temporary Road Closure - Part of Eldon Road, Braishfield.

**Description:** temporary closure of part of Eldon Road, Braishfield to allow BT access for overhead cable renewal and tree cutting works.

**Location:** from outside Wood Farm to a point approximately 250m north thereof.

From the northern point of closure, north on Eldon Road to its junction with Furzedown Road. South on Furzedown Road to its junction with Paynes Hay Road. West on Paynes Hay Road to its junction with Eldon Road. North on Eldon Road to the southern point of closure and in the other direction.

**Duration of Order:** From 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 for a period of 3 months or until completion of the works, whichever is sooner.

**Period of Works:** It is expected a closure will be between 09:30 and 15:30 from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Reasonable access to adjoining properties will be available while the works are carried out.

If you have any queries regarding the diversion or works please contact Kate Podsiadlo on behalf of A-Plant Lux Traffic. Tel 0370 050 0792. For any enquiries relating to this Notice please contact Mr. Adam Smith, telephone 01264 368728 on behalf of the Head of Planning Policy & Transport Service.

### Braishfield Football Club Lease

You will have seen the new pavilion rising on the Recreation Ground. The position on the new lease for this with the Football Club is that the Parish Council has jumped over all the Charity Commission hurdles and can now grant that lease to the football club using the agreement between the Club and Council.

So, although it will take a while, we can now progress with the detail of a lease. On the other hand, having picked our way through the Charity Commission minefield, we can say we are nearly there. The main points of the lease have been agreed, so construction of the new pavilion can proceed.

For those interested, all Braishfield Council's legal documents may be viewed here: <http://www.braishfield.org.uk/brlegaldocs.htm>

John Rhodes

(NB. A fuller account of this will be published in the June edition)

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Please contact me for further information

## Letters & Notices cont.

### BRAISHFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

It was agreed at the recent AGM that the charity for 2013 would be "The Don McMath Foundation". This was a project set up by Don McMaths wife in his memory 10 years ago. The project was to build a school in a village in Gambia for poor children. At first it was for 4 - 6 year olds but now has increased to 16 year olds. £60.00 a year will keep a child in school for 1 year.

Our first event will be for a coffee morning at my house at 26 Ennel Copse North Baddesley on the 4th May from 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome.

Pat Taylor



### Christian Aid Week runs from 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May

The annual village collection will take place during the national week. As in recent years, a volunteer will put a collection envelope through your door. If you would like to support the fund raising effort, you may do so in a variety of ways:

- **directly via phone:** make a payment by debit or credit card by calling 020 7523 2248.
- **online:** access via the internet address <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise>.
- **by collection:** you may wish to put a cheque or cash into the envelope provided and drop it off at one of the collection points in the village - details will be delivered with the appeal.

The United Reformed Church and All Saints' Church take it in turns to organise the collection. This year it is the turn of the United Reformed Church. A dedicated united service for the Christian Aid Week will take place at the United Reformed Church on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10am.

If anyone would like to help with delivering envelopes for the village collection this year, please get in touch with Hazel Davies on 01794 368369 or by calling at Orchard Lodge on Braishfield Road. All offers would be very much appreciated!

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## Noah's Ark: A New Start



Sunday 14 April 2013

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2 30 pm - 5pm



T Try and wear something in a rainbow colour!

MESSY ACTIVITIES CELEBRATION FEAST

Messy Church is organised by the churches in the Braishfield benefice, for families from all our parishes. Children to be accompanied by parent/carer.

For further information contact Pepe Alexander 340386 or email:  
[P.alexander386@btinternet.com](mailto:P.alexander386@btinternet.com) or Mary Savage 367908 email:  
[savage@choiceplants.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:savage@choiceplants.freeseerve.co.uk)

EVENT IS FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

## VILLAGE LUNCHES 2013

### REMINDER - APRIL VILLAGE LUNCH

This will be held on the 3rd Monday -

**MONDAY 15 APRIL 2013**

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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## Senior Citizens' Lunch

This event was started over 25 years ago. The Newport had formed a cricket team (NICC) and used to play a charity cricket match on Boxing day against the Dog and Crook; fancy dress was always the theme and I can remember watching the Worzels and Aunt Sallys on the Rec!

There was a collection before playing, and afterwards in the pubs. The money collected was presented to what was then "The Braishfield over 60s" Club. This happened for quite a years. Janet Cook and my dad, David Old, were involved from the very first year. Janet decided to put on a party at the Newport; no roast dinner then - it was sandwiches and cakes! She invited the Senior Citizens of the village, entertained them on the piano and up and down the bar. She certainly knows how to lift your spirits! From then on we held a party in all three pubs in the village, taking it in turn each year.

We didn't always hold a Christmas lunch; we have had a summer garden party, an Easter party with Bonnet parade, Harvest Supper, High tea, and a super VE day anniversary party. Then we had to change to the Village Hall in the 90s as our numbers grew. The Social Club joined us in the Millennium and made a huge difference to our funding. Some of the pubs have charity bottles on the bars and I know that they are often

filled by  
thankful  
villagers.  
There are  
still a  
few who  
go  
around



collecting  
on Boxing Day and this helps us with funding, and of course recently we have had further donations from villagers and village organisations.

And now to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January! Early in the preceding summer we booked the hall and Romsey Old Cadets as they can both get snapped up quickly, and we wouldn't want to be



disappointed. In September we had a committee meeting to decide a theme; food, rehearsals, format etc.

I won't name all the committee because I'll be in trouble if I miss anyone out! Rehearsals (more drinking and laughing than singing) started around late December though, with Janet being unwell, the usual singing round the piano didn't

happen this year; but she had a little input from her hospital bed!

The day itself starts around 10.30 when we gather at the Club to lay tables, prepare food, lay out crockery, count plates, bowls, check heating and ovens are switched on, sort out gifts, decorate etc. All the hot food is very kindly provided by the Dog and Crook, Wheatsheaf and Mr Roy Hog Roast; they do a fantastic job for us without which we would be back to sandwiches and cakes!

We are very very grateful to all three as well as The Newport for supplying lots of essentials to put on this great event; as does the Social club with the venue and beverages.

Our band of helpers form an endless list of fantastic volunteers who always turn out every year and do a tremendous job. Equally our great entertainers never fail us; Braishfield school children have been coming for about 10 years and always sing beautifully; the Romsey Old Cadets never turn us down; and this year saw the BUMS (Braishfield Ukelele Music Society!) for the first time and they were just great! Committee members and friends led us in a 'singalong', and then we finished up with the Old Cadets. Of course Rick Dorlay, our always dedicated Committee member and Compere, held it all together!

Sharon Fielding



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## Worzel Gummidge

**F**or the young, Worzel Gummidge was a scarecrow that could come to life on Scatterbrook Farm. Worzel, Jon Pertwee, spent more time trying to win the affections of Aunt Sally, Una Stubbs, than actually protecting the farm from crows.

Aunt Sally was a fairground doll who Worzel fell in love with. He also befriended John and Susan, two children who often had to cover up after him and help him get out of trouble.

Worzel had a collection of interchangeable heads; each suiting a particular occasion or allowing him to perform a certain task. More often than not Worzel's plans and adventures ended in mishap for all involved.

The main locations for filming, by Southern Television over 24 episodes in 1979/80, were the villages of Stockbridge, King's Somborne and Braishfield. The 'Scatterbrook Farm' scenes were filmed at Pucknall Farm. Many villagers were 'roped-in' as extras.

For the last year Derek Pykett has been making and editing a low budget documentary about *Worzel Gummidge* featuring members of the cast and crew.

He aims to release this in August this year and give the proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society, as one of the actors in Worzel, Michael Ripper who

played Mr Shepherd (a friend of his), suffered from the disease.

At this stage Derek is still on the lookout for new material to add to his film.

Therefore if any resident of Braishfield who may hold any unusual material from the filming of *Worzel Gummidge*, including behind the scenes photographs, cine or video camera footage of the shoot please contact me or Derek Pykett direct, [derek.pykett@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.pykett@btinternet.com). Maybe Jon Pertwee even appeared as Worzel at a Village fete.

I have already supplied him with a copy of the Kate Marshall chapter from Braishfield Memories on Worzel.

Chris Balchin (Web Editor/368427)



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**Chelsea Flower Show for Hilliers**

**M**y first introduction to the Chelsea Flower Show was in 1964, the year I joined Hilliers. Looking back, 1963 was probably the worst winter for many years preceding the 1964 show. Harold Hillier looked meticulously at all the buds on the Rhodos and Azaleas, which all appeared to be black, even to my inexperienced eye.

Although the extreme frost had rendered most of the plants unusable, Harold's diligence found enough plants to manage a show that year. I was deeply impressed at witnessing and learning about the work involved in producing stock for the greatest flower show in the country, and of course famous throughout the world.

In 1965 I was picked to go to Chelsea to assist with the staging, again learning from Harold's guidance and wisdom in placing the plants to show off the best colour and structure. More Chelsea Shows passed, still on the staging front until, still with limited knowledge, I was picked to represent the company on the exhibit as a salesman.

I remember going to the great marquee that first morning, and the overpowering scent from the exhibitors displays (Carters, Slococks and others) left an everlasting impression; and when the gates opened, my only hope was to be given an order, as opposed to questions, by the owners of the

bowler hats and rolled umbrellas who filled the arena! I came through unscathed, mainly due to other salesmen's assistance and knowledge. Many sadly have now passed on but they became truly great friends and colleagues and we had some memorable times at Chelsea.

After the particular loss of Martin Drew, who had for years been 'Show Manager', I took on the job of preparing the plants for the show. In recent years, the design of the exhibits by Andy McIndoe has provided new perspectives in structural and colour presentation. The challenge of preparing some 3500 plants obviously requires considerable help, and I have been fortunate to have some patient and understanding work colleagues; perhaps the most patient and understanding is my wife!

I'm often asked if all the plants get to Chelsea or do we have any failures? Inevitably 'no' and 'yes'. For whatever reason, flowers will sometimes be below standard - foliage condition, insufficient buds and so on; but no one gets to know about the failures except for me! I remember bringing some flowering Cherries out of the cold store ready for the show one year. The temperature was in the high 70s. They were loaded and set off for London.

Unfortunately a hold-up on the M3 created the ideal environment for bringing the Cherries into flower, and consequently we had a wonderful

showing of flowering Cherries a week early on the Embankment. I'm sure



they enjoyed their day out, but they had to turn round and go home!

As Chelsea 2013 approaches the show still holds the same deep attraction

for me as it has done over the last 40 years.

Perhaps even more now that I have learnt over the years that for all the heated glass houses, cold storage, poly-tunnels and manufactured environments, it is always best to work with Mother Nature if you can; she will usually grant you that bit of help when you need it, and deliver a Gold Medal!

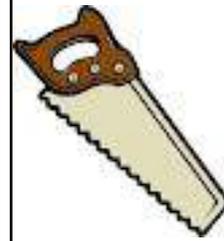
So to all who visit or exhibit in the future, I hope you enjoy the Chelsea Flower Show as much as I have over the years.

Ricky Dorlay

## **Braishfield Church Yard Tidy Up**

We are going to sort out the greenery along Church Lane on **Saturday 13th April from 9.30am** – it's very overgrown!

Loppers and small saws will be useful tools



Other tidying tasks can be done if enough people can come to help



Jane and Maggie's famous bacon butties will be served mid-morning!

Please come and lend a hand – you will be very welcome!

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## Farewell to Chris Götting

Our Braishfield and Michelmersh resident violin-maker, Christoph Götting, who organised the highly successful Quartet Concert at the Church Room last October, is sad to inform us that he will leave our village in June this year. He will return to his roots in Germany after 44 years in England. Christoph said that he is not retiring - but as he gets older he feels a need to be nearer to his family.

After an apprenticeship in violin-making in Bavaria, Christoph came to London in 1969 to start work with a famous violin dealing and restoring company called J and A Beare. He thought he would stay maybe 3 years or so, but restoration work in London was so educational, exciting and well rewarded that he continued to work with this company for 21 years. And then he moved to Hampshire and set up his workshop in an old granary in Michelmersh which is part of Old Michelmersh Farm Trust in Church Road. But first he had to refurbish the building and, although assisted by experts for some of the work, he largely completed the considerable rebuild himself.

About three years ago, Christoph started employing a highly-qualified craftsman from Germany, Bernd Ellinger, to help establish the business further. They work very well as a team and will continue to work together in Germany. Many new ideas are being tried to improve even further the sound of their instruments: currently they are experimenting to achieve faster wood ageing with the help of a company which specialises in gamma irradiation. A detailed study of the effects of this process on different woods is being carried out by Bernd.

Before Bernd joined him, Christoph had spent countless hours over 5 years at the granary, experimenting on varnish. He wanted to understand the reason why all stringed instruments after about 1780 to the present time were covered with an inferior varnish to that of their earlier forebears. Christoph's previous restoration work had given him ample opportunity to study the old substances on many famous and precious antique instruments during his London years. He found that it was not magic or secret ingredients that were the reason for this decline, but merely that the methodology of making the varnish was lost over the centuries.

After a number of famous old makers died in and around Cremona (where many of the best instruments were made between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), local chemists were not asked for their highly complex varnishes any longer and the recipe was sadly lost. Later violin makers probably thought that their simpler "modern" boiled oil varnishes were better at protecting the instruments because they resulted in a tough and durable finish. However, when the original recipe was lost, the sound quality of violins declined and the "golden age" of violin making in Italy came to an end.

Christoph believes that the early varnishes were not made "in house" by the violin-makers themselves. It is easy these days to put a Bunsen burner under a flask to keep it at a constant high temperature. In the old days chemists - or, indeed, alchemists - had brick ovens with charcoal fires which needed to be fanned to the correct temperature, and for this a highly sophisticated technique was required. Also, ovens, glassware and chemicals were needed to make the varnishes, and this was the province of

experts in early chemical laboratories, not of violin-makers. Christoph is now convinced he has as good as recreated the ancient varnish recipe. He has already coated a number of violins with it. But a large part of the success of the old Italian makers was not only their varnish but their “ground”, a protective layer put on the wood underneath the varnish. The “ground” of the best old Italian violins has a nearly unbelievable reflection. This makes the varnish above it appear to “glow”! Both Bernd and Christoph are currently working on this important detail and some stunning results have already been achieved.

They are certain that their instruments will not only continue to receive the highest acclaim from musicians for their exceptional sound but also that their instruments are outstanding long-term investments. Prices have doubled in the last 20 years, and the few customers who have sold their instruments on have been happy with the prices achieved. Indeed, two instrument-lending

foundations, one in Germany and one in London, have already invested in Gotting violins from Michelmersh.

Christoph will be sorry to leave this lovely part of Hampshire and will miss the many friends and acquaintances he has met over the years. He wishes them well and leaves them with sadness. However, the concerts at the Church Room might well continue under the organisation of David Munro, a close friend and violin-making colleague of Christoph's. And Christoph will, of course, always be contactable via his website, [www.gottingviolins.co.uk](http://www.gottingviolins.co.uk)



## Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society 30 Years Celebration

Thirty years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1983, Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society held its inaugural meeting in the Village Hall. There were 36 people present at that meeting, some of whom still attend our meetings today. The original minutes make interesting reading. The subscriptions were to be £6 with visitors paying £1 a visit (maximum 3 visits!), the Secretary would buy the tea, coffee, sugar and coffee whitener and the members would take it in turns to buy the biscuits! Very little has changed really except we no longer buy coffee whitener and the Society provides the biscuits!

I'm sure some of those original members would be very gratified to see that the Society is still going strong with a growing membership and, as a member of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies), we are able to enjoy top class demonstrations at our monthly meetings and, when the flower arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening it is always an added bonus.

We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in January with a party in the Village Hall. Our Chairman, Denise Bright can be seen cutting our celebration cake which was made by Hazel Prince, one of our members.



Whilst we are probably one of the smallest NAFAS clubs in the UK, we do have the reputation for giving the biggest welcome to both our demonstrators and members. We meet on the fourth Thursday in the month at Braishfield Village Hall and new members are always welcome. For more information please contact Denise Bright on 02380 741299 or Eileen Norman on 02380 731162.

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## Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

As I write this, one of the pet sheep, currently living in the field in front of the house with the other pet sheep, is standing with her head resting on the railings by the drive looking with longing at the rams in the field on the other side of the drive. She spends hours doing this, and sometimes doesn't even bother to go and get the extra feed that Kate puts out for them each morning. Wonderful!

The rams seem like 3 nice chaps ; last year there was a lot of arguing and one died of its injuries but this threesome seem calm and gently interested in what goes on around them since they came out of the fields with the ewes, and are probably enjoying the hero worship from the other side of the track.

The pet sheep are a group of 4 that Kate has kept for various reasons over the years. One is called Olly; he and his sister Dolly were a pair that Polly Lalonde looked after when they were orphaned. Dolly died a few years ago, Polly moved away from the village when her Grandfather Andrew's house was sold, so there is only Olly left.

He has a charmed existence - Kate thinks he is nearly 15 years old - everything provided; feet and bottom kept clean and the pleasant company of the other pets! He is very arthritic but still has character and seems to enjoy life. Last Saturday afternoon I noticed sheep loose in the yard. Oh dear! I put hurdles across the

opening so they couldn't get out and assessed the situation. I realised they were the pet sheep, who had escaped from the field in front of the house and in through our open gate. They had obviously looked through the gate and rubbed against it releasing the catch (I can only open it with difficulty).

They had then walked out and thankfully turned left towards the house and yard. They could so easily have gone into the pit or, much



worse, turned towards the road ; Kate and Ian were out, so I suppose I'd have invoked the motto 'When in doubt

rattle a bucket of sheep nuts'- they'll follow that anywhere!

These will probably be the last pet sheep that Kate keeps; they need grazing, take valuable grass from the rest of the flock, and have to have their problems treated the same as the others. The trouble is that we have all got used to them being there.

By the time of the next News, lambing will probably be over; it is difficult to imagine sunny, green, bird filled days with lambs jumping about, but nature is nothing if not wonderful and it is guaranteed!

Wendy Quarendon

## BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

### Weekly Events

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Wednesday Nights - Zumba 6.30pm

Saturday Nights - Meat Draw

Sunday Nights - Bingo

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### Forthcoming Events

- Quiz Nights held fortnightly on Friday Nights
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## Obituary - Stephen Mark Kemp 15.06.66 - 20.01.13

Stephen was born in Sheffield in 1966 to Victoria and Alan. He was the elder of two boys. He spent all of his childhood in Sheffield, starting work at the age of eighteen for The Royal Bank of Scotland. Then, at the age of twenty two, he met Julie during a holiday to Ibiza and a long distance relationship began. In 1991, Stephen started working in London, commuting from the new home that he and Julie had bought together in Horton Heath, Southampton; many an hour spent renovating the old cottage into a habitable dwelling!

In June 1993, Stephen and Julie were married on the Isle of Wight and spent an adventurous honeymoon touring Kenya. And, during their early marriage, Stephen enjoyed walking, travelling and sailing, having twice taken part in the Fastnet Race and the Americas cup. He also enjoyed being a bit of a daredevil with the lads, and even had a weekend in St. Moritz taking part in the Cresta Run.

In 1994, Stephen started working for Coutts and Co. He loved his job and thrived on the social networking required. He was a highly competitive, ambitious and motivated banker and was extremely well thought of by both colleagues and clients. In 2001, Stephen, Julie and Samuel moved into Braishfield, followed two years later by the arrival of Joseph. During his time in

Braishfield, Stephen was actively involved in village life. He was a school governor, belonged to the mowers group and was a keen participant in the Friday night Newport club! He also organised several well attended 'dos' at the Wheatsheaf.

With the arrival of the boys, the sailing began to take a back seat, but Stephen still enjoyed walking, developing a life long passion for the scenery and people of Slovenia. Many a holiday was spent exploring every inch of that beautiful country. As only a Yorkshire man would say " It's just like Austria, only cheaper! "

Having had health issues since 2007, it became apparent in November 2011 that Stephen was never going to be cured of the cancer that had taken hold of him. However, never did he complain or feel sorry for himself and stayed positive to the very end. He managed to attend the Braishfield Jubilee celebration and enjoyed a final holiday with Julie and the boys to CenterParcs.

Stephen passed away at Countess Mountbatten Hospice on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 aged just 46 years.

*(I would like to thank all my neighbours and many villagers who have been so kind and supportive - the boys and I are extremely grateful for all your help. Julie)*



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## Obituary - Magdalen Sleeman

Magdalen was born in London on 2nd March 1925, the daughter of Capt George Eyston, who was a professional racing driver, who raced at Brooklands and Le Mans. He also held the World Land Speed Record three times in the 1930's with speeds from 305 to 357 mph beating Sir Malcolm Campbell's 300 mph . He designed the record car himself and it was powered by two Rolls Royce Spitfire engines, one of which also held the airspeed record.

In 1951 she married Alan Hood, who worked in advertising, and they lived in London, but sadly Alan died of leukaemia in 1957 and she went to live with her parents, who had retired and moved to Winchester. She then married Brigadier John Sleeman in 1961 and they had one son, William born in 1962. They moved to Braishfield House in January 1963. John died suddenly in July 1971 and Magdalen remained at Braishfield

until 1994 when she moved to Cherville Street in Romsey. She returned to live at Stable Cottage, Braishfield House in 2008 where she remained until her death on 23rd January 2013 aged 87.

Magdalen was chairman of the Braishfield Women's Institute and served two terms as the District Councillor for Braishfield & Ampfield in the 1970's and 1980's. She was also active in the Hampshire St John's Ambulance, Red Cross, WRVS, Meals on Wheels and was chairman of the Romsey & Waterside Conservative Association. One of her main hobbies was the breeding and showing of donkeys and she had great success at the local shows such as Romsey, Ringwood and New Forest Shows, but she also travelled further afield and won classes at the Royal Show, Stoneleigh and the National Donkey Championship Show.

William Sleeman

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## Obituary - Maurice Buxton

An Old Etonian, a winning Cambridge Blue, aviator, mountaineer, soldier, banker, yachtsman, photographer, generous friend and companion; that was Maurice; and much, much more. The first sketch is of Maurice the schoolboy. There he stands, nonchalant beside the aeroplane chartered by Ludovic Kennedy to fly a group of friends to Le Touquet for lunch.

I expect they were less nonchalant when the pilot announced his doubts about flying back. Only then did they admit they were still at school and had to be back for Absence. Happily the pilot defied the weather and they made it. While at school, Maurice stroked the Eight in 1937 and 1938, going down in the semi-finals of the Ladies Plate at Henley to powerful University crews.

He won School Sculling twice and was said to be the most stylish young oarsman of his generation. Others might have had their heads turned by such early success, but not Maurice. He remained throughout his whole life a man without conceit. He greeted all as friends and he was loved universally in exchange. We cannot leave the active rowing scene yet, as Maurice stepped, unusually for a freshman, straight into the Cambridge crew of 1939.

Against strong odds, they demolished Oxford by 4 lengths, denying the Dark Blues a hat trick. Light Blue was Maurice's family colour, through and through; many will know that Maurice's father and his uncle, both awarded MCs, won the pairs in the 1919 Peace Regatta and rowed together for the Cambridge Service crew in the King's Cup.

Because of the War, Maurice's only appearance in a Grand Crew at Henley was at bow for Leander in 1939. War was looming when he learned to fly at

Eastleigh (then a grass strip) for the princely sum of 2s 6d an hour.

The government had sponsored a scheme founded in July 1938 called The Civil Air Guard whereby civilians could train as pilots to assist the Royal Air Force in times of emergency. He was one of the first to apply and to gain his pilot's licence there. When he went up to Cambridge he continued to rack up his flying hours at Marshall's, wearing prescription goggles.

To his chagrin, the Royal Air Force refused him, because his goggles might break; since the windscreen would probably go first, that seemed to him a minor consideration. Nevertheless, the Air Force's loss took him into his beloved Coldstream Guards. In the Guards Armoured Division, he was one of the brave young tank commanders advancing through the Normandy bocage. They faced powerful German firepower, well concealed in thick, leafy cover.

Sadly, many of Maurice's friends were in tanks that "brewed up", a laconic expression of the time that does not conceal the tragic fate of those trapped inside. Maurice spoke of standing in the Falaise Gap after the devastating defeat of retreating German forces. He saw endless vehicles with their drivers and passengers unmarked, but killed instantly by air blast.

Maurice's wife Sue has provided some genuine 'military speak' from the Regimental Adjutant: *Maurice was granted an emergency commission in the Coldstream Guards in May 1940 and posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion on its formation that year. It was poorly equipped, only with rifles and 5 commandeered vehicles, with the task of defending HQ Fighter Command. He trained as a signals instructor at*

*Elstree. In Nov 42 he was posted to the West Country and converted to Churchill tanks. In Jun 44 the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn landed on Juno beach. Nov 44 posted to 1<sup>st</sup> Bn where he took part in the taking of Hill 309 on Jul 31<sup>st</sup>. The German Army launched a massive counter attack, which lasted all day and was eventually beaten back. Had the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn not held the Hill, it would have delayed the whole Allied advance. The Germans called the Brigade, of which the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn was part, "Churchill's Butchers". He saw heavy action with the Bn in Feb in appalling weather conditions and again in Mar 1945, where they had to clear German resistance from a number of farms in the forest of Bonninghardt.*

*On 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1945 Maurice was posted to the staff of 5<sup>th</sup> Guards Armoured Brigade as Staff Capt "Q". He remained on the staff in various capacities until discharge in Jul 1946".*

So that was a clipped account of Maurice's active war in which he also included bomb disposal in his astonishingly varied accomplishments; Sue says that, for a man who fumbled for ages to wire a plug, Maurice's escape from bomb disposal was little short of a miracle! His first posting after Sandhurst and the Guards Depot was a privileged one, to Chequers, bivouacking in the park in a detachment to guard the Prime Minister. They were forbidden from wearing boots while patrolling, especially on the terrace lest Churchill be disturbed from his afternoon nap, and wore plimsolls at all times. The young officers were often invited in to lunch by Mrs Churchill and he met many of the War Cabinet and other distinguished guests. Fortunately, the well-deserved fruits of victory were Maurice's to enjoy and few were better able to manage the business of enjoyment.

He did not return to Cambridge to complete his degree but joined Barclays Bank instead. A spell in Reading brought

him conveniently near to Leander, where he served outstandingly as Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, and then as the Club's first Chairman. It was a time of great change and Maurice's contribution to stability and continuity cannot be overstated. Maurice was elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in December 1959, delighted to join many good friends.

His service as an exemplary Timekeeper in 'Launch One' lasted until the 2008 Regatta. That sounds rather flat here, but Maurice always made the very best of Henley. The picnics that he and Sue laid on in the Stewards' car park were legendary - hospitality and good fellowship more associated with an earlier age.

His career with Barclays took him all over the country from Liverpool to Lewes as the young post war entrants gained accelerated experience so that those who had held the fort during the war, now in their 70s, could retire. And there was a spell with Barclays DCO in South Africa. Those were the days when bankers knew their customers well and Local Directors regularly visited the branches in their districts to oversee the accounts.

When posted to Head Office in Lombard Street in addition to his normal banking duties and taking his turn dealing with the money brokers he was put in charge of creating an extensive wine cellar for the Directors' Dining Rooms, a task very much to his taste. When the cellar was sold after Big Bang brought in the concept of a "dry ship" the carefully chosen cellar turned a spectacular profit at auction.

In those days, one director was obliged to sit in the bank on Saturday mornings. Maurice split the duty with a chum, one taking the shooting season off, the other free in the summer. Now Maurice the yachtsman. He and Sue spent many happy days in their boat in the Solent before his retirement in 1981

and later in the Mediterranean, and Maurice became, and remained until his death, a very active member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. He was a strong supporter of physical changes at The Castle. He enjoyed both the Squadron and Household Brigade Yacht Club dinners there to the full, and the Winter Dinners in London, often conveying less mobile members to them.

He was also a man of the quietest courage. On a Squadron trip to the Bordeaux vineyards only a short time ago, he suffered a crashing fall in a rickety shower. The damage would have had lesser men in hospital, but not Maurice. It was only a concerted effort that persuaded him to surrender his car's wheel to Sue for the drive back to Cherbourg.

That was, of course, absolutely nothing to the bravery with which he faced his final immobility and illness. Maurice was blessed with two very happy marriages. Many of those present today will remember Alison and the

sheer pleasure she generated amongst their friends around Henley. She was looked after wonderfully in her final years by Maurice and Sue, as well as her friends closer by. Then of course Sue brought Maurice great joy, just as she derived immense happiness from him. They were a devoted couple, the most generous of hosts and a combined light wherever they went.

Maurice cannot be forgotten. He was an English sporting gentleman to his fingertips. He has chosen to lie looking across to Temple Island and the start of the Henley course in Remenham Churchyard among good friends, whose headstones read like a roll call of Leander heroes. Maurice will take his rightful rest with them, in sight and sound of the river that he loved and graced so well.

*This is taken from the Address given at his Funeral on March 6<sup>th</sup> by his great friend George Brown.*

## Braishfield Horticultural Society

In February we welcomed Victoria Ennion as our Speaker and enjoyed a thoroughly interesting and entertaining talk on the subject of Blackthorn Winters and Other Myths. Victoria is a very accomplished speaker with wide knowledge of the subject and great humour! Her excellent supporting photographs included a variety of slugs; surprisingly she seemed quite happy to tolerate the large ones as, according to her, the smaller ones were much harder to control. We would be very pleased to welcome Victoria again as she does cover many other subjects as well.

March brought the occasion when some of our Members take to the floor; and once again proved that we have much talent within our group. The first presentation was a wonderful slide show which Dorothy and Ian Ross brought along, taken during a stay at Brossington Hall. The spectacular show, was presented by Dorothy and accompanied by a musical background. The gardens were started in 1953 by Alan Bloom. Our thanks go to Dorothy and Ian for a great start to the evening.

Viv Robinson entertained us next with a brilliant show of photographs, taken in the Butchart Gardens, when she and husband, David, were on holiday on Vancouver Island. The gardens were started in 1900 by Mrs Butchart, after importing topsoil to cover what had been a lime quarry used to supply her husband's cement business. The gardens mainly consist of annuals, of which about 1000,000

are planted each year. There are Japanese and Italian gardens together with many sculptures to be seen. Many thanks, Viv, for another great contribution.

Next to step up was new Member, Liz Holden, with film taken during the construction of her garden at her previous home in Staines and on the banks of the River Thames. It all began in 2003 and during what appeared to be foul weather. It has to be said that it was a major operation culminating in planting in what can only be described as a sea of mud. The result, though, was that by 2005, after only two years, there was a really beautiful garden that could well have been established for years. Congratulations Liz and thank you for your input.

Our final contributor was Steve Renvoize, talking on Bamboos. Well supported by many photographs taken within the Bambouseriae, in France, many of the species shown grow to an amazing 20 metres in length and in some countries, such as China, are used as scaffolding. Some of these specimens can be seen growing in the Hillier Gardens. Thank you Steve for your contribution to what has been another successful and interesting meeting which was without doubt enjoyed by everyone present.

A couple of dates for your diaries. On Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>, our Speakers will be Kester and Chris Wastcott on the subject of Woodland Management and Charcoal making. And on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May Brian Madders will be with



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us again to talk about Chrysanthemums. And April, of course, is when we hold the Spring Show. Please do your best to enter something. Do not worry about the winning, just make an entry or two to make a success of the Show. The Schedule is as follows: 1) 9 Blooms of cut Daffodils, no less than 3 different cultivars. 2) 5 Pansies in a small container. 3) 5 Stems of Flowers other than Daffodils or Shrubs. 4) 1 Stem of Flowering Shrub or Tree. 5) A Flower Arrangement in a Tea Cup.

Following the success of the Open Garden Day in 2012, we are planning to repeat the process again this year, but a little earlier. Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> is the chosen date and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone in the Village, willing to share their garden with other Villagers on the

day. This is purely a village affair. We will also be arranging one or two of the usual outside visits and supper venues, the details of which will be announced later.

Finally, a plug for the Annual Flower Show. Once again we will be grateful to receive offers of books, CD's and DVD's for the Book Stall. There will, of course be a Plant and Produce Stall again.

Maybe whilst planting out in the kitchen garden, you could add a few extra plants for the Show. Likewise, in the kitchen, produce that extra cake or pot of jam. All these sales go towards the Society funds.

Until next time, keep smiling amidst the raindrops.

Bob Thomson,  
BHS Secretary & Scribe.



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We would like to thank all those who donated toward the cost of the Braishfield News last year. We hope that the content of the News makes good village reading and keeps you up to date with events. We do not run it on a subscription basis but we obviously incur costs to publish. We would welcome any support you can give to keep the News viable during 2013 and we would like to thank those who have already helped us this year. If you wish to make a donation please complete this slip and forward it to the address below and please make cheques payable to Braishfield Village Association.

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Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (2pm - 4pm)

Braishfield Recreational Ground

To include 2 fresh scones, jam, clotted cream and bottomless tea cups!

Just £5 per head in aid of Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

Entry by ticket only (Reserve your place now)

Provision has been made for wet weather so event will still go ahead

Music by the Braishfield "BUMS" Ukulele Band

To buy your tickets, please telephone Wendy Jeffery on 01794 367282 (after 6pm)

## Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society

Programme 2013



Meetings held in Braishfield Village Hall  
 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month at 7.30pm

- April 25<sup>th</sup> 'Got the T-Shirt', Carole Norman
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Title to be advised, Christine Evans
- June 27<sup>th</sup> 'Funky Festivals', Pamela Welch
- July 25<sup>th</sup> Summer Party in The Church Rooms
- September 26<sup>th</sup> 'From City to Village', Helen Gibbons
- October 24<sup>th</sup> 'It's a Gift', Ann Marie Dicker
- November 28<sup>th</sup> OPEN EVENING - 'A Carol for Christmas'  
 Michael Bowyer, NAFAS National Demonstrator

Further information available from Denise Bright 02380 741299 or Eileen Norman 02380 731162



## I D Knight

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## Braishfield Horticultural Society

### Open Gardens Day - Sunday 21 July 2013

After the success of the village Open Gardens Day last year we have decided to repeat the event this year. However, the date has been brought forward in order that we may enjoy the gardens at a time when they will be looking their best. The final selection for the day has not been decided so if you would like your garden to be included please get in touch with me. Remember, this is an event for the whole village and an invitation for you to share your garden with your neighbours and fellow villagers.

Steve Renvoize - Chairman, Braishfield Horticultural Society  
phone 368 766 e-mail [stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com](mailto:stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com)

### Southern Water's metering programme

I am writing to let you know that Southern Water will soon be installing water meters in your area as part of a five year work programme across the South East. Under the programme, we are installing more than 500,000 water meters in Hampshire, Sussex and Kent by 2015 to help secure water resources for the future. This is alongside tackling leakage and developing new resources. Water resources in the South East are under pressure and our region is classified as one of 'serious water stress' by the Government. We are introducing metering as households on a water meter tend to use 10 per cent less. Together with the majority of our customers, we also believe that households paying for the water they use is the fairest way to charge. In addition, it puts our customers in control of their bills. The new meters we are installing are 'intelligent' and are equipped with leak alarms which will help us, as a company, detect leaks on supply pipes and inside properties, as well as on our own mains network. Since the metering programme began in late 2010, more than 200,000 meters have been installed across Southern Water's area of operation

**In your area we plan to install meters in the postcode zone indicated below during March and April 2013.**

Postcode sector	Installations planned from:
SO51 0 (Braishfield)	March 2013

#### How the programme works

Southern Water will contact customers before their meters are fitted. Installation is free and in most cases the meter will be fitted in the public footpath outside a property so there is no need to enter customers' homes. Customers will be provided with lots of written information about their meter and metered bill, as well as easy ways in which they can save water, energy and money. You can also call our Metering Customer Contact Centre on 0333 2003 013 to find out more.

Our dedicated website is: [www.southernwater.co.uk/metering](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/metering).

We would be happy to provide any further information you may require. Please do not hesitate to contact Mark Walker on 01732 375409.

## Western Country Watch News

Colleagues,

I have previously highlighted reports being received of a male flagging down motorists. He states he has run out of fuel and needs some cash. Usually a gold ring is offered as a trade. Two further reports have been received this week of similar incidents in Lymington and on the A35. Please report any similar incidents to the Police and do not hand over any cash.

On Thursday I met with a representative from Hampshire and Isle Of Wight Air Ambulance to discuss rural equine safety. Two main messages; firstly, please wear something bright whilst riding your horse. If you fall off and require assistance from the Air Ambulance, you will need to be seen as easily as possible during a search. Secondly, consider attaching a dog tag to your saddle with your phone number or your stables phone number. If you become separated from your horse and we manage to catch it, we will be able to phone the number to check whether you are safe and well.

Louise, Sergeant 483 Hubble.

Visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk) or call 101

## Braishfield Village Hall

Flexible space available for social and sporting activities, clubs and groups at reasonable rates.

Email [katel.knight@googlemail.com](mailto:katel.knight@googlemail.com)

Tel: 01794 368173

**Special Rates for Children's Parties!**

## Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May

Household waste weeks beginning: 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May

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

**Bank Holiday weeks: 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May, collections will be a day later than normal.**

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# Braishfield Village Diary

## April

2nd	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
5th	Friday	10.30 – 11.00	Police Surgery – Village Hall Car Park
8th	Monday	7.30	Five Alive Fellowship - Church Room
9th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society Kester & Chris Wascott – Woodland Management
15th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome (nb this 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)
15th	Monday	7.30	Village Hall AGM
24th	Wednesday	1.15-1.45	Mobile Library in Village Hall Car Park
25th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Carole Norman – 'Got the T-Shirt'

## May

7th	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
13th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome
13th	Monday	7.30	Five Alive Fellowship - Church Room
14th	Tuesday	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society Bryan Madders - Chrysanthemums
22nd	Wednesday	1.15-1.45	Mobile Library in Village Hall Car Park
23rd	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Christine Evans – Have pot – will travel

## June

4th	Tuesday	7.00	Braishfield Parish Council
9th	Sunday	2-4pm	Air Ambulance Cream Tea Marquee on Recreation Ground
10th	Monday	12.00	Village Lunch in Church Room – All welcome
27th	Thursday	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society Pamela Welch – Funky Festivals

## 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 numbers.  
Details to the BVA News Editor or Web Editor if you would like dates of forthcoming events to be published.