



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 221 February 2017



***Don't miss the Village Memories evening in March!
See page 25***

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

Braishfield Village Association

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Editor's Notes

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Written items for the 'News' should be sent to:-
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Copy may be written, typed or sent 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

If you would like to join the village network, email:
network@braishfield.org

Latest copy date for the next issue is: March 20th 2017

From the Chairman

Happy New Year.

We ended last year with our Christmas sing along. Dozens of village children visited Santa and left with a small present. The rest of us had to make do with mulled wine, mince pies and hot dogs and all joined in the singing to the accompaniment of the BUMS.

2017 got off to an excellent start with the annual New Year's walk organised by Michael Stubbs, followed by our AGM on Jan 19th. The reports and minutes are now on the web. In addition to reporting on the activities of the year I gave an overview of our objectives for 2017.

Mobile phone coverage in Braishfield is at best patchy and many of us know which part of the garden we must stand in to get a signal. The Parish Council is considering asking one of the network providers to install a mast on parish owned land and there is possibility of a second site.

Broadband coverage is not much better. OpenReach has been working to upgrade the boxes in our village and, for many of you, broadband rates have improved. However, the improvement has not been seen in every part of the village and we need to press for more investment and new solutions. To do that the BVA needs to know what coverage each of us has - particularly who has poor coverage, and we have asked all on the village network to let us know their max download data rates.

Please help - give Chris Balchin the information and, if you are not currently on the network, please join. Contact: webeditor@braishfield.org

The other major issue facing us is how to deal with the seemingly endless proposals for developments on all sides of our village. To the north repeated attempts to build on the outskirts of Kings Somborne, if approved, will generate considerable extra traffic in the country lane between Kings Somborne and Braishfield. In outer Romsey, Abbotswood and Abbotsford creep further and further towards our parish boundary and we are in danger of losing any pretence of being a separate settlement. We must not be NIMBYs but on the other hand we should not stand by and watch the character of our village being destroyed. We will continue via the network to keep you informed of developments that threaten our village.

Disappointingly we have had a setback in the construction of the footpath down Crook Hill to the Dog and Crook. Start of the work is linked to the closure of the footpath 712 from Crook Hill to the back of Hilliers, and there have been further objections to its planned closure. I am sure that the matter will be resolved but in the meantime and until the footpath is constructed parents are strongly advised to make sure that their children who use that route on their way home in the dark take particular care.

From the Editor

I had thought to sound off at some cynical length on the subject of Trump and Putin. But after the exhausting, and continuing, exposure over January of just about every angle on that subject, I decided that you, like me, had endured enough! Instead I will highlight the achievements of our many organisations within Braishfield.

This comes 'as writ' in the magazine (please read every article, but don't assume any precedence; every charitable success or aspiration including our Pantry stands firmly on its own feet!)

Let's start with the URC's astonishing achievement last year of raising £2,301 for the Jumbalance Trust (p10 &11). Then the 200 Club (p12), generated £3420 which, after due adjustment for prizes and minor costs, still allowed £2040 to go towards the two Churches, and a wide range of local charities. Thence to the Art Exhibition & Christmas Tree Festival (p14,15 & 24) which raised over £1800, the most ever, to be shared between All Saints' Church and the chosen charity PLANETS.

During December the Braishfield Flower Club ran a market stall in Romsey, raising money to support

their untiring efforts to sustain their invaluable Club. The BUMS (Ah yes! The BUMS!) raised some £700 towards their chosen charity, Jane Scarth House. The Pantry goes from strength to strength (p13) -the award received for best independent shop at November's Hants Life Food & Drinks was a huge accolade to all involved. 3rd Romsey Scouts are raising money towards funding a primary school in Tanzania (p22). And finally our Primary School, through their 'Bavarian Market,' raised over £800 towards their School funds (p28). I'll leave you to do the sums but, for our relatively small village, these are remarkable achievements. On that score, I draw your attention to the Chairman's piece; in essence, whatever happens in the business of crude and inconsiderate planning or development, we must retain our identity and independence!

In local terms, Sue and I have only lived here for a 'Braishfield Blink!' But in that very short time we have found ourselves welcomed into a wonderfully vibrant, creative, generous, supportive and delightful community. We could not have fallen into better company! Let's keep it so.

Braishfield Village Hall

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

katel.knight@googlemail.com

Tel: 01794 368173

Special Rates for Children's Parties

Donations to Braishfield Village News

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 2017. 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.

BVA Treasurer
Mrs Sheila Still
Orchard View
Braishfield
SO51 0QB

Tel: 01794 368384
email: bva@f2s.com

Thank you.
Jimmy Chestnutt - Chairman



I enclose a donation of £ towards the running cost of the BVA.

Name (please print) -----

Address -----

Postcode -----

Tel: -----

email: -----

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

Notices

Ultimate Frisbee

Braishfield Ultimate Frisbee has moved to Romsey School Astro Sunday Nights @ 6pm-8pm. - until Easter tbc. Come rain or drizzle!. We are thankful for a Romsey Community grant again this year for favourable pitch hire. We have been joined by Southampton Uni Skunks team so numbers and competition is up this season!

Free tuition given, check us out on Facebook & come and join in ages 16-61!

Malcolm Baker 07805 255413 Lionwood Braishfield Rd



Braishfield Golf Society 2017

We will be planning a number of meetings for 2017 starting probably in late March / early April. Anyone who is not on my email list and would like to hear about our meetings please let me know. Nothing very serious. The opportunity to play different courses and enjoy a beer and a bite to eat after 18 holes. All standard of golfers are welcome.

Richard Brazier - rdbrazier@hotmail.com - 368414

BMADS Annual General Meeting

Braishfield Music and Drama Society (BMADS) will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

We will review last year's activities, including November's production of Lloyd George Knew My Father, and look ahead, with an opportunity to discuss options for future productions.

All are welcome.

All Saints Church Mowing 2017

We normally meet in March and start mowing in early April. Mowers' machines are provided and in past years we have had sufficient numbers so no one has to mow more than twice in the season. The Churchyard is divided into North and South and we cut each on alternate weeks in pairs. About 2 hours work in all. If any one would like to join the team please let me know.

Look forward to your support.

Many thanks

Richard Brazier - rdbrazier@hotmail.com - 368414 or 07768 020917 or

Office: 02381 781012

Notices cont.

Sitting more comfortably in All Saints'

Visitors to All Saints' will have noticed that the carpet strips which have lined the pews for the last 40+ years have begun to disintegrate. They have certainly given good value!

The PCC has decided to replace them with thicker pew runners – a 1" layer of cushion covered with a velour type deep red cover. The covers can be removed for washing. The runners should add a little comfort and warmth for those sitting in the pews, and enhance the appearance as well.

Two members of the congregation have offered to under-write the cost of the new pew runners so we will not be drawing on existing church funds or having any fund raising events. However, any donations would be welcomed. Final costs will be about £10 a foot. Graham Bennett, Church Treasurer, would welcome cash or cheques (to Braishfield PCC) in an envelope, clearly marked. A sample section of the pew runner will be left on the settle at the back of the church so do drop in and see what is coming our way soon!

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 3rd March



Women across the world join together to pray for its needs

An invitation to join our Braishfield service which will be held at the All Saints' Church at 7 30pm on Friday 3rd March. Women from the Philippines have prepared this year on the theme 'Am

I being unfair to You?'

Afterwards there will be tea or coffee and a chance to meet friends and to make new acquaintances. Do come along if you can – you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Find out more about the Women's World Day of Prayer at www.wwdp-natcomm.org.

Brendoncare Romsey Companions' Club enjoyed a super opening club session at the Braishfield Village Hall on 9th January. We were entertained by Bob and Pauline Edney who are a Sing for Pleasure duo, and club members joined in enthusiastically. Why not drop in and see us at our next session on 6th February. We meet on alternate Mondays at 13.30 – you will receive a very warm welcome!!

For more information, please call 01962 857099

or visit www.brendoncare.org.uk/clubs. Direct line:

01962 857482

Mobile: 07468 696250

Email: CHedges@brendoncare.org.uk



Notices cont.

Braishfield Church Yard

A year ago the churchwardens reminded everyone that the church yard is a shared space, and that there is Diocesan guidance about how it is managed. We are grateful to all who have responded to general requests to remove all knick knacks from graves and to bear in mind the guidance that one floral tribute on each grave is the norm.

We want to be flexible, understanding that at special anniversaries and Christmas several members of the family may visit and bring their own tribute, but these should be of a floral nature. At the end of January the churchwardens will clear away any remaining Christmas arrangements.

We have been very disappointed to hear that someone unknown has taken it upon themselves to 'police' graves which are, in their eyes, over-decorated. They have removed items, sometimes putting them in the dustbin, and sometimes removing them entirely. This is of course completely unacceptable and very sad. If you see anyone involved in this activity, please let the church wardens know. And if you see something on a grave which offends you, please also let the church wardens know. They only, together with the Rector, have the authority to remove it.

Andy Brooks and Sarah Boothman, Church Wardens at All Saints'



Story Time

"Story Time" was a great success in the Autumn Term with an increase in numbers, and ended with a pre Christmas snack time together along with the usual goodies bought from the Pantry. The new term started with a flourish, as along with increased numbers for each session, there have been 3 new babies who are often present along with parents and grandparents. The first two sessions have had 15 children listening to their favourite stories with others passing through. At least they are

not all trying to sit round the table at once! As it is a "drop in" session with no charge, anybody is welcome to come along, not just the RugbyTots.

A huge thank you to Sharon and all the volunteers for putting up with us although I think they enjoy it as much as I do. It has certainly brought people from further afield to our wonderful Community Shop.

Wendy Lord

Notices cont.

BMADS sponsored String Quartet Concert



On **Saturday March 25th at 7.30pm**, BMADS are very pleased to be hosting another evening of chamber music in the Church Room, given by five leading professional players.

The musicians are Bradley Creswick - who leads the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra - appearing in Braishfield for the first time, and Claire Sterling, Sophie Renshaw and Robin Michael who performed for us last year.

They are joined by Neyire Ashworth, a renowned performer of the clarinet. Neyire teaches at the Junior Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is the clarinet coach for the UK's National Youth Chamber Orchestra.

Together they are going to play the Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B minor op 115. Neyire has also written a piece for the concert. called 'Through the eye of the storm', it is dedicated to mothers everywhere.

In the remainder of the programme, the other players will play Purcell Fantazias 6,7,10 and 11 and Janacek's String Quartet no 1 (Kreutzer Sonata).

This promises to be another super concert of high quality music, performed by a group of good friends and colleagues who love to have the opportunity to play chamber music together.

Tickets are available from Wendy Quarendon 368015 or wendy@quarendon.net

Braishfield Village Voices – Happy New Singing Year!

Our village singing group is for all ages and stages and a chance to get out and meet up with friendly faces, have a sing and chat over a cup of tea/coffee – everyone can sing! Every session has a mix of 'old' favourites and new tunes, with hopefully something for everyone. Requests welcomed.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible – bring a friend – on the 4th Monday in the month.

Come and join us on any of the following Mondays, 2-4pm in the Church Room. **27 February/27 March/24 April/22 May/26 June/24 July...and, on the 3rd Monday – 21 August.**

Meri Knights 368516Wendy Quarendon 368015

The 2017 Farley Walk Walking in Ireland May 27th to June 4th

This year's walk will be along the Wicklow Way ending in Dublin on June 3rd. There are still a few places available on the walk. If you might be interested please contact Iain Chisholm on 01794 368250, or IainHChisholm@aol.com

United Reformed Church

On behalf of the United Reformed Church in Braishfield I would like to thank everyone who supported our 2016 Church charity, which was a Jumbulance.

I have listed the events we held so that you can see how we raised the wonderful amount of £2,301.23 which our Minister the Reverend Mike Perrott presented to Mrs Chris Chisolm during our service on January 15th.

March	Marjory & Bill Randall	coffee morning	£143.80
June	Sheila & Peter Savidge	donation	£ 20.00
June	Queen's 90th birthday & Songs of Praise		£159.33
July	Flower Festival weekend		£101.10
July	Maggie & Jack Batchelor	coffee morning	£157.15
Aug	Warren Collins	sponsored Devon Hike	£140.00
Sept	Harvest supper	raffle	£ 55.50
Sept	Hazel & Peter Davies	lunch at Hillhead	£110.00
Oct	Sheila & Peter Savidge	donation	£ 20.00
Oct	200 club donation		£165.00
Nov	Church sale		£307.70
Nov	Vera Sutton		£ 10.00
Nov	Jar of coins		£205.62
Dec	Carols by Candlelight		£ 59.03
Dec	Christmas hamper	Pat Taylor	£106.00
Dec	Mince pie & sherry evening, Shirley & Rusty		£451.00
Dec/Jan	Braishfield Grange, Kathleen Eldridge		£ 90.00
TOTAL			£2,301.23



Thanks again for your support.

Shirley Smith
Church secretary

JUMBULANCE

making travel possible

Dear friends of Jumbulance

We have had a very busy end of year completing 4 holidays in 2016 and fund raising and a big thank you to all our supporters.

As you can see from the previous page, locally we have had wonderful support from the Braishfield United Reformed Church as we were their charity of the year 2016...every member was involved with a total of over a dozen events and I was thrilled to receive a cheque for £2301.23p during the service on 15th January. Our grateful thanks to all the URC members. It is support like this that allows us to continue to grow and offer supported holidays to more local people.

This year our Hampshire based group are NOW able to offer several holidays in 2017. In July to Babbacombe in Devon, in September a pilgrimage to Lourdes in S.W France, in October a wheelchair walking Challenge and in late November a pre Christmas break in Blackpool and our Wokingham 18-30 group are offering a double (2 jumbulances) group holiday to Germany in May.....a great variety to accommodate the different ages and

tastes with each VIP accompanied by a volunteer nurse, doctor or helpers.

Nationally we are now starting to fundraise for a new Jumbulance for 2018.... they cost £350,000....the order is in so we have to raise the final £100,000. Our wheelchair challenge in Cumbria in October is part of this and we are looking for VIPs and helpers specifically interested in doing this...wonderful accessible walks in stunning scenery based at the accessible Windemere Manor HotelGet yourself sponsored and come and join us. More of this and other fund raising events later in the year.

Happy New Year and for more information on our activities contact

Chris Chisholm

Nurse Group Leader Hants and W.Berks Jumbulance Group

Home 01794 368250
Mobile - 07887 748224

The Gavel

In a short ceremony which preceded the Parish Council Meeting on 6th December, our Chairman Jimmy Chestnutt presented John Bevan, Chairman of the Parish Council, with a block and gavel on behalf of the BVA. The assembly is mounted on an oak base;



originally simply a sawn piece of oak, it was carefully shaped and polished by David Jeffery, and a suitably engraved tally attached.

It now occupies a commanding position on the Chairman's table and is used with great enthusiasm!

Braishfield 200 Club

2016 was another good year for the village lottery. Overall we raised a total of £3420 during the year. Our expenses (the annual fee to TVBC to allow us to exist) were £20. Donations to charities and good causes amounted to £2040 and the twelve monthly prizes totalled £1360. The donations went to the two village churches, the Countess Mountbatten Hospice, the Village Hall, the RNLI (in support of someone's marathon run), the village's Social Contact Group, the Jumbulance Trust, and the Senior Citizens' Lunch. (Some received more than one donation.

Now into 2017 (which is a prime number, did you know? Just thought I'd mention it.) The first winner of the year is Tony Chant, formerly of this parish, and one of the Club's trustees, and the donation of £156 has been made to the Countess Mountbatten Hospice. We have been in the habit of making this donation every year in memory of Andrew Lalonde, who was a volunteer there, and who spent his last days in their care.

As ever, we welcome new members to the Club, so if you would like to join us, do give me a ring or e mail me
David Robinson on 368774, or dbr33@john-lewis.com

Pantry Update



November and December saw the Pantry focus on Christmas and, as well as holding a very successful “Canapés for Christmas” event run by David Protheroe we achieved sales of over £18000 in the two months.

Hampers were especially popular and the Turkeys from Noah’s Ark Farm received very high praise indeed.

There is still some limited Christmas stock available that we have discounted – so if you are looking for a bargain pop in!



If you pop in you will see the Award the Pantry received for the Best



Independent Shop Category in this years Hampshire Life Food and Drinks Awards. This is a tremendous recognition of how well the Pantry is progressing and we would like to thank the customer who

nominated us and all the volunteers who contribute to making the pantry such a success.



We will be celebrating our 1st birthday in the new facilities on Wednesday February 1st and to celebrate we would like to invite everyone to visit the pantry and enjoy a piece of Birthday Cake on the 1st.

We are already planning for 2017 and if you have any ideas on how the Pantry can improve or suggestions on how we can better serve the community do let us know. Either come in for a chat or contact us at Braishfieldpantry@gmail.com.

Iain Coleman

Christmas Tree Festival & Art Exhibition

The third Christmas Tree Festival and Art Exhibition were held on the 2/3/4 December. This year was a record attendance with over 400 people visiting during the 3 days. Yet again it was a wonderful occasion bringing Villagers together and creating such a lovely atmosphere in and around the Church. The Choir singing on Saturday afternoon was certainly a highlight – it was standing room only. The pews were full of people not only enjoying the singing but also their coffee and mince pies.



It would be impossible to single out any one tree as they were all so different. However, mention must be made of the beautifully knitted animals produced by Jean, Irene and Rosemary on the 'Wild Life' tree which depicted Noah's Ark.

At their request the animals were sold off at the end of the Festival raising an additional £100 towards the funds. Indeed the Donkeys were in much demand and we had to explain there were only two of course!

There were 26 trees entered and, as in previous years both the tree decorations and titles were very imaginative. One of Braishfield Primary Schools trees entitled 'Christmas Crackers' was quite a surprise – not a conventional Christmas Cracker in sight but beautifully decorated Cream Crackers all glued and glittered with not a bite taken out (well actually I did notice one had been nibbled but I'm keeping quiet about that!)

Following the success of last year's Preview Evening and Candlelit Supper we decided to repeat this event again and the tickets sold out within 2 weeks of going on sale. Mulled wine was served in the Church with the added bonus of Carol music played by the church organist Andy Brooks. The Church rooms looked very festive and welcoming in the candle light and a sumptuous 3 course meal was served by our wonderful team of

helpers.

This year's entertainment was provided by Hannah Boothman with a very memorable monologue of Joyce Grenfell's Nativity. Following the dessert course Ros Chaplin and Tony Lowe stepped up to the mic and continued to entertain us with some heart warming poems and festive singing. This was very well received and indeed an 'encore' was requested whereupon they turned into Flanders and Swann with their own rendition of 'The Hippopotamus Song'!

A truly enjoyable evening thanks to all the helpers and the talents within our Village.

Together with a donation from the Art Exhibition the Christmas Tree Festival this year raised in excess of £1800. The proceeds will be shared

between All Saints' Church and the chosen charity PLANETS. There will be a cheque presentation to PLANETS at the Family Service in All Saints on Sunday 5th February at 9.30 am where we hope you will all be able to join us.

It's really been a joy and a privilege to organise this event over the past 3 years and to see the various organisations and individuals coming together to create such beautiful displays in our lovely church. Of course, none of this would have happened without the support of the Village so a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed and helped in so many ways.

Carole Renvoize and
Jane Bennett

Art Exhibition alongside Christmas Tree Festival

The Thursday Art Class held another Art Exhibition to run alongside the Tree Festival with a proportion of sales going towards the same causes – PLANETS and All Saints Church.

The quality of the paintings on display reflected the excellent teaching we have from our tutor Jamel Akib. He is an amazing artist and illustrator and an inspiring teacher.

The display made a very good backdrop for the supper held on the Thursday evening and the exhibition welcomed a good number of people, resulting in us being able to make a donation of £300 to the causes, a percentage of all sales of cards and artwork.

Thank you to all who came to support us. We meet in the church room on Thursday mornings and if you feel inspired to have a go, do get in touch with Jamel. - jamelakib@me.com

Wendy Quarendon

Braishfield Flower Club

Like a lot of small clubs and societies we are always looking for fund raising opportunities to help us to keep going!

We were so fortunate to be offered the use of a market stall in Romsey on Saturday 17th December and with the support of our members we held a workshop in the Church Rooms on the 16th December and made in excess of 60 fresh flower and greenery Christmas arrangements to sell, each one uniquely different from the next.



It was a chilly early 8.00 am start for us and we now appreciate what it's really like to be market-traders. It was a wonderful atmosphere and we were lucky to have RASO (Romsey Area Schools Orchestra) playing carols next to us all day. As well as a very successful and fun day we enjoyed the opportunity of chatting to our customers who were in a happy Christmas mood.

Hazel Prince

Father Christmas writes...

From the North Pole

In the period following Christmas I always try to drop a note to every town, village and hamlet around the world – you can imagine how long that takes, and of course it would be impossible to do the same for every house!

But I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed my short time with you in Braishfield. You may not know this but, because my sleigh only has

room for presents, I cannot carry my helping Elves with me. So, over the years I have recruited secret elves in every place who I call out when I'm on my way; in your case they are Sam and Jack and I must say I could not have had two better helpers – I was deeply impressed with their prompt, happy assistance, and thanked them both very much



before I left!

I was very cheered by the sound of laughter, both young and old, and the sound of music and carol singing floating in from nearby (I must say



They are quite tired after a gruelling stop-start 24 hour journey, but I pack them off to Lapland during the spring and summer so that they can fatten up on loads of lichen and moss.

When they get back from 'camp' I give them each a large bag of carrots – a final energy boost just before the next 25000 mile trip!

that my bushy white eyebrows rose slightly when I was informed that they are known locally as the BUMS!). Of course, whilst I caught the delicious smell of mulled wine on the air, I didn't try it because I still had a lot of sleighing to do – I can assure you that the Skyway police and traffic wardens are just as fierce up there as they are on earth! However I was very kindly given a small flask which I carried back to the North Pole, and enjoyed every drop!



A very Happy New Year, and thank you for your warm hospitality and laughter!

Father Christmas

Apart from relaxing and writing these letters, I and my Reindeer are having a good rest before preparing for the end of this year!



Villagers sing a long to the accompaniment of BUMS

BUMS

The BUMS have had a good year overall. Since last December we have played 16 gigs, mostly for charity events, most of which have made a contribution to our own charity, Jane Scarth House. So we've been able to pay them nearly £700 in all and will continue to support them in the coming year.



We've been meeting twice a month to practise, and our repertoire has grown to around 100 songs. We lost two members of the band last March, including the bass guitar player, but we have been delighted to welcome Bob Milligan to our number who more than makes up for the loss.

Bob is well known around the village from his days playing at the Newport, and he has made a huge difference to our playing.

So now we are nine in number, if and when everyone turns up, still enjoying playing together, and especially seeing people enjoy our mixture of 'singalong' and jokes. And somehow, the band still manage to laugh at the jokes, even when they've heard them too many times already!

Our Christmas party in the Church Room went really well again, the second time we've held it, and we enjoyed playing at the BVA sponsored party in and around the village shop. Let's hope that both events can become regular fixtures in the run-up to Christmas.



Happy New Year to everyone, and thanks for

supporting us.

David Robinson

Braishfield Horticultural Society Garden Club

The first talk of 2017 was 'Plants that change the way we live', given by Rosina Brandham.

She took us on an interesting tour of plants through history. She began with papyrus which led to paper; moved to spices and silk which caused boats to travel across seas for their delicacies; then to the discovery of tobacco which at the time they thought helped to clear lungs and toxins from the atmosphere. James 1st warned of its use but we did not listen!

There was the introduction of maize from USA which altered our breakfast habits, leading to Spam which was made from the by-products. Potatoes came back as a staple diet from Northern Europe increasing longevity, and tomatoes, grown for years only for show, became a mainstay of Southern Europe.

Sugar cane arrived for the wealthy – honey was the only sweetener for the poor! Look what it has gradually done to our diet as it became cheap!

Bananas are the biggest selling fruit in England today but they were originally eaten with the skin in Victorian days as a great treat.

Tea, coffee and cocoa took 200 years to become popular and affordable. Since water was unpalatable, it enabled us to have a drink without becoming intoxicated.



Herbal plants play a big part in medicine. So many were made originally from natural sources.

Aspirin came from Willow, Quinine fights malaria, Madagascan Periwinkle and Yew help in cancer.

The demand for cotton goods contributed to the Industrial Revolution. Rubber tyres increased traffic.

Plants have indeed played a large part in our lives. There was much food for thought in this interesting talk.

Viv Robinson

Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

Where are all the sheep? Well, Kate has 100 of her last year's lambs up at Woolley Green, then there are 35 of her best ewe lambs from last spring that will be sold for breeding next autumn; they are elsewhere. Her breeding ewes, 80 of them, are in the field opposite at the moment and lambing will start in April. The rams were removed on New Year's day, so the last lambs may not arrive until towards the end of May as gestation is roughly 145 days, although most will arrive in April.

All seems calm, although the dogs have been disturbed by foxes making their calling sounds in the

night. We do hope that there won't be a problem with foxes when the lambs arrive.

The next excitement will be the scanning of the ewes, which happens in a few weeks time, followed by separating them into groups depending on the result of the scan, for extra care to be given to those expecting twins or triplets.

Let us hope the rest of the winter is not going to be as bad as was forecast today, with very low temperatures for a period. It makes everything difficult!

Wendy Quarendon

Cricket - a whole new meaning to leg stump

At a time when we celebrate the feats of our modern day Paralympians, an etching shows an earlier sporting contest between veterans with disabilities.

The Oval cricket ground, since 1845 the famous home of Surrey Cricket Club. Before then Surrey was based at another nearby ground – Aram's New Ground on the Montpelier Tea Gardens in Walworth, South London which provided 'teas, hot rolls, good wines and spirituous liquors'. And it was here in the early 19th century that the most extraordinary cricket match took place.

The etching opposite shows the game between Pensioners from two hospitals – Greenwich and Chelsea. It paints a picture of a vigorous

game between two teams with all the players having at least one false leg, where the only people on the field with two legs are the umpires. The precise date of the game is uncertain, though the catalogue at Lord's shows this as being early 19th century, and the artist Thomas Alken, famous mainly for his hunting scenes, lived from 1785 to 1851, so it is by no means unreasonable to think that these men lost their legs in Wellington's army and Nelson's navy, fighting the French.

But did this game really happen? More than likely it did – there were known to be other such games in that period. There is a surviving scorecard from a game on the same Walworth ground in 1796, between

“Greenwich Pensioners with one arm” and “Greenwich Pensioners with one leg”. The rules of cricket were broadly similar then as now -

and a simple hook or claw would not have provided much grip. Perhaps this would counterbalance alacrity in the field.



there were certain changes such as four balls an over, but the spirit of the game remained the same and there were the same number of players in the team and you could get out in the various ways as of today. This was a two innings match played over two days, and won pretty decisively by 103 runs by the “Pensioners with one leg” with a startling performance from a sailor called Fearn (no rank is shown) who took 13 wickets and hit 35 runs before being, possibly not surprisingly, run out. The result makes sense as, if you could anchor yourself at the crease using your false leg, you would be in a stronger position being able to swing the bat with both hands, whereas it must have been difficult to swing the bat with one hand – prosthetic limbs were not then what they now are

The painting shows a sizeable crowd, which was by no means unusual. And of course there was much gambling. We know that 2,400 people went to watch another such game in 1848, between “11 one armed men and 11 with one leg”. Here it was the one armed who triumphed. Each man had a free passage to and from the Royal Hospital, a glass of grog to drink Her Majesty’s health, and 10 shillings for his two days exertions.

At the time when we marvel at the feats of our Paralympians, it is good to see how those who return from war in an earlier era continued to participate in sport.

George Elliott

[The article is derived from The Pennant Autumn 2016]

3rd Romsey Scouts

One of my Scout Young Leaders (my daughter!) is going to Tanzania in 2017 with Hampshire Scouts for a month as part of Team Tembo to build a primary school in Madabadaba. She is nearly at her target and doesn't need to shave her hair off, however she feels that every penny she can raise for the Primary School in Tanzania is worth it!

Whatever you can sponsor her will go towards the school project. They have worked really hard to raise the money for the trip and they have to raise all the money to build the school too! She has done a 20.5 mile canoe marathon, packed bags, organised a quiz, sold badges, sponsored walks and much more! Due to the bad exchange rate at the moment their plan of doing 3 classrooms is in jeopardy, they may only get to do 2 - and the school actually NEEDS 5! Please share with your friends - every little bit helps.

If you can gift aid please do - free money from the government is always good!

You can either speak to myself or Kathleen and fill in her sponsorship form or the link where you can easily pay on line with BT My Donate is: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/kbeamanexp>



Thank you! Note to self - I need to buy her a woolly hat!!!
Sarah

WHAT KATHLEEN SAYS:

"HAIR RAISING - although I have nearly reached my target I will still be doing my final fundraiser. Any money I receive over the amount I need to raise will go directly towards work and extra items at the primary school. My final fundraiser will be shocking for people who know me! I have always had long hair - down to my waist, however in February 2017 I am shaving my hair off to a GRADE 3! I am donating my hair to the Little Princess Trust and any sponsorship money will go towards my trip. We hope to build three classrooms at the school, however they NEED five so every penny counts towards extending our project."



Thank you.

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Email: bevan_bpc@btinternet.com

or

Parish Clerk: Kate Orange

Email: clerk@braishfield-pc.org

All Saints' Braishfield

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree Festival in December. It raised over £1500 with an added donation of £300 from the Art Exhibition. In line with our church giving policy one half will be donated to PLANETS with a cheque being presented to Neil Pearce at the Family Service on Sunday 5th February at 9.30am. See full report on pages 14 &15.



On Friday 24th March we have 'Village Memories' when we join with St John's, Farley and the Village Hall for an evening of entertainment and a country supper. See next page for more details.

The next Churchyard working party will be held Saturday 25th March at 9.30am. Do join us as we 'spring clean' the churchyard and enjoy bacon butties!

We are planning to have an All Saints' Harvest Flower Festival in September. Watch this space!

Some dates for your diary

Sunday 29th January – Fifth Sunday Candlemas Service at Michelmersh 10.00am

Sunday 26th March – A family friendly Holy Communion service for Mothering Sunday

Sunday 11th June – provisional date for our annual visit to the Isle of Wight.

Saturday 30th September – 7pm Harvest Supper

Sunday 1st October – 9.30am Harvest Festival

We now have 6 passes available for free entry to Winchester Cathedral.

Please contact Jane on 01794 368109 if you would like to take up this opportunity.

We do hope you can join us for all or some of these events and services.

More details? Please contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109

VILLAGE MEMORIES

Friday 24th March 2017 - 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Do you remember when

Una Stubbs and Jon Pertwee were filming *Worzel
Gummidge in Braishfield?*

Mrs Windibank from Farley was
filmed for *Country Ways?*

We had the Braishfield Country
Fair?

We do hope you will join us for
an evening of entertainment
and a country supper with
proceeds shared between:



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Braishfield Village Hall

Tickets £15 available from:

Jane Bennett	01794 368109
Hannah Boothman	01794 368143
Ian and Meri Knights	01794 368516

Bar available

Fire at Sharpes Farm

Dear Villagers,

On behalf of Isabelle, myself and our family we wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone in the village for your help, support and best wishes during and after

heartbreak of the fire, we feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such a wonderful community.

When the fire broke out that Monday afternoon it looked at first as if everything would be lost. But as a result of the heroic efforts of the



the devastating fire we suffered at Sharpes Farm on Monday 12th December. A beautiful bunch of flowers from the village was delivered a couple days after the blaze and, as if that wasn't kindness enough, the most amazing hamper from the Village Shop and its customers appeared on Christmas Eve. I can't tell you how much these gifts mean to us. It's funny, but despite the

fire service (76 of them in all!), they managed to preserve the structure of the old house (which dates back to the 15th century) and they rescued a huge amount of our personal possessions. In addition, they successfully restricted the fire to the main cottage thereby preventing it spreading to the barn and outbuildings. Most importantly of all, no one was injured (neither

us nor the firefighters). So again, in difficult circumstances, we actually now feel very lucky!

I know many of you were there to help on the day (moving our stuff from the house into the barn) and so many of you have offered support since. Again we can't thank you enough.

The place looked like a war zone immediately afterwards but within a matter of days the clear up began. By Christmas a significant amount of the debris had been removed and scaffolding had been erected to protect the structure of the old house – together with tin hat



As a family we decided to spend Christmas at Sharpes come what may – all congregating in the barn which had escaped unscathed! It was rather cosy (having 2 bedrooms and there being 8 of us!) but was truly memorable. We had a temporary mobile kitchen delivered and I bought a gas BBQ on line and, even though I say it myself, produced the most

delicious roast turkey on Christmas day! In tribute to the events of this year, I think it's something we'll now repeat every year as a tradition (BBQ-ing the turkey that is, not having a fire!)

The cause of the fire is unknown but is likely to have been some sort of electrical fault. There was someone

at the house at the time the alarm sounded and the fire service was alerted immediately – and they arrived promptly. So I'm not sure there's anything more that could have been done.

Apologies for the disruption to everyone in and around Lower Street on that day – especially our dear

neighbours who must have been fearing for their own properties when the fire was raging!

Thank you again and wishing everyone a very happy New Year

David & Isabelle Frank and family

Braishfield Primary School

With the new term underway, the Christmas holidays are a fond but distant memory and our children have begun a new year of learning in earnest.

December is a frenetic time in any primary school and Braishfield Primary School was no different:

Our annual Christmas fundraiser was held early in the month, this time taking the form of an outdoor 'Bavarian Market'. This was a great success and raised over £800 in profit for the school. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Braishfield School Association and everyone involved in making this an enjoyable and successful event.

Our pupils in Little Acorns and Big Acorns performed a wonderful Nativity, Christmas Counts, in the Social Club. Both daytime and evening performances were well attended and the children should be proud of their fantastic performances. Our children clearly have a great wealth of talent in performing arts!

We once again displayed two Christmas Trees at the All Saints Church Christmas Tree Festival. This was, as always, a lovely event to take part in and our pupils loved visiting the Festival to see their trees on display and all of the other trees in the church. They were clearly not alone as I understand the Festival had a great number of visitors and raised a significant sum for its

charities. Thank you and well done to the organisers of this wonderful community event.

The Oaks class took part in a Bake-Off style competition and then prepared a pop-up café to serve food to parents and pupils as a fitting end to their MasterChef Topic. This was a great success and the pupils have clearly learned a great deal about cookery through the topic.

On the penultimate day of term we said a tearful 'Thank you and farewell' to Mrs Hardy. As Headteacher of Braishfield Primary School, Mrs Hardy introduced many new and exciting changes to the school and helped our pupils to achieve great things academically, artistically, athletically and socially. She will be greatly missed from Braishfield Primary School but she leaves the school in a fantastic position and we wish her well in her new role as Headteacher of Colden Common Primary School.

Looking forward, there is much in store for our pupils this term with trips and sporting events already planned. We have welcomed Mrs Cook to our team as teacher in the Oaks class, a role she shares with Mrs Jackson, which has allowed me to take the post of Acting Headteacher. Mrs Cook is an experienced teacher and I know she will work with Mrs Jackson to help our Year 5 and 6

pupils continue to achieve well.

Although I am not new to Braishfield Primary School, I am new to the role of Acting Headteacher and would like to thank the school community for being welcoming and supportive of me in this move. I would also

like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely
Mr P Stuart
Acting Headteacher
Braishfield Primary School

News from BMADS

Now that the New Year is in full swing, it is time for us at BMADS to start looking ahead to our next challenge, having (almost) recovered from our last production, Lloyd George Knew My Father, last November.

You will see on page 6 a notice advising of our forthcoming AGM on Tuesday 28th March. This is an opportunity to decide what we want to do next.

We do encourage anyone who is at all interested in drama to come along to the meeting. It is important for us to have a regular stream of newcomers and we are always keen to have younger members or anyone who wants to try it for the first time. It is not only, or even mostly, about the acting - mounting a production requires far more people than those who merely strut their stuff on the stage. A production needs props, scenery, costumes... and a range of other creative and organisational skills. No play produces itself; so we need stage managers, producers and directors, and a range of backstage roles.

This is a good opportunity to acknowledge the people who do

these vital jobs now, and have done in many cases for quite a few years. To take a couple of examples, where would we be without Nicky Ayres and her skills in sourcing and creating our wonderful costumes, or Malcolm Ayres who takes care of our sound and lighting? Or Peter and Wendy Quarendon, who between them have covered set building, music, production, direction, play selection... as well as many other roles (including acting). Wendy found and championed Lloyd George Knew My Father and worked as producer alongside director Rosie Groves, and Peter created the stunning set.

We are indebted to the skills and dedication of these people and others, but we need to get more people involved. It's a great opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people, so why not come along on 28th March, or contact us - John on 368465, Richard on 368178, or Wendy and Peter on 368015.

John Edwards (Chairman) and
Richard Groves (Treasurer)

BVA New Year's Day Walk

Thanks to all who turned out on a grey January 1st for the NYDW3 and made it so entertaining.

About forty of us (ages from 6 to 80+) set off on a convivial 4 mile walk around Braishfield.

This year, we stopped half way round in Eldon lane for an invigorating glass of mulled wine and a chance for those with a more leisurely pace to catch up with the vanguard.



We timed the weather window to perfection with the rain holding off until we arrived back at the pub where everyone enjoyed meeting up and agreed we should do it again.

Watch this space!

Michael Stubbs

Obituary - Mrs Betty Fielder 1936 - 2016

Grandma was born in Stockbridge, the middle child of five. She had an elder brother and sister, (Pam and Stan), and a younger brother and sister (Tony and Gill). Grandma later moved to Awbridge where she met Grandad at Tadburn Nursery whilst working in the chrysanthemum section.

Grandma and Grandad married on 24th October 1959 and in those days enjoyed going to Speedway. They had many adventures on Grandad's motorbike – including Grandma falling asleep, falling off and being left on the side of the road unbeknown to Grandad! Fortunately their good friends Arthur and Hazel were there to save the day!

In Spring 1967 Grandma and Grandad moved into their family home where they raised their three daughters, Linda, Ruth and Elizabeth. Grandma was very involved in village life and one of Ruth's earliest memories was of being taken to church by her. She was also on the church cleaning rota, helped at church fêtes, was a lunch time supervisor at Braishfield School and represented the Braishfield Guide Leaders at District Guide meetings. She enjoyed entering the annual flower show where there was "friendly" rivalry between her and Linda in the jam section. She also enjoyed catching up with village news at the monthly lunchtime club. Grandma had varied interests including quizzes, crosswords, needlework, knitting and Bingo. Will walked her to Bingo every Sunday

evening where she sometimes had a lucky streak, and always put her winnings aside in order to help her grandchildren out with various ventures.

Grandma enjoyed her family time. Hayley, Oscar and Will remember her at many school events and she often made the long trip up to the Midlands for the special celebrations of her other three grandchildren, Amy, Katie and Jonathan.

One of the last big family occasions was Amy and Dan's engagement party where she particularly enjoyed helping to make the decorations. Hayley and Oscar also have fond memories of family events, such as garden parties at Elizabeth and Clive's house where she took in good heart the jokes about turning her stick upside down to use as a golf club or croquet mallet! The stick also came in useful for gently keeping her grandchildren in line if they got a bit out of hand!

She loved her family and Amy and I will always remember when we sat for hours one afternoon talking and telling stories with all of us in tears of laughter. It is times like those that we often do not appreciate at the time, but later make us reflect and start to truly miss those that we love. Grandma would be touched that we are all here today and her family, friends and Bill will always love and miss her.

[Read by Katie Fallon (granddaughter) at Betty's funeral- abridged version.]

BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY 2017



PROGRAMME

February 23rd	Carolyn Vanstone ' More Women of Influence'
March 23rd	Marion Catt 'Spring Surprise'
April 27th	Elizabeth Pelly 'Inspirations'
May 25th	Carole Norman T.B.A
June 22nd	Allison Finch ' Toy Stories'
July 27th	Party or Trip To be arranged
August	No Meeting
September 28th	Ann Maree Dicker 'A Natural Harvest'
October 26th	Sue O'Brian 'Seasonal Bounties'
November 23rd	OPEN EVENING Angela Turner 'All is Calm, All is Bright'

All meetings are in the Church Room at 7.30pm except October which will be in the Social Club at 7-30 p.m.
November meeting at the village hall

For further information contact Chairman Maggie Batchelor on 01794 368125
or Eileen Norman on 02380 731162

VILLAGE LUNCH DATES for 2017



MONDAY	February 13th	A Valentine special!	
MONDAY	March 13th	MONDAY	July 10th
MONDAY	April 10th	MONDAY	September 11th
MONDAY	May 8th	MONDAY	October 9th
MONDAY	June 12th	MONDAY	November 13th
MONDAY	December 11th	Christmas lunch	



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BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

Weekly Events

Monday Nights	- Free Pool
Wednesday Nights	- Keep Fit 6.30pm
Thursday Nights	- Table Tennis
Friday Nights	- Quiz every fortnight
Saturday Nights	- Meat Draw
Sunday Nights	- Bingo

We also have Pigeon Club, Dart and Crib Teams, Pool Team always looking for new members

Snooker Room and Skittle Alley available to Non-Members

Regular Events

Quiz Nights	- held fortnightly on Friday Nights
Newport Players	- first Saturday of each month

Future Events - everybody welcome

Skittles evening	18th February 2017
60's evening	4th March 2017
St George's Day themed evening	29th April 2017
Tractor Show	7th May 2017
Beer Festival	14,15,16th July 2017

Please see Club Notices for more details

MORE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2017. Visit the club to find out more

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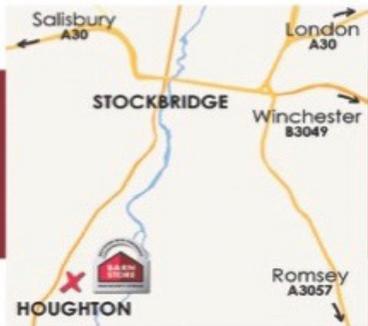
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From wine bottles to pasta sauce jars, all sorts of glass can be recycled at local recycling centres (LRC) across the borough. Recycling glass helps to reduce the amount of waste in your black bin and helps the borough recycle more.

There are over 100 LRCs throughout the borough so it is easy to find a site that is convenient. To find your nearest recycling centre visit www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling.

For more information about Recycling Stars visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars . For regular recycling updates and recycling hints and tips, “Like” Recycling Stars on Facebook.”

Alice Keeping, Environmental Project Officer
TVBC 01264 368177: akeeping@testvalley.gov.uk: www.testvalley.gov.uk

Rubbish News

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



Recycle weeks beginning: 6th & 20th February :
6th & 20th March.

Household waste weeks beginning: 13th & 27th February:
13th & 27th March.

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

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Association

Braishfield Village Diary

Regular Meetings	Where	Time	When	Next meetings		
Parish Council 	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.00	1 st Tues excl. August	7 Mar	4 April	2 May
Village Lunch	Church Room	12.15	2 nd Mon excl. August	13 Feb	13 Mar	10 April
Horticultural Society 	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.30	2 nd Tues excl. June/July/Aug	14 Feb	14 Mar	11 April
Flower Society 	Church Room	7.30	4 th Thurs excl. Aug/Dec	23 Feb	23 Mar	27 April
Village Voices	Church Room	2 - 4	4 th Mon	27 Feb	27 Mar	24 April
Art Group	Football Pavilion	10 - 12	Every Thursday except August			
The Pantry Shop & Cafe	Village Hall	9 – 12 2 - 5	Mon – Sat 9 – 12 noon Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 2 - 5pm			
Story Time	Village Pantry	10.30 – 12	Thursday, Wendy Lord 367015			

Events 	Where	When	More Details
Five Alive WWDP	Church Room	Monday 6th February	AGM & presentation
Five Alive WWDP	All Saints' Church	Friday 3rd March 7.30pm	see page 7
Village Memories country supper	Village Hall	Friday 24th March 7.30pm	see page 25
String Quartet Concert	Church Room	Saturday 25th March 7.30pm	see page 9
BMADS AGM	Church Room	Tuesday 28th March 7.30pm	see page 6

 Please see BVN or Notice Boards for further details

Please refer to www.braishfield.org or your Residents Guide for contact telephone nbrs

Details to the BVN Editor or Web Editor if you would like dates of forthcoming events to be published