



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 242 June 2020

VE Day SPECIAL



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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Please send all items for the News by **email** to: [**bvn@braishfield.org**](mailto:bvn@braishfield.org)

All items for publication must show the name, address and telephone of the originator. Topics should be 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 Julie, the News Distributor on 368894.

Latest copy date for the next issue is: **Friday 24 July 2020**

Cover photo: Bob Thomson by Sheila Still

From the Chairman

A much over-stated phrase, but we are living in very strange times at the moment. I do hope you are all keeping well and I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who is working so hard to keep others safe. This includes NHS staff, key workers and all the local heroes who are looking after friends, relatives and those who need help and support. Thank you all.

It's great to hear the applause, cheering and pan-bashing on Thursday evenings – keep it up all!

With very little going on around us, we thought it would be a lovely idea to focus on positive news and, in particular, your VE Day 'celebrations'. Thanks to everyone who sent us photos and articles, they are very much appreciated.

Please keep your stories and photos coming in. There's plenty to be positive about – we live in a beautiful part of the country; there seems to be so many more birds and animals around and the gardens are looking stunning. More families are out walking or cycling. Let's hope this is a sign of improved fitness going forward. It's lovely to see so many cuddly toys in the windows along with rainbows and decorated pebbles. They all brighten our walks.

Keep safe and I hope we can meet up in the not too distant future.

Best wishes,

Ian

Donations to Braishfield Village News

We would like to thank all those who donate toward the cost of Braishfield Village News. 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 obviously incur costs to publish. We would welcome any support you can give us to keep the News viable in 2020. If you wish to make a donation please complete the slip below and send with your donation to:-

BVA Treasurer
Mrs Sheila Still
Orchard View
Braishfield
SO51 0QB
Tel: 01794 368384
email: bva@f2s.com.

Thank you.
Ian Jeffery - Chairman

I enclose donation of £..... towards the running cost of the BVN

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A standing order form to make annual donations to the BVN is available. Please contact the Treasurer, Sheila Still, and she will send you one.

In Memoriam: Miss Mollie Russell 11th July 1923 - 19th May 2020

As someone said when they heard that she had died, Mollie was part of the fabric of Braishfield, always there at events and staunchly faithful to the church. Less than 2 months away from her 99th birthday, Mollie's passing marks the end of an era for many.

Born in King's Somborne, she spent her early years in Farley Chamberlayne where her father was gardener to the then Rector, Mr Percival. The family moved to Braishfield in 1939 and lived at Orchard Lodge, just below Braishfield House. Later Mollie was to move to Bowling Green, now the site of a new house, in Paynes Hay Lane, where she cared for Mr Cobbold, and then to No 3 Chapel Close, where she lived on her own until January 2017 when a fall led to her going to hospital. Despite her great determination she was unable to walk again, and moved to The Cedar's, Landford in March of that year. She had a lovely room looking out over the garden and was excellently cared for. The many friends who visited her there know that there were plenty of activities and that Mollie initially joined in with all of them, but her years caught up with her and she became increasingly frail.

For Mollie, life away from Braishfield was only a limited life. She always wanted to know what was happening in the village, and much enjoyed the monthly visits from a group from All Saints' and St John's to sing hymns and have a short service with her and her new friends - "Mollie's Prayer Group at The Cedars". Always followed by a very sociable tea! Mollie's hospitality was legendary, as was her generosity and thought for others.

Due to corona virus restrictions there can't be a funeral service open to everyone, but there will be an occasion in the future when all can meet together to give thanks for and celebrate Mollie's life. That will be the time for a full appreciation of her life.

Mollie's many friends in the village and beyond send their sympathy to her nephew John and niece Christine and their families, and we all commend Mollie to the love of the Lord she served so faithfully throughout her life on earth. God bless you, Mollie! May you rest in peace.

Sarah Boothman

Obituary - Ron Blizzard

Ron was born in Woolston, Southampton. He had two sisters and one brother. When he left school, he worked in the Docks driving a truck and picked up so many habits that he only passed his driving test at his sixth attempt. Later he served his apprenticeship with Vosper Thornycroft as a fitter. At 21, he joined the Merchant Navy and spent 17 years at sea. He worked on a variety of ships, tankers, banana boats, the QE2 and Offshore Supply vessels. He was also in the Fleet Auxiliary. He attained his Chief Engineer Certificate (Steam and Motor).

In 1981 he left the sea, moved to Romsey and became an Engineering Inspector of Lifts and Cranes for an Insurance Company.

He was a keen member of Southampton Model Engineers who have a Track in Riverside Park Bitterne and every Sunday in Summer he would be there giving rides to children. As an accomplished engineer and model builder Ron built a 2" agricultural traction engine and a Scammell lorry electrically driven. With these he attended many Steam Rallies in the UK and Europe. He drove a full size Steam Locomotive on the Wolstyn Steam Railway in Poland.

He met Jan at a party on the RFA Sir Tristram and they married in 1978.

In 1994 he moved to Braishfield and started his second childhood. He learnt to swim and went to the Rapids three times a week. He started cycling and enjoyed cycling holidays in Vietnam, France and Turkey. He also learnt to ride a horse so he could be a 'Cowboy' in Texas. In retirement he travelled extensively and particularly enjoyed the Panama Canal which he had only previously seen from the Engine Room. We enjoyed holidays on VIC 32, an old Clyde Puffer still running on steam and where passengers could participate. I enjoyed learning to use the Radar and Ron had a week shovelling coal.

He had a very curious nature and loved new experiences and meeting people. Even as a child he was fascinated in taking things to bits to see how they worked but often had trouble putting them back together. He had a well-equipped workshop and was very generous in sharing his talents. There was never a problem, just a challenge. A part for a Classic Car, water pump for 1912 Steam lorry, the Church door lock, quick release mechanism for horses on a film set? He would get on his bike, cycle furiously round the Village, disappear into his workshop and emerge later with the solution. One Xmas Eve at 6pm a friend gave us a bottle of champagne, this proved too much for our already overloaded fridge door and the hinges sheared off. Disaster! No. Ron went into his workshop, found a piece of aluminium and made new hinges.

Ron loved living in Braishfield and especially enjoyed Sing songs at the Newport, the Village Lunch and the BVA events. At an Apple Day he met David Robinson who had just returned from New Zealand and was thinking of forming a Ukulele Group. So BUMS was born. Initially meeting in members' homes, I remember a lot of laughing, drinking red wine and very little actual playing at their rehearsals. I think only John Bevan could play a stringed instrument. Ron had never had an opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument but just loved it. He practised regularly at home and joined Romsey Ukulele group and went to many Ukulele Festivals. I think BUMS are true entertainers. With David's jokes, happy songs and audience participation they bring joy everywhere they play.

Ron favourite toy was a red 1970 MGB, a car he could tinker with. In fine weather we would go 'out to play' in it. He was fascinated by technology and went on a computer building course and later volunteered at a Charity where they stripped down old computers and built 'low cost' new ones from the parts.

In 2008 Ron had a lung removed and later suffered from throat cancer. These setbacks made him even more determined to enjoy life. In 2017 he sadly had a Stroke and never walked again. He moved into Cedar Lawn Nursing Home. BUMS entertained us there at our 40th Wedding Anniversary Celebration in 2018.

Sadly, Ron passed away there on April 29th.

He was a devoted Dad to Jane and John and a kind, caring husband who always encouraged us to pursue our dreams and wanted us all to be happy.

Janet Blizzard



Letters

Contributions for “Letters to the Editor” must state the writers name and address, and whether or not they wish to have these details published.

Dear Editor,

We would just like to say a huge thank you to The Pantry staff for all they have achieved in delivering groceries to the villagers, especially the elderly during the virus crisis.

Thanks to you all.

Dave and Pat Old

Dear Editor,

The AMAZING VILLAGE CHILDREN I have noticed when taking my daily walk around the village lanes, how inventive the local children have been. Not just the rainbows, the soft toys, the games they have been playing in their gardens but how they are recycling various items to put on

display. There is a lot of creative artwork such as paintings, drawings, Lego models, weeding, seeds and plants to be seen. At home I am sure that they may be making new board games, bunting was made for VE day, quizzes, writing stories, NHS banners, learning to knit or sew, painting T-shirtsI could go on!

So at the end of the total lockdown, whenever that may be, I have had the idea of the children displaying some of their art, craft, models etc that they have made at an exhibition (not a competition) in the Village Hall for everyone to see.

Wendy Lord, Southview

ARTICLE CORRECTION.....

I inadvertently made a mistake in the recent article on the BUMS, confusing David's surname with his email name...my sincere apologies, David !!.

Whilst the BUMS have understandably had to cancel all their bookings for the foreseeable future, should anyone wish to enquire about bookings for when the restrictions are lifted, I am sure David Robinson would be happy to advise on 01794 368774. Meanwhile, the BUMS are endeavouring to continue their practice sessions via ZOOM, although my inability to do so on my PC is causing me total frustration a +, -, x, or divide tells my brain what to do, but PC instructions etc are something else !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Stephen Treglown

BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CANCELLATION OF FLOWER SHOW - 18th July

The Society apologises to villagers but regrets that it is impossible to go ahead in the present circumstances.

For future news see the link to the Society on the village website.

You will just have to watch the RHS Chelsea re-runs, admire your Flower Entries and eat your potentially prize-winning vegetables and fruit!

Romsey Foodbank

I would like to thank residents who have generously donated to Romsey Foodbank over the past few months. Foodbanks nationally have seen a huge spike in demand. Romsey Foodbank said: "although our Foodbank is small; supporting Romsey, North Baddesley and the surrounding villages, we too have seen a huge rise during March and April."

The increase in donations has meant that the Foodbank has been able to meet the increase in demand as well as restocking their storeroom.

The following note was recently shared online:

The food bank at Romsey has helped me so much over the last few months, when I was first referred I was so embarrassed to go, but I was in a situation following a break up that I had no choice to. I needn't have worried, the volunteers there were so welcoming and friendly. I have been a few times now and would tell anyone if they need help, to go. I can't wait to be in a position to donate for other families who are in need. People who donate really don't know how much their kindness is appreciated.

Please continue to check the food bank's website for what is most needed at a particular time.
<https://romsey.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Sally Yalden

BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB

Because of the virus, there have been no occasions when we could have a draw in public in the past two months, so I have done the draw myself, witnessed by my wife. Fortunately we didn't draw ourselves as winners!

April's winner was Steven Renvoize, and May's was Dave Old. Both have received a cheque for just over £100. We gave donations (of just over £150 to The Jumbulance Trust and ServeDirect. Both charities have connections with people with village connections, both do excellent work in different ways and in different parts of the world. And both sorely need financial support right now. And every little makes a difference, as they say.

So we will keep operating in spite of any lockdowns, and if you would like to join in, please contact me, David Robinson, and I'll enrol you as a member of the club. Call on 368774 or email to dbr33@john-lewis.com.

BRAISHFIELD GOLF SOCIETY

Our first meet in April had to be cancelled. Now Golf courses are opening again we plan to hold our next meeting as planned on

Wednesday 24 June

hopefully at The Hampshire Club or an alternative course.

Anyone not currently a member of BGS are welcome to join us.

Just call or send me an email.

Richard Brazier 368414 rdbrazier@hotmail.com

JUMBULANCE NEWS

Our ambulances are being used as mobile ICUs as we are unable to offer holidays at present.

BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

COVID-19 Update

Not a title one usually associates with our Flower Club !!

We met at our monthly meeting in February little knowing what the future had in store. Sadly due to the Coronavirus all our meetings and demonstrations have had to be cancelled until September and then the Committee will have to decide the future of our meetings for the rest of the year. However, not to be daunted by all these changes, we have set up a very good system for keeping in touch with our members. Regular telephone calls to those living on their own and each month on the day when a meeting would have been taking place our Secretary Eileen sends all our members a cheery email. A few on-line workshops are taking place and our members have also been busy sharing their arrangements with each other. We thought readers might like to see a selection of some of their creations. The Easter Egg tree was particularly inspiring and arrangements not using floral foam were also popular. Following a suggestion from the National Association of Flower Arrangers we were encouraged to create

'Spread the Hope' door wreaths and several members were keen to do this.

Although we are very disappointed not to be able to hold our meetings and meet our flower club buddies, we are still keeping in touch with each other and will continue to create and share arrangements from the flowers in our gardens until such time we can all get together again. In joy, uncertainty or sadness, flowers are our constant friends.

Carole Renvoize



Village Hall News

In these strange times, we are very sorry to see our Village Hall without its usual groups. However, we are using the time to undertake some major refurbishment.



Where's Sharon's kitchen gone....?

Hopefully, when circumstances allow, you'll be able to come back to the Hall and not only see but use the new facilities!

There'll be further information in the next edition of the BVN.

As you may be aware, we were awarded a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £95k. It would have been necessary to close the Hall to undertake the refurbishment, however, we have been able to carry out the work during our enforced closure.

Malcolm Ayres and Chris Balchin are overseeing the work, which is being carried out by Safe Spec. If you have visited the Pantry, you will have seen their vehicle parked outside. To date, all has gone very well and we're delighted with the service we have received from the company.



A brand new kitchen appears.....

For now, stay safe and please continue your support for our village shop, which really has been a focal community service in these challenging times.

* * * * *

Braishfield Pantry in times of lockdown

Thank you to so many of you for supporting us in these uncertain days and weeks.

Back in February, we wrote 'The Pantry's not just for Christmas', after successful sales over the festive period...and there was exciting news of the £95k grant towards ongoing refurbishments to the Village Hall, including funding a separate baking kitchen area for the shop.

Then in the April BVN, the impact of the pandemic was becoming evident. We were hoping to stay open come what may, setting up a delivery service and rejigging the shop layout to ensure 'social distancing', making sure that both volunteers and customers were in a safe environment, whilst continuing to enjoy all the items that our suppliers could send us.



Nearly ten weeks on, The Pantry remains well and truly OPEN and

- we've completed 200+ deliveries thanks to a great group of drivers;
- our local suppliers continue to be fantastic, often providing items we're struggling to find elsewhere;
- we've come through shortages of toilet rolls, eggs, pasta, tinned tomatoes and most recently, SR flour!
- the takeaway service for cakes and hot drinks has been amazing (thanks to wonderful weather for using those tables on the Rec);
- Sharon has continued to bake more than ever to meet requests for 'treats' in times of need, in between sourcing and ordering stock and more stock to keep the shelves and table displays as full as possible;
- the band of volunteers has included not only those serving in the Pantry, sorting deliveries and collections over the phone and all the usual routine tasks, but others who've come in out of hours to check best before/sell by dates, help with cleaning, defrosting and stocktaking, and to weed the Pantry/Village Hall garden.

Our thanks go to everyone keeping things going for the community.



Great supply of fresh, local fruit and veg at the Pantry

Meanwhile, the builders moved in and are working hard, making a great job of the Hall. We look forward to having a purpose-built baking kitchen for the Pantry in the very near future (see photos above).

Thanks to everyone who's visited for shopping, called in for a chat, phoned through/emailed an order for delivery or collection.....

- to regulars who've been shop supporters for years;
- to walkers and cyclists combining 'exercise' with a visit to the Pantry (coffee and cake as well!);

- to all new customers coming by chance or on recommendation.

We look forward to seeing you all in the days ahead - The Pantry remains OPEN and here for everyone!

SOME COMMENTS FROM HAPPY CUSTOMERS:

- Thank you so much for the delivery yesterday. It was really appreciated. It is very strange being isolated like this when normally we are very active. We are so lucky to have the Pantry and shop in our community.
- Three Cheers for Braishfield Pantry!
When living on one's own during lockdown, Braishfield Pantry was supplying all my veg needs, household needs but more importantly, my social needs.
A cup of tea after a long walk to Farley Mount handed me in a paper cup - 2 metres social distancing - but a person to chat to in the area of covered space - was a joy.
Thank you to all the volunteers that kept going and still going strong for the community.
- ...absolutely singing the praises of... visit to the Pantry this morning...very impressed with the cleanliness and awareness of both of you working there.
- A huge thank you to all the Pantry Heroes who have provided such a vital source in these difficult times.
Your kindness has shone like a beacon in the gloom.



"Happy Easter from Alan Olden!"

A satisfied customer - his niece secretly ordered an Easter egg via us (we wrote a note) -

And it was a complete surprise!!

Braishfield Parish Council

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who are supporting our village during the Coronavirus lockdown. Our thanks to those working in The Pantry and delivering to our residents as well as those who are keeping in touch by telephone and online to all age groups. We thank Cllr. Carole Renvoize for donating the flag recognising the dedication of the NHS and all our key workers.

The planned Parish Council meetings in April and May, including the Annual Parish Assembly, were cancelled. Online Extraordinary meetings were arranged for 20th and 27th May. We expect to return to the normal schedule of meetings from July 2020 either by Zoom or in the Village Hall. Here are a few updates to share with you.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The name Lengthsman dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. Years ago many parishes had their own Lengthsman and it's possible that some of our older residents may remember whether in fact Braishfield had their own?

Nowadays it's not feasible for parishes to have their own Lengthsman, but work still needs doing. Hampshire County Council now funds a scheme under which parishes join together and share the services of Lengthsmen. Braishfield Parish Council joined the scheme administered by Stockbridge Parish Council about 2 years ago. There is no cost to the Parish and we get the services of a Lengthsman for a few days each month. If we had to pay for this it would cost hundreds of pounds each year. At present our Chairman, Jane Bennett, on behalf of the Parish Council liaises with the Lengthsman which mainly involves identifying work to be carried out in the Village. Each month as Councillors we are asked to identify areas which we think need attention.

Jobs that the Lengthsman has undertaken for us in the past include: cleaning road and bus signs, painting the sign by the pond, clearing debris from the recreation ground, leaf sweeping, painting the outside of the red telephone box library, weeding the garden outside the Pantry and maintaining the bus shelter.

There are certain things the Lengthsman is not permitted to do such as work to roads or verges. This wasn't the case in 1800!

We are always keen to receive suggestions so if you feel there is a job that the Lengthsman could do to improve our Village, please let Jane or any of the Councillors know.

Although 'Lengthsman' may seem an old-fashioned term, the scheme is a very helpful one which we in Braishfield are lucky to have and we need to make sure that we make the best use of it.

Hillier's Permissive Footpath

Prior to the construction of the Crook Hill Footpath, Hillier's very kindly opened a 'Permissive Footpath' on their land for the convenience of residents. It was never intended that this would remain open once the Footpath was built. Following the completion of the Crook Hill Footpath, the Hillier's Permissive Footpath has now been closed. There was also a Health and Safety issue as following the construction of the Crook Hill Footpath, the north end of the permissive footpath was open to a very deep ditch. The Council would like to thank Hillier's for their help in this matter.

Working Party – Climate Change

Our lives have changed so much in recent months. The pandemic might be warping our sense of time, but at the end of February and before lockdown, we held our first working party on climate change.

The group, which will report back to the parish council, has been set up to look at ways in which we can make changes in our community to become more sustainable so we can continue to enjoy the beauty of Braishfield for generations to come.

We shared ideas and discussed some ways forward to engage with our community and build a vision to support TVBC in tackling climate change.

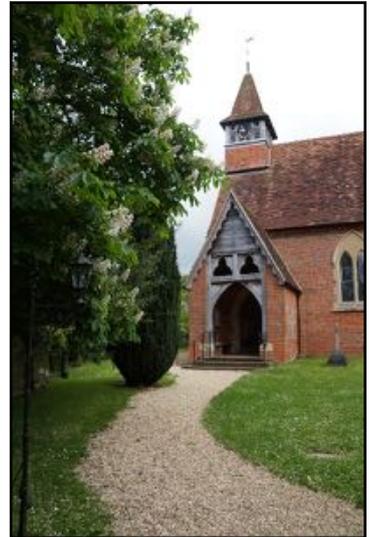
Lockdown has forced all of us to make some changes – from working at home to buying more local produce and supplies, these changes will have resulted in some positive environmental impacts.

Although our minds might be currently focused elsewhere, our group will be catching up again soon. Please do get in touch if you'd like to share any ideas.

Braishfield Parish Council

All Saints' Church

The church is not closed – but different. We can't use the building, but the life of All Saints carries on. Gathering for services and social events isn't possible, but people are keeping in touch through phone calls and emails, through conversations with people met when out walking and catching up with news of others in the Village Pantry. Worship carries on in different forms – plenty of opportunity for private prayer at home, and joining with others in praise and prayer via the radio, the TV, online, our faith growing as we hear the word preached. There is a great variety of worship on offer – but of course we all miss the chance to be together in one place, and share a common experience. And catch up with each other! In time, that will happen again.



New website

Alan Lord has created a new website for us: asbchurch.org (as in **All Saints Braishfield church...**) Do have a look!

Finding a new Rector

Plans to fill our Vacancy and appoint a successor to Canon Steve Pittis have had to be paused for now, but we are most fortunate to have our Associate Priest, Revd Jane Thompson, who is working hard from home. Jane is always happy to be contacted (502035) as are the church wardens Andy Brooks (523928) and Sarah Boothman (368143) if there is anything you would like to talk about or you need help of any sort.

Church yard maintenance

Visitors to the church yard will notice that Richard Brazier and members of the team of volunteer Mower Men have been hard at work completing a number of maintenance tasks. They are currently levelling up and re-seeding graves which have sunk. The hedges have been cut, the grass continues to be mown regularly and strimming is carried out to keep everything tidy.

Care of graves and gravestones

Now might be a good moment to remind everyone that diocesan regulations state that there should only be one container of flowers on each grave, and definitely no trinkets/memorabilia. We would be grateful if those who tend graves would remove any extra items which have been placed there. We can't expect the mowers and strimmers to work their way around them. Unfortunately a few items have already been damaged, despite the volunteers' best efforts to be careful, and it would be very helpful if remaining surplus objects could be removed.

Families may place flowers on graves, but don't 'own' the grave space, so must abide by the diocesan guidelines. Gravestones are the property of the family. They can only be introduced in the churchyard after permission has been granted, and maintenance is then up to the family. If a gravestone becomes unsafe it is the responsibility of family members to have it dealt with – or the wardens will have to have it laid flat.

Thank you!

We are all really grateful to the volunteers who help to keep the churchyard in good order, and a pleasant, peaceful place to be. Thank you from all of us to each one of you.

Andy Brooks and Sarah Boothman All Saints' churchwardens

*****STOP PRESS*****

There have been recent incidents of fly-tipping in the village. Please report any you see to TVBC with full details and photographs of rubbish, labels and bar codes if available.

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/transportparkingandstreets/streetcleaningandlitter/fly-tipping>

PARISH COUNCIL REMINDER

***Please adhere and promote social distancing whether walking, cycling or running on roads, pavements or footpaths. Please do not venture into fields which are private property. ***

SOCIAL CONTACT GROUP

Like all Societies and Groups our meetings and outings have been cancelled in line with Government advice until it is safe to resume. However, this did not stop the Easter Bunny delivering an Easter card and a surprise gift of chocolate on all our Members doorsteps.



At the end of February we were delighted to receive a generous donation to our Group funds from the Romsey & Chandlers Ford Round Table. The presentation was held in The Crossfield Hall and we felt honoured to be recognised amongst the many other worthy local Charities. In March we were very extremely appreciative of the kind donation received from The 200 Club.

Our Group are incredibly grateful for these kind donations to our funds.

During our first committee meeting of 2020 plans were made for outings throughout this year, including new venues to visit. Whilst these plans are 'on hold' for the time being, our Members know that when we are able, there will be a lot to catch up on!

If you would like to join our friendly group or if you are feeling lonely, please do not hesitate to ring me on 368339.

Hazel Prince

Romsey Community First Responders

The scheme has expanded to six members and we are trained by South Central Ambulance Service and deployed by them.



Originally we focused on emergencies (cardiac arrests, chest pains, breathing difficulties, trauma and choking) but our brief has now been extended to allow us to assess patients (blood pressure, blood glucose, temperature etc.) and also to attend patients who have fallen at home and need to be made comfortable. To facilitate this we use a machine called a Mangar Elk to lift them up. This was acquired using monies donated by Romsey Rotarians as it cost around £1000. We also obtain equipment from money raised by South Central Ambulance Charity.

Covid has allowed us many more hours of coverage than usual. Tim, for example, has worked extra shifts in the Ambulance Control room as well as responding and doing his day job.

We attend all sorts of calls and now have a vehicle based with our scheme which is parked in Paynes Hay Road in my garage.

Many of you may have seen it buzzing around the village driven by myself, Tim, Jo (from the Wellow scheme) or Russ (from Lockerley). Russ is an ex Police Officer (like me) and we do like attending medical calls as historically people seemed less happy to see us in our former lives!

We wear Level 2 PPE to all calls (as shown), carry out an immediate Covid assessment on arrival and we do not do anything which might be what is called Aerosol Generating as this is the medium of transmission. These procedures we have to leave to additionally trained crews wearing the medical spacesuits you may have seen on TV.

If anyone wants to know what to do in an emergency with Covid an understandable complication there is some excellent information on NHS or Resuscitation Council websites.

We have all been surprised by how many of you make the effort on Thursday evenings to show your appreciation for NHS workers, care staff and a wide range of key workers.

Whilst we do not consider that we are doing anything special (compared to some of our colleagues) it is still heart warming to see such a display. The flag at the Village Hall and all the placards dotted about the village with the rainbow posters (and illuminated pylons!) are great as well.



Again, thank you all for your support it is much appreciated.

Roy Bayntun

3rd Romsey (Braishfield) Scout Group

The Great Indoors



The Scouting Purpose is to ‘actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society’.

Life is quite different at the moment and although we suspended our face to face meetings in March, we have continued to support our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Welcome to *#TheGreatIndoors*.

Whilst the schools have been closed and through a *#badgesathome* initiative, we have pulled together some inspired indoor activity ideas to help keep our young people entertained and allow them to continue to work toward their badges.

SHEEP MATTER AT ELM GROVE

Lambing has come and gone, with the first arriving a few days early. The last two deliveries included two lambs that looked unlikely to survive. However, Kate is a very good shepherd and the one that was really poorly for three days is now happily enjoying life with the others who had difficult starts to life; the other despite lots of warmth and cuddles unfortunately didn't make it which was sad. The airing cupboard is a wonderful resource!

There were the number of triplets Kate was expecting to have, although two scanned for twins had triplets and two scanned for triplets had twins! Of the triplets, there were nine lambs that were from mothers that didn't have enough milk for three, so sadly had to be removed from the mother and bottle-fed. The girls have named them all and enjoy feeding them; the remaining triplets are being managed by their mothers.

It has been a strange time with home schooling, but luckily most of the births happened during the school holiday with some being born during the home schooling period, which was not ideal, but Kate has benefitted from Ian being home so he was able to do lots of chores! The girls are so enjoying looking after the pet lambs and they know all their foibles. The young dog Fly has become a wonderful worker and is a real help to Kate.

Ian has been shearing the sheep, and has only got the ones based here to do which is really good.

Rain is desperately needed to grow the grass for hay. The younger the grass, the better the quality apparently, so ideally hay should be made about now. It doesn't look terribly likely at the moment. Hay is needed to feed the sheep in the winter, so it can be bad news to not have enough of quality.

Wendy Quarendon



Lockdown in the Village.. both here and there

Warm sunny weather, some incredible walks, gorgeous views, breathtaking bluebells in nature at its best, a well-stocked village pantry and a friendly, peaceful setting – just a few of the benefits of our location here in Braishfield. We are so fortunate to live here just now. Despite that, for many people of course, it is still a stressful, painful and difficult time.

Just after I pressed 'send' on the last update, writing from our 'other village' in central Uganda only 8 weeks ago, our plans changed overnight. With just 24 hours' notice, we had to leave as Uganda was starting its own tough lockdown, beginning with the borders and airport closure. Like the UK, Uganda remains in lockdown.

Unlike the UK, lockdown is 'imposed' differently. No furlough scheme, no benefits, no 'working from home', all businesses, schools, churches stopped, no public transport at all, no private cars on the road, only walking or cycling are permitted to get food... police enforcement is rigorous and harsh. For



the poorest in the rural communities, no salaries = no food. If you live 'hand to mouth' you have no reserves or savings. After 9 weeks, some are left with literally nothing.

To help support the villages where we work, we (as ServeDirect) have suspended our usual education & health support for now. Just for the next two months, we are sending funds to two local partners who are distributing food boxes to vulnerable groups of widows, child-led families and single parents. £20 feeds a large family for a month. If you would like to help other families get through their lockdown, please donate via www.servedirect.org – there is a red Donate button on the homepage, and mark it as 'Crisis Support'. Every donation matters – we send 100% to help those in need right now. Thank you so much.

Jerry and Elspeth Dugdale are part of ServeDirect, a Braishfield based charity working in Uganda.

For more information about the work, please look at www.servedirect.org . Or email elspeth@servedirect.org



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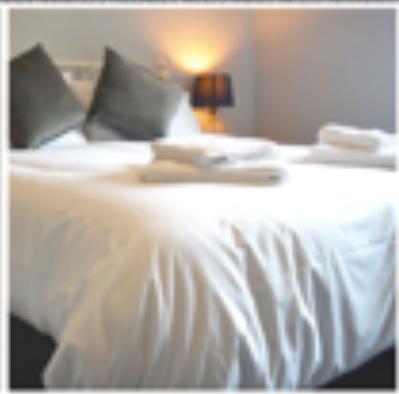
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RUBBISH NEWS

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

Recycle weeks beginning:

8th, 22nd June

6th, 20th July

Household waste weeks beginning:

1st, 15th, 29th June

13th, 27th July



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

Recycling Is Easy!

In Test Valley, we collect 5 types of recyclable materials from Rubbish News brown bin, and we have a network of more than 100 Local Recycling Centres to collect even more items! At home, you can put the following items in your brown recycling bin:

« Paper. « Cardboard « Plastic bottles « Tins and cans. « Aerosol cans

and you can take the following items to your Local Recycling Centre:

« Glass bottles and jars. « Textiles. « Aluminium foil. « Cartons
« Books and media

To find your nearest or most convenient Local Recycling Centre and to see what you can recycle there, use Recycle Now's Recycling Locator:

www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling

Brown Bin Recycling Tips

- « Ensure your recyclable items are clean and dry.
- « Don't bag your items – keep them loose or they won't be recycled!
- « Don't put other plastics (pots, tubs, trays) in your bin – we can only recycle plastic bottles.
- « If in doubt, have a look at the recycling guide:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide

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Rita Stitt and Margaret Old in the doorway of April Cottage on VE Day 1945



VE Day 1945 – Days of Empire

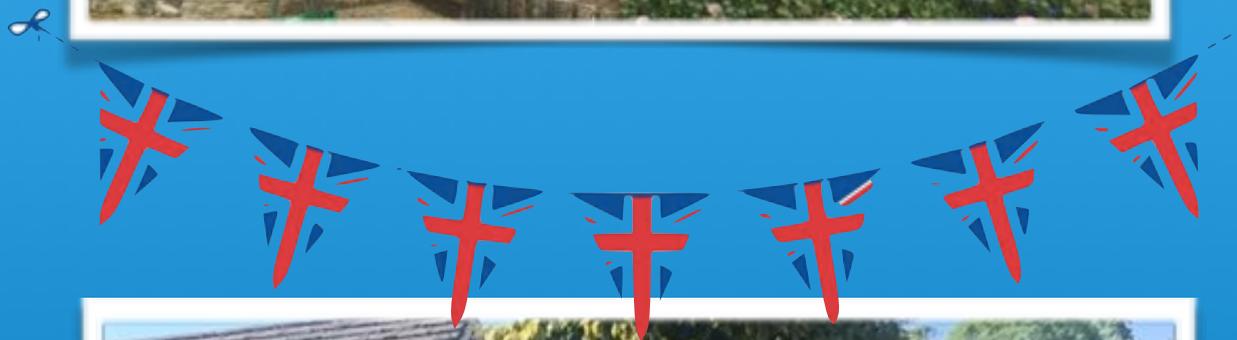
I was born in 1934 in Srinagar, Kashmir and attended Sheikh Bagh Prep School during the war years 1939-45, with a hundred others. Surprisingly, despite being miles away from any war zone we, school boys, knew that a war was on and the general situation across the globe. The daily school routine commenced with the headmaster taking ‘morning prayers’ followed by unrolling a map of the world to brief us on the war situation. It is not difficult to recall that for the first 3 years the Allies, did little but retreat and suffered much. The news was endlessly depressing. The Head was masterly in his briefings by ending always on a positive note despite the contrary. Subsequently, in 1943 the ‘worm turned’ and the daily briefings were received with surprise, excitement and pleasure as our troops advanced on all fronts, which eventually led to a great celebration on VE Day and to be given a holiday like no other!

Many years later in 1953 in England, I joined the Army for my National Service. Earlier, my Regiment had been in the thick of the fight in WWII from Normandy 1944 and the fight to the Baltic, reaching Hamburg in 1945. Dramatic news was intercepted at 19.00 hours on 4 May by signal: ‘All troops will cease fire at 08.00 hours tomorrow, 5th May 1945.’ Captain Jim Moore of the Regiment recalled the moment when the momentous news was received: ‘I had often imagined the scene that such news would bring, the jubilation, the handshakes; but we just stood in silence. It had been a long exhausting struggle. I had been there right from the initial landing in Normandy after D-Day. We had lost so many fine men, so many friends, and so many splendid, courageous soldiers. That this was the climax of a marvellous campaign seemed somehow irrelevant. We stood there silent; there was nothing to say.’

Three days later, on 8th May, Winston Churchill announced to the Nation the war in Europe was over – to be Victory in Europe Day - a memorable event for so many both at home and on the field of battle, now still and silent. The wonderful news was received in contrasting ways. Those who participated and bore witness of war compared to those like myself, who only listened to the commentary and could only imagine events of desperate conflict.

George Elliot May 20





I came to live at the Newport Inn in Braishfield on 21st November 1941 during WW2, with my parents, Alec and Elsie Cottle and my sister Janet. My other sister, Edna, was born during the war. We moved from Thornhill, Southampton, to get away from the bombing and blitz on the city, where my dad was serving with the National Fire Service. After we moved, he travelled each day back to Southampton.

I was 9 years old on VE Day and was really not sure what all the excitement was about. I did know that Winston Churchill (my Dad's hero) had announced to the country that we were now at peace with Germany. I remember we had a big party to celebrate VE Day in the Recreation Ground and that we all sat around wooden trestle tables covered with red, white and blue, and we waved flags. The tables were laden with food. I don't know who organised it, but Mum and Dad told me they had helped. They also helped when we had another party, in August, to celebrate VJ Day. I remember we had fireworks on the fence between the Rec and the Common, made with Catherine wheels on a wire frame to make the letters VE, and again with VJ in August.

All that was a long time ago and I'm still living in the village!

Shirley Smith (nee Cottle)



VE Day May 1945

Friday 8th May 2020 reminded me clearly of May 8th 1945. That, too, was a beautiful day. Blue skies and lots of sunshine. However, on that occasion I was not enjoying a social distance gathering in Braishfield I was in fact in Germany. I don't remember details of what I was involved with on the day other than the fact that I was in a vehicle and heading towards Luneburg, little realising that it was to be the last day of the war. I do however remember the sight of a military policeman leaping about, waving his arms and shouting, "its all over". We guessed that he was referring to the war.

Luneburg Heath, was of course, where the final surrender took place. Together with my company, we moved to the town where we set up in a racing stable on the outskirts. In fact, we remained there until sometime in September during which time I celebrated my 21st birthday. I was a regular soldier and was suddenly whisked away back to the UK for a short break and then on to Egypt where I stayed for the following eighteen months.

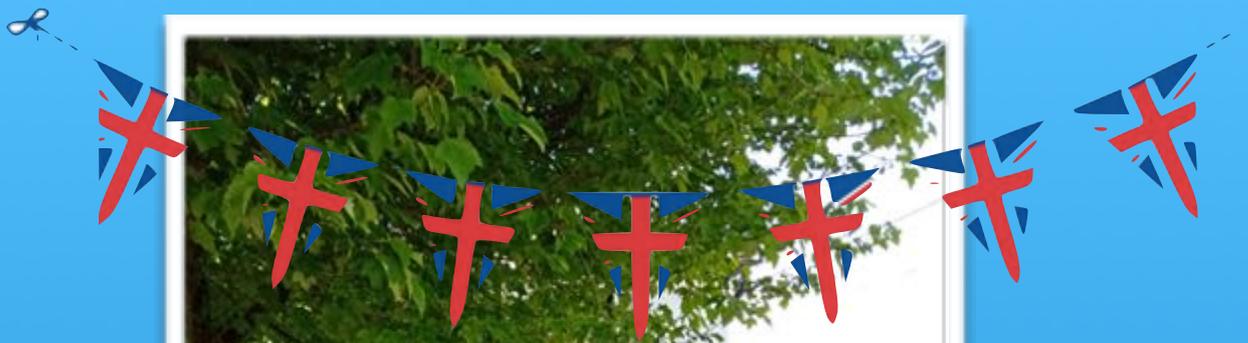
My only regret that I have about that period of my life is that the move was so sudden and I never had the opportunity to say goodbye to the comrades that I had spent the war years with.

Sometime later, I returned to Germany where I completed my service working with a company of former German soldiers in Keil, (not the SS). We became the best of friends.

Something I would like to mention, not connected with VE Day, but which may raise a smile is about an incident that occurred at an earlier time. Many will no doubt recall the popular wartime song, "We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line, have you any dirty washing mother dear". We were on the move, crossing from France and into Belgium and passing through the German fortified area. We were suddenly confronted by a Tiger Tank that had been knocked out and to which some enterprising squaddie had strung a line of dirty washing along its massive gun barrel.

Even in times of conflict we find a touch of humour. Unfortunately, in those days, camera phones were a thing of the future so there is no photo to offer to the BVA News. I do sometimes wonder if the "Washerman" survived the war and was able to relate his activities to family and friends.

Bob Thomson.









Extracts (typed as recorded) from the Diary kept by my grandmother, Florence Uppington

Granny and our grandfather, George Uppington, (Rector of St Michael's, St Thomas and St Swithun's in Winchester) lived at St Michael's Rectory, a large 3 storey Victorian house on an elevated site on the east side of St Cross Road, opposite the Wessex Motors garage. The house was demolished in the '70s; the site now occupied by St Michael's Gardens.

Notes on people - Grandpa was Welsh – Granny called him Taff (T). Mummy (Mary) was teaching in Oxford.

May 6th Sunday Prague freed after nearly 7 years. Gen. Monty has a Victory salvo fired over his HQ, the first time one has been fired by the British Army while in the Field. 2 more German armies surrendered. Started to catch a few Nazi criminals.

May 7th Monday Berchesgaden taken, fantastic abode largely underground. Thousands of tons of food stored there, everything about it quite mad.

Unconditional Surrender signed by G's at Gen Eisenhower's HQ at Rheims – to us, Russians & U.S.A. Germans said they quite understood surrender terms + for better or worse the G. Forces & people were delivered to the victors. Goebells, his wife & child found poisoned.

May 8th Tuesday V.E. DAY. Ever since early in the 1930s have we lived in a state of nervous tension, growing worse each day. One simply can't realise it is over. Cuckoo loudly greeted the victory day – he had been very silent during the cold spell – Cathedral bells ringing victory peals. Telephone also very busy.

A.T.S. and Rifles had a service 10 30 at St. Thomas's. T. [Taff] had service at 12. Drumhead Service at 4 p.m. after the Mayor had read the Peace Proclamation. Service at St. T. 6pm.

3 p.m. Churchill on wireless gave a short but wonderful speech. Listened to crowds outside Buck. Palace, Trafalgar Sq. Bells of St. Paul's and St. Martin in the Fields. Bells and crowds in Edinburgh – wet day of course – ditto York, Belfast, Coventry, Cardiff, Liverpool with ships' sirens and to Puddletown in Dorset. Back to London again and so on until 12 p.m.

Glad to have lived to enjoy such a wonderful day.

2 day's holiday for everyone. Winch. had Community singing for ½ hr, a bonfire on St. Giles Hill about 11 p.m.. I had asked Sydney (a friend) for tea and evening so we saw the fire from the top storey. Now G. has given in we heard – wireless – that G. prisoners were to be used for reconstruction work.

May 9th Wednesday Sydney for supper and wireless. Goering & Kesselring caught. T. went to S'pton - no decorations and nothing happening there.

May 10th Ascension Day How nice to have it just after VE Day. Cath. Bells at 7 a.m. no papers today their holiday. Plenty of errands. Heat wave.

May 11th Friday Heat wave – Channel Islands freed. Mary home by 6o'c train looking very tired. O. [Oxford] had well rejoiced on the 2 days. Dragon School arranged good programme for the children. Undergrads had processions and bonfires everywhere.

May 12th Saturday Mary's birthday, very nice to have her at home for it. Gave her sardines, lettuce and choc. mould for lunch, the best I could manage. We had boards taken off skylights. So nice to have the scullery really light after so many years of darkness! [Morrison] Shelter taken down and put outside.

Hannah Boothman

