BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 214 December 2015

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Villagers

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

Committee - 2016

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Editor's Notes

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Written items for the 'News' should be sent to:-

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

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

mike@braishfield.org

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

Latest copy date for the next issue is: January 19th 2016

From the Chairman

The 'Call my Bluff' evening was not only great fun but, with the auction, raised £800 to help fit out the new shop. My thanks go to all who helped and, in particular, to David Robinson for organising the event and his team of wine experts for giving us the benefit of their "knowledge" of the wines of the world. Thanks to the financial contribution of that event and the generosity of many in the village, our new shop is taking shape day by day.

Barely a year ago Marian put forward the idea of opening a morning café in the village hall. Building on that and with the blessing of the Village Hall Committee and support of Ian Burrows, Clive John and village volunteers, she created our existing shop. It required a great deal of hard work, planning and research and much of their efforts went unseen. Mike Edwards then suggested to the VH Committee that the proposed new build should become the new shop. Clive John took on the responsibility for raising the money, getting the necessary permissions and appointing the companies that would collectively build the new shop. What a task and what an achievement.

The new shop will be a great addition to our village life and is a marvellous example of what can be done by a small community when a determined few work together with a clear objective. Sadly however this change also marks the end of Marian's involvement. For personal reasons she has decided to step back and hand over to a new team. We have a lot to thank her for and wish her well.

Building work at Oak Close is almost complete and the development is a welcome addition to our village life. They are good looking houses with a great location and views to match. I am sounding like an estate agent (apologies to Michael Rhodes) but with a new footpath to the Wheatsheaf what more could anyone want. By the time you read this the first residents will have moved in and we wish them every happiness in their new homes.

John Bevan's efforts to improve the road and traffic conditions along Braishfield Road are beginning to get results and Richard Brazier has wrestled dates from HCC for the installation of traffic lights at the junction with Winchester Road. Relief for commuters is on the way. Well done the Parish Council.

Christmas is just around the corner and the village social calendar is getting full. The Christmas Tree Festival will kick start the celebrations and the BVA's entry of 'Reach for the Sky' will be hard to beat! But please do try!

Finally in this festive season do keep an eye out for a neighbour or fellow villager who might need a helping hand , and on behalf of your committee I wish you all a very enjoyable and happy Christmas.

From the Editor

Quite apart from the family fun, happiness and warm sense of community which Christmas brings, we have a great deal to look forward to, both immediately and in the longer term. The obvious is Marian's and others amazing achievement with the shop and Pantry, with its expansion now underway and, after that, the refurbishment of the Village Hall itself, and we anticipate the new houses now coming to life in Oak Close, in Abbotswood on our periphery and the future build at Ganger Farm – and the sterling efforts underway to adapt the infrastructure to absorb the growing and strengthening community, both within and on the edges of the village, such as the proposals for widening Braishfield Road where that is required and particularly at the junction with Winchester Hill, to include traffic lights. Yes, there will be some disruption in all these initiatives, but we can look forward to a fine result!

Not mentioned elsewhere but just to say that many attended our traditional Remembrance Day Service and Wreath laying, on Sunday 8th November, gathering at the War Memorial before processing to All Saints', and of course the short Service at the War Memorial led by George Elliott on Armistice Day itself. Enough! It just remains to wish everyone a very safe, relaxed, happy and joyful Christmas; and of course a very good, healthy and enjoyable 2016.

BVN DISTRIBUTORS

Another year, 6 issues delivered to your door by our 14 loyal distributors who pound the streets in all weathers throughout the year.

A huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to them for the time they give freely to make sure you receive your copy each time and on time.

Sue Mullane

BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB

Two more lucky winners, and two more donations to local causes. The October winner of the monthly draw was Bob Thomson, who has received a handy cheque in the run up to Christmas. The November winner was Penny Vallings, who received a similar amount. We made donations to the Unite Reformed Church's annual appeal, which is in aid of the 'Rivers of Living Water' charity which brings safe (i.e.clean) water to hospitals in Zimbabwe, and the All Saints Church.

We're always happy to have new members in the Club. For a fiver a month you stand a good chance of winning the monthly prize (currently over £100), as well as knowing that £3 of your contribution goes to good causes. Give me a call on 368774.

David Robinson.

Donations to Braishfield Village News

We would like to thank all those who donated toward the cost of the Braishfield News this 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 2016 and we would like to thank those who helped us this year. If you wish to make a donation please complete this slip and forward it to the address below and please make cheques payable to Braishfield Village Association.

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

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

Thursday 21st January 2016
at
8.00pm

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the BVA. Join us to hear about the Association's activities during the past year and what we hope to achieve in 2016, and also to let us have your comments and ideas.

If you are unable to attend but would like an issue raised, please contact Chris Balchin (368427: webeditor@braishfield.org). Anyone wishing to stand for election to the Committee please submit your name along with a Proposer and Seconder by Monday 4th January 2016. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

VILLAGE AGENTS NEEDED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

If you are interested in learning new skills or refreshing old ones, taking part in your local community, and helping older people to remain independent then Age Concern Hampshire needs you to be the next Village Agent.

Village Agents are local people who offer a few hours a week of their time to signpost and help older people to access information, advice, and local services. They provide a face-to-face contact point for people who are less likely to use the telephone or internet service to access information. Please get in touch if you have time to spare: Call Gail Allen, Village Agent co-ordinator, on 01962 892443 or Freephone 0800 328 7154 or email villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk. Alternatively you can download an application form, and find out about our many other volunteering opportunities, on our website: www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-for-us/

AGE concern Hampshire

Hampshire County Council

Notices cont.

Dear Editor,

On 5th September a party with loud music took place in the village and there was no corner of my house where I could shut out the thumping of drums. However I was grateful that it finished at midnight when I was able to get to sleep.
I'm all for parties, and music in one's own house. Why is it thought necessary to amplify it to all of us?
How would it be if on my birthday next summer, I was to celebrate by broadcasting say Beethoven and, or, Wagner for all to enjoy?
Yours sincerely
Philip McCall
(Editor: My sympathies here because we remember it well and were similarly kept awake. Of course parties/celebrations must take place, but the problem would at least be alleviated in part by the simple courtesy of warning villagers in advance)

Seasons Greetings

To All The Residents of Braishfield

A Very Happy Christmas

And

A Peaceful New Year

From

County Councillor Alan Dowden

Notices cont.

SPEED THROUGH BRAISHFIELD

Last Thursday morning 16 October, Parish Councillors, Prince and Bevan, met with a member of the Hampshire Highways team to discuss the condition of Braishfield Road, from the Dog and Crook to Braishfield House, following complaints from residents as to the road condition causing vibrations to their properties.
The issue of speed on Braishfield Road and the junction with Common Hill Road was also discussed as there are funds available through developer contributions, S106 money, to address the problem.
We were advised that HCC's Jet Patching gang are due to carry out repairs to the surface within the next 2 weeks which should improve the situation, although it will only be a short term fix.

We discussed the issue of resurfacing the road but this is subject to funding issues and priorities throughout the County. The problem with just resurfacing without addressing the control of speeding, is that speed will probably increase creating even more issues.
The Parish Council are awaiting a report from the County Council following our meeting, and will continue to pursue this issue and will advise when further information is available.

Mike Prince
Chairman, Parish Council

BVA NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Following this year's success, the BVA will be organising a New Year's Day village walk again - for some, it appeared, blowing away the fug of the night before seemed very appealing! We intend to start and finish at the Wheatsheaf this year and walk for about an hour and a half. Plan is to meet at 10:30 for an 11 o'clock start and finish at lunchtime.

We would love to see as many villagers out as possible for a convivial stomp round the countryside so if you would like to come please email michaelstubbs@braishfield.org
so we can get an idea of numbers.

Michael Stubbs

Notices cont.

TWO DATES FOR YOUR MUSICAL DAIRIES

BMADS is very pleased to announce that two concerts have been arranged for 2016.

On Thursday April 21st at 7.30 in the Church Room there will be a concert given by a very exciting duo called the Duo Bayanello. This is 'a young and inspiring new ensemble consisting of two contrasting instruments, resulting in a surprisingly harmonious tone: cello and accordion'.

The players are Cecilia Bignall on the cello and Iosif Purits on the accordion. The duo was formed at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Both players have performed around the world: Cecilia is a member of the multiple award-winning Jorgensen Trio who have travelled widely to perform and Iosif is a prize-winner at 30 International competitions.

On Saturday September 17th at 7.30 in the Church Room, our second concert will be a String Quartet concert given by a group of very experienced professional players who have performed in just about every combination of ensemble and aim to become an established quartet.

More details will follow about both of these concerts, but please take the opportunity to put the dates in your diaries now!

Wendy Quarendon

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE LUNCH

Join us for our special Christmas lunch in the Church Room on

MONDAY 14th December at Noon

Christmas fayre and festivities

Please phone if you can spare time to help on the day or cook or bake.

Julie Kemp - Organiser Tel; 368894

see page 16 for 2016 lunch dates

Notices cont. Thanks

BULB PLANTING AT ALL SAINTS.

The wonderful Indian summer concluded on Saturday, 3rd October with much activity at All Saints - flower arranging in the church - preparing the church room for the Harvest Supper and a band of willing gardeners who planted well over 800 bulbs - a mixture of Narcissus Jetfire and Tete a Tete, Iris Reticulata, Scilla and Snowdrops; around the Yew Tree at the church entrance.

My grateful thanks to all who donated, and especially to Claire, Andy, Mike, Maggie, Gill and Jean who helped with the planting. We now await a display of spring flowers that will not only give memories of loved ones, but also give renewed hope to the many thousands in the world who are so much more less fortunate than ourselves

Stephen Treglown

BRAISHFIELD BUILDERS

Does everybody find they need more space as the years go by and families grow? Shouldn't I just be a bit tidier and better organised and avoid all the disruption of a building project... Well we took the plunge.
Any misgivings I may have had about building an extension, have been eliminated every day over the past couple of months, by the commitment and skill of the Garrett workforce. They would turn up first thing in twos, threes, sometimes five at a time and set to with a will to demolish and remove the old and gradually, skilfully and painstakingly build up the new. They tackled problems as they arose with the reassuring confidence of good builders, taking time to explain whenever we had questions. They readily co-operated with others – the electrician and plumbers and buildings inspectors– to add their contributions without hampering progress. Most of their hard work was accompanied by lively chat and often gales of laughter. The quick wit of the whole extended Garrett/Barnes clan is legendary and very reassuring when you see them facing all the effort and complications such as gales and pouring rain!
I see they have now gone on to higher things – work at the Village pantry no less- getting the foundations ready for the new shop. We wish them all well, our Braishfield Builders and heartily thank them all: Mark, Steve, Pete, young Pete, Digger, Kev, Jamie and Taffy.

Ros Chaplin

Notices cont.

Steady & Strong

The Hampshire 'Steady & Strong' community exercise programme is designed to help older people regain and maintain strength, balance and coordination. Through being active, the chances of keeping mobile, staying independent and preventing falls are significantly increased. Active people are more likely to have better mood, be less anxious, have better memory, sleep better and have more social contacts.

Please see the following document: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/adultservices/older-people/SteadyandStronginformationleafletforweb2014.pdf

The group meets weekly in Village Hall on a Tuesday from 1.15 to 2.15

For further information contact:
Jenny Pawson 07845 530855

SITUATIONS VACANT in the WORLD FAMOUS ELDON GROOVE COLLECTIVE BAND

Musicians are required for the forthcoming gig in the RENOWNED BRAISHFIELD O2 STADIUM
Variety Show in advance of a world tour.
BASS, DRUMS, BRASS or any musical instrument. Jazzy/ Bluesy singer ?
Triangle (grade 8 only)

Don't be afraid to come forward. We will welcome you whatever your age, religion, or political persuasion and we will help you cope with being a celebrity.

Contact Jeremy on 368864 or jeremy@jnland.co.uk

SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH - 31st JANUARY 2016

It's that time of year again when my committee and I have to start organising the Senior Citizens' party. If any villager over the age of 65 would like to be added to our list please contact me on 368164.
Looking forward to seeing you all.

Sharon Fielding

Notices cont.

OAK CLOSE

The new houses in Oak Close are now completed and have been handed over to Hyde Housing by the builder.
The first residents are due to be in before Christmas, and on behalf of Braishfield Parish Council, I welcome the residents to their new homes and wish them a long and happy life here in Braishfield.
I am aware that many of the new residents are relocating from other houses in the Village, but I hope that they will quickly settle in their new houses, and continue to enjoy living in this beautiful Village.
Mike Prince
Chairman
Braishfield Parish Council

BRAISHFIELD ROAD UPDATE

The Parish Council has been keeping track of the highway works which affect us resulting from the Abbotswood development. These works are all being funded by the Developers under a Section 106 agreement and a number of the improvements are already in place.
Putting traffic lights at the junction of Braishfield Rd with Winchester Rd are part of the planned work and we understand this work is provisionally scheduled for February / March 2016. Whether this date is kept to we will have to wait and see. But for your information the plan is to widen the east side of Braishfield Rd to allow for the separation of traffic turning left to Winchester and the motorway network and turning right to Romsey. Once Abbotswood is fully built out and Ganger Farm is operational this junction will be taking a lot more traffic and it will be interesting to see if the planned works with only a short filter lane to the left will suffice. We were of the view keeping School Rd open as a one way from Braishfield would help minimise Winchester and Motorway bound traffic using the traffic light junction. However as you will have noted this closure has already been done. We also queried why School Rd has been closed in advance of these works, the result of which has increased traffic using the Braishfield Rd / Winchester Rd junction without the benefit of traffic Lights. We were told TVBC did try to delay these works until after the traffic lights were in place but HCC decided that concerns over safety at the School Rd / Braishfield junction outweighed the advantage of keeping open the Southbound traffic only, and justified total closure of the junction.
Braishfield Parish Council Richard D Brazier
Home: 01794 368414Mobile: 07768 020917Office: 02381 781012

CHURCH ROOM ART

EXHIBITION ★ EXHIBITION

4th, 5th and 6th
DECEMBER
4th, 5th: 11am-6pm
Sunday: 11am-4pm

CHURCH ROOM
CHURCH LANE
BRAISHFIELD
SO510QH

10% of artwork sales to be shared by:

JANE SCARTH HOUSE AND ALL SAINTS, BRAISHFIELD

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Braishfield Horticultural Society Apple Day

The second Braishfield Apple Day was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th September. Like the first Apple Day held in 2011 this was a celebration of the diverse varieties of apples grown in the village. This year we advertised the event more widely and did in fact attract visitors from as far afield as Maybush, Cadnam and Wellow.

cider. There was also the opportunity to make your own fresh apple juice using a special apple press.

Over 70 contributions of apples were received and within Braishfield 20 different varieties were recorded. Amongst the usual Bramley's, Worcester's and Laxton's there were some with unusual names such as

The presence of Paul Barnett and Brian Fox (*see photo above*), two leading experts in apple culture, ensured that many of the apples brought to the event could be identified.

Throughout the day refreshments with an apple theme were available, cakes, ploughmans lunches and

Red Devil and Greensleeves .In size the apples ranged from the quite small 'American Mother' to a truly gigantic 'Howgate Wonder'.

The Eric Irish trophy for the Champion Apple was awarded to Sheila Still for her basket of peerless 'Royal Jubilee apples. (*see photo opposite*)

The two apple specialists worked tirelessly all day to identify all the apples brought in and were rewarded by the presentation of two apples from Whitenap and one from Romsey allotments, which they could not identify with certainty but were of special interest as possible rare varieties. Paul Barnett remarked on the high turnout of contributions and expressed his surprise at the number of varieties to be found in one village.

The weather was fine and warm on the day which ensured a steady stream of visitors and another successful event for the Horticultural Society.

BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Interested in gardens and gardening?

Why not join Braishfield's GARDENING CLUB?

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month: January – May and September – November, at 7.30pm

in the Village hall. In June we organise visits to local gardens of interest.

JANUARY MEETING – MARTIN COX will talk about

'CLEVER WAYS TO GROW VEGETABLES'

Just come along or phone 368766.

We'd love to see you.

Village Community Shop Project

The timber frame finally arrived on 28th October after some six weeks delay due to bad weather 'up north' hampering the installation teams. However, progress has now been swift, the frame is up and complete with a splendid English oak truss framing the canopy.

A complex box-gutter between the hall and the new extension has been installed and Steve Garrett's crew have completed the roof tiling. By the time you read this, the new doorway from the committee room into the shop will have been installed and the floor screed completed. The four door sills into the hall will have been removed and the floors will all be the same level.

The next stage is the front aluminium windows and doors which should be installed by the first week of December, and there will then be a lull of a week or so to allow the screed to dry before the internal boarding and ceiling arrives. I'm told that the screed will be dry enough within 14 days under 'normal conditions' whatever that may mean. Exciting times!

May I take this opportunity to personally thank all those parishioners who have generously donated funds to this community project. However, with completion in sight, the budget is very tight and any further donations would be very welcome to enable the shop to open fully furnished and equipped from day one.

Clive John

VILLAGE LUNCH DATES 2016

MONDAY	January 11th	MONDAY	September 12th
MONDAY	February 8th	MONDAY	October 10th
MONDAY	March 14th	MONDAY	November 14th
MONDAY	April 11th	MONDAY	December 12th
MONDAY	May 9th		
MONDAY	June 13th		

No lunch in August

Everybody is very welcome

Julie Kemp 368894

Village Hall Committee

At a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee, we were pleased to welcome Steve Renvoize, who is replacing Terry O'Keeffe as the Horticultural Society representative.

We thank Terry for his contribution to the work of the committee and look forward to Steve's involvement.

At our meeting we held wide-ranging discussions regarding the Village Shop which is now reaching an exciting stage.

With the injection of over £50k of public money through the grants we have received, the Trustees recognised that we have now moved to the next stage of the shop's development.

The framework for the new building has arrived on site and construction has begun. This is a major achievement and we owe a great deal to Clive John for his single-minded drive to obtain funding, the necessary permissions and lining up the material suppliers and builders to get us to this point.

However none of this could have been achieved without Marian Randall's vision, energy and determination to set the shop up and running in the first place. We fully recognise this and are very grateful for the sterling work she has done.

Marian had decided, due to increasing family commitments, that she would relinquish her role when the new facility was established but has now decided to step down from her current day to day and strategic role in the shop.

She has of course made it clear that she will ensure a smooth handover to the new team, which is being led by Ian Barrow. Our thanks go to him for stepping into this role.

We are looking to thank both Marian and Clive for all that they have done at the official opening of the new shop premises.

Ian Knights.

Don't forget to complete your Shop Christmas order list for hams, cheeses, fish etc. It was sent via the Braishfield email network. Forms are also available in the shop.

Please note the final date of 11 December for ham orders to ensure that they can be got as required.

‘Call my Bluff’ in Braishfield

This was a very well-attended and enjoyable evening in the Village Hall on Friday 9th October, when 8 different wines were paraded for the benefit of all. Lightly and humorously led by the Chairman of the ‘experts’, David Robinson, the Panel (Carole Renvoize, Tony Lowe and Mike Ransom) led us all ‘by the nose’, through each tasting, accompanied by an excellent selection of cheeses and pâtés from the Village Shop organised and provided by the Braishfield Village Association . Alternately bluffing outrageously or indeed telling the truth, the panel skilfully and amusingly took us through the evening, educating us as they went! It passed all too quickly. An excellent concept all round, raising a total of £800, which included the auctioning of one bottle each of the 8 taster wines. The funds were donated to the Village Hall for the Shop extension.

Empty taster bottles ‘hanging’ on the wall!

Braishfield Village Quiz

This year's village quiz was a lively affair, won by Team "Alkenes" who lead from the 3rd round all the way to the finish. Sterling job! However, special mention should go to "Same Again" and "Dutch Courage" who finished 2 points and 2.5 points behind them respectively.

For the second year we used the Alphabet as the format, with topics covering Abbreviations to Zoos. There was healthy debate as to whether Pluto was a planet and we have no idea what the people of Canada were thinking about, changing their Prime minister a week before we asked a question about him. They obviously hadn't thought this through enough.

Undaunted by these difficulties the Village Hall Committee are already embarking on next year's quiz, still based on the Alphabet (subject to topics on X and Z which are proving rather vexing.) The event provided an evening of fun as well as raising over £150 to go towards the refurbishment programme for the Community Shop and £45 for Children in Need.

So a "win - win" for the Village - or in the case of team Alkenes - a "win -win -win!"

Iain Coleman

BUMS

B-raishfield
U-kulele
M-usic
S-ociety

are having a

Christmas party!

on Monday

December 14th at 7.30pm

in the Church Room

Bring some refreshments and an instrument if you wish and join in the fun.

OR

just sit back and be entertained!

Everybody welcome

Microphone, music chords and words to songs and carols will be provided

Two Farley Walks - 5 Channel Islands & Dales Way

As you read this on perhaps a cold, wet December day, let me take you back to our elusive early summer.

The last week of May was sunny and warm. After an enjoyable barbecue organised by Hazel Watters and Wendy Graham at Oakfield, on the Friday evening, a group of almost forty sailed on the Condor ferry from Poole next afternoon on 23rd May, led by Iain Chisholm to 'walk on water' in the Channel Isles; a unique opportunity (virtually impossible to book a group holiday like this) it involved chartering a boat for three of the journeys. First stop, St Peter Port, Guernsey, built on a hillside with many substantial houses, including Victor Hugo's house.

A glorious Sunday found us walking along the south coast with amazing cliff top views over an azure sea and a wealth of spring flowers. At La Corbiere Chris Chisholm met us with the 'lunch wagon' and we sat admiring the view as we ate. Further on we visited some very intact remains of German fortifications, then met Chris again, this time with tea and cake (a daily pattern!) Some attended choral evensong in the Town Church on our return.

The following day we started our walk along the flatter north coast with a visit to the Dehus Dolmen, a passage tomb. In small groups we crept along, heads bent, to reach the dimly lit central chamber and to wonder at the ancient rituals involved. After another wonderful day traversing sand dunes and coastal paths, our coach took us along the narrow lanes back to town and a mystery destination for dinner; Castle Cornet, where sherry and canapés on the battlements overlooking the town and harbour were followed by an excellent dinner and an illuminating talk on Victor Hugo by Chris Amery. We were joined by Richard Brazier, organiser of the next day in Alderney, where he has a holiday home. Many thanks!

Tuesday gave us several morning options; two walks, a visit to Herm (the fifth island) or an opportunity to explore St Peter Port's museums and galleries and the Guernsey Tapestry, depicting the history of the island (or to shop!), with strict orders to be at White Rock Quay by 1315 for our trip to Alderney. It was the perfect way to approach the harbour of this northernmost island, passing (and smelling!) isolated guano-covered rocks, home to the wheeling gannets and guillemots. After a quick ‘turn around’on arrival, it was up the hill to St Anne town and the Alderney Library for a fascinating talk and viewing of 'The Bayeux Tapestry Finale', five panels made in recent years in Alderney; half an hour later off to a reception in the Alderney Museum with time to view the comprehensive collection and to learn of early history, the Napoleonic period and the total evacuation of the island in 1940.

The following day a local guide led us on paths right around the

island. We appreciated the flora and fauna, (including some Alderneys, of course) amazing views, empty sandy beaches - one person bravely went in for a swim - and an ice cream van (more forward planning?!). We saw Napoleonic forts, battlements, relics of the German occupation, the day ending with dinner in St Anne followed by an illustrated talk about the fortifications.

On Thursday our chartered boat arrived from St Peter Port, for an early departure for Sark. Despite the calm day, the tidal race between Alderney and the Cherbourg peninsula was quite something! The day was ours to explore the island, where there are no cars. Five people took a horse-drawn carriage and a few hired bikes. Lunch was in the garden of the hotel on Little Sark, the southernmost part, linked by a very narrow causeway. Many visited the beautiful gardens of La Seigneurie. After a relaxing day we embarked for the three hour voyage to Jersey.

We stayed in Gorey Harbour, below the imposing Mont Orgueil Castle. Friday saw us walking along the cliff paths on the north coast of Jersey. We descended to Bouley Bay for crab sandwiches from a beach cafe. We kept an eye on the lowering clouds, but the rain caught us so it was out with the waterproofs for the first time in the week. Our final day was a gentler walk along the railtrack from St Aubin's harbour out to Corbiere Lighthouse and our lunch stop. Then back to visit St Brelade's parish Church (Michael and Sue Halliwell's last parish before retirement) and the little Fishermen's Chapel. After tea we walked around the bay with time for a swift pint at the Smugglers Inn before the coach back and then a final dinner all together, preceded by a masterly and most amusing summary of the history of Jersey by Timothy Hornsby, including ten questions to check our concentration!

The early birds attended the 8am Communion at Gorey Church, to a great welcome, and doubling the usual number! Morning options included a walk around the reservoir or time to visit Gorey Castle. Then sadly, time to travel to the airport at the end of yet another action packed, memorable and amazing walk with very good friends . Huge thanks to Iain and Chris Chisholm and also to Chris and Meryl Balchin who did the recces and led many of the walks, deputising for Iain whose Achilles tendon was gradually mending.

A small group of intrepid walkers tackled the Dales Way this October and covered the 90 odd miles from Ilkley to Windermere in five days. This is known as the 'robust walk'; it's good to report that Iain was one of the walkers. We heard that the weather was ideal and the autumn colours looked stunning. The bottom line is that these two ventures raised well over £7,000 in sponsorship money for St John's Farley Chamberlayne, as well as other charities. The walks provide a big boost to our church funds and all at Farley Church are most grateful.

Hannah Boothman Churchwarden

Obituary - Dora Brady 23/12/20 - 20/10/15

Dora was born in Southampton to parents Alfred and Elsie Maidment, the eldest with two other sisters, Kitty and Lena.

Part of her school life was spent looking after her mother who suffered from ill health; most of her early working life was spent in domestic service in many different areas of Hampshire

Life was pretty tough during that part of her life due to WW11 being very active. Around this time she met up with Tom who was to become her husband; this took place during the war, so not an awful lot of time for romance.

After the war period Tom and Dora set up home at Chalk Pit Cottages where they spent a few years there before moving to Woodley (then Ganger Camp); the three children came along namely Carole, Michael, and Susan and eventually when the houses were built in Braishfield they moved to 20 Hill View Road which was to be home for many many years.

Dora worked exceedingly hard carrying out various jobs within the Romsey area when the children were quite young her last job being her favourite at Waitrose where she worked for many years and made many good friends, eventually retiring from full time work at the age of 66 years.

Not one to sit around for long she soon took on a number of domestic jobs within the village for various people with whom she became great friends. During 2005 she lost Tom, however she continued to soldier on and found a new inner strength. Aged 88 she gave up her jobs and started to take life a little easier which she found quite difficult and frustrating she received much support from the family at this time to try and acclimatise.

With a little encouragement from Carole, she rekindled an old interest and became quite an avid knitter, making a great deal of hats for the Merchant Navy seamen and eventually hats and scarves for family members along with new born clothing for great grandchildren as and when they came along.

She started to deteriorate in early 2014 and slowly became frailer; after numerous falls and time spent in hospital in early March 2015, she took up residency at Valley Lodge Care Home Chandlers Ford, where she passed away peacefully with family members by her side.

Michael Brady

Obituary - Margaret Stewart 11/05/23 - 01/11/15

(from the address given at her funeral by Canon Bruce Kington)

As we will all recall, Margaret was a feisty Scotswoman, exemplified by a conversation Doug recently had with his mother concerning arrangements for her funeral. It went like this –
Doug: "If anything happens, I'm going to Aldi's"
Mother: "You are not, Douglas – you're going to Waitrose!"

Feisty she may have been, but she also made a great many friends, as is evident by the numbers of you here today.

Margaret was born in Ayr on the banks of the Firth of Clyde, and she was very proud of the fact that she was educated at the Ayr Academy with its long history dating back to 1233. She described her time there as "some of the happiest days of my life", and from there she set out for a training at the Scottish Agricultural College at Auchincruive. It is some five miles from Ayr, so not too far for the first steps into the big world, but far enough to be independent! Following in her father's footsteps, she trained as a milk recorder. This work involved much travelling around the Scottish Borders and because of the early mornings required for the recording of milk yields, she would often stay overnight at the farms she was visiting. What an opportunity for the farmers' sons in some of these wild and isolated places as she was whisked off to dances in the evenings! When Doug described to his mother some of his own travels in the borders she would remark, "I had a boyfriend there. And there. And there…!"

A milk recording trip Margaret made to Dalkeith proved to be a life-changing event. It was there that she met a certain Jim Stewart, who worked for the Ordnance Survey. Marriage to Jim involved Margaret in even more travelling as Jim's Ordnance Survey work took him between Banffshire just south of Inverness, and Bolton in Lancashire. Ultimately, it brought him to the Ordnance Survey HQ at Southampton and to their new home, Balmashanner, on Braishfield Road.

Doug by this time was aged eight and was sent to Braishfield School wearing a kilt – but only on the first day! Margaret and Jim set to in the garden and planted a (mini) vineyard, from which they even managed to produce their own wine.

The move to Braishfield marked a new phase in Margaret's life. She decided to undertake a series of courses in dress designing and fashion at Southampton Technical College and discovered that she had real flair in this direction, soon becoming an adult educator. At

home, she extended her skills into spinning and weaving and with her Scotswoman's sense of thrift, even the dog's hair was spun and woven into fabric. In consequence –according to Doug – his father was sent off to the Newport sporting a dog hair waistcoat and followed by all the dogs of the village! It gives a whole new meaning to a hair shirt. Of course, Margaret loved animals and was a well known supporter of the RSPCA.

After Jim's retirement a move to Swanage for a few years was followed by a return to Romsey and then to Braishfield, to a bungalow in Megana Way. From here Margaret could take up once more with her various groups of friends who met regularly.

But sadly this life was not to last, and after Jim's death Margaret moved to a smaller property in Fishlake Meadows, where she still loved entertaining her visitors, siting her television so that she could always see who was coming. Eventually a stroke meant another move into the Cedar Lawn Nursing Home, where she still entertained people, especially the church members who supported, visited and helped Margaret through this time.

A real lifeline for her was the fact that she was able to continue attending the monthly All Saints Lunch Club right through to the end.

And how appropriate it was that the end came on All Saints Day. For Margaret was a person who not only lived life to the full, but for whom, behind that life, lay a deep and real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (Ch 3, v 1 - 11) - was a favourite of hers. The opening words describe her understanding of the Lord to whom she was committed and in whose hands lay the times of her life – "There is" says the writer, "a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

But she also understood that her life went further than a kind of fatalistic acceptance of each day as it came. The end of our reading pointed towards the hope that was hers in the Lord Jesus Christ, for the writer notes, "God has set eternity in the hearts of men." Jesus himself has promised that, "Whoever believes in the Son has life…" and again, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full." St. John, in his first epistle, continues this description of the "eternity that God has set in the hearts of men" when he writes: "God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life…"

Here then, is the great assurance of hope that was Margaret's and can be ours today. Death, for the believer in Jesus is not the end, but the bridge into an even more wonderful life in the presence of God. A place of meeting and a place where we

shall see our Saviour face to face as we see one another face to face today. This is the sure and certain hope set out so wonderfully in the last verse of the hymn we have just sung:

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship, when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled, or who can say how great the jubilation when every heart with perfect love is filled. But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing, and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

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3. Am I fighting fit?
Lugging and/or splitting wood is hard work. There will be wood ash to clear if you are burning logs rather than pellets.

4. Will I use it?
A wood stove may be surplus to requirement if you have a good boiler and central heating.

5. Will I burn the right stuff?
Will the wood you burn come from a sustainably managed forest?

For more wood stove Q&As, simply search the blog at www.yougen.co.uk

Photo: A wood stove provides an attractive centrepiece
Photo courtesy of SuperHomes

Magna Carta

This article follows on from the success of the Braishfield Flower Arrangers taking part in the Festival of Flowers, Magna Flora in Salisbury Cathedral last May to mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

"Eight Centuries of the Rule of Law" Runnymede, near Old Windsor, Surrey and lies beside the Thames, the place in which it all began is very English, just like the countryside which surrounds Braishfield with meadows still grazed by cows and the gentle hillside covered in timeless woods of oak, ash and thorn. Although this year is the 800th anniversary of King John setting his seal on Magna Carta on 12 June 1215, the anniversary has not really seized the imagination of the public. English diffidence pervades towards its significance; there has been no dancing in the streets to celebrate what Lord Denning called "the greatest constitutional document of all time." The event was viewed as something that happened rather than something fundamental to our way of life.

The naysayers emerged from the woodwork, with the alternative narrative; King John was not a good man and had his little ways, so too did the barons. These were not good fellows, but a band of marauding illiterate thugs, motivated by naked self-interest. And anyway the Pope revoked Magna Carta less than two months after it had been issued, so it was a failure. And Cromwell called it "Magna Farta", which shows how much he thought of it! And the Victorians "bigged it up" simply to prove that the English were fair and therefore the right people to run an Empire. And '1066 and All That' sums up the Magna Carta as "everyone should be free except the common people." Oh, and finally did I say that most of Magna Carta's clauses are no longer enshrined in law, so that also makes it pointless.

What's to make of all this? In the words of Churchill, "here is a law which is above the king and that even he must not break," The implication was clear; the king was answerable to his people. The words of the document still exert a powerful hold: "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned or be stripped of his rights or possessions or be outlawed or exiled or deprived of his standing in anyway … except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land."

Compare that with the Articles 5 and 6 of the European Convention on human rights; it is the guide for the EU.

Of course Cromwell disliked it for the same reason as Charles I: it stopped him doing things. And it still does curb an over-mighty executive, which is why it has been emulated across the world. The Americans are the great champions of Magna Carta, and nowhere is this more evident than at Runnymede

itself. The two main memorials are American. They stand testimony to how far the seeds planted at Runnymede have travelled. One memorial celebrates the 'freedom under the law' and the second is to President Kennedy containing the words from his inaugural address: "let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill that we will pay any price, bear any burden and meet any hardship, support any friend or oppose any foe in order to ensure the survival and success of liberty."

There is a third memorial at Runnymede, set well back on the summit of the hill overlooking the meadows and commemorates the 20,000 airmen of the RAF and Commonwealth killed in the Second World War and with no known grave, emphasising the price of liberty so eloquently referred to on the Kennedy Memorial.

The challenge for Magna Carta is to spread its roots still further, so that the words "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice …" become the birthright of all. These words broke new ground when they were written and continue to provide a beacon to the world.

George Elliott

ERRATUM

UPDATE FOR YOUR NEW RESIDENTS' GUIDE

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL IS

07968 671604

The King is Coming

We spend a lot of time getting ready for things; work, going out, getting married, retirement, Christmas (how are your preparations?!) It's important to make sure you are ready.

Jesus said we must make sure we're ready for one great event: his Second Coming, when he returns to earth. This isn't some far-fetched fairy story; rather it's a theme that runs through the whole of the New Testament. This is what the season of 'Advent' is about - the comings of Christ; once as a baby in a manger at the first Christmas, then, at the end, as the King of Kings.

When he comes, Jesus said it would be unmistakable and inescapable. He will come again in person and it will be as evident as lightning lighting up the whole sky. All earth's population will see and know he's come.

It will be sudden and unexpected. Jesus told his followers that many will be taken completely by surprise for they will be complacent and unprepared. It will be, he said, like a thief in the night that comes when you are not expecting.

This time he will come not as a helpless baby but a mature man; not just one star in the sky but with hosts of angels in attendance; not in weakness but in power; not in humility but in glory; not in meekness but in majesty.

Jesus' return will bring God's plan for the world to a climax and conclusion. History is 'His-story'. He will be acknowledged by all as LORD of LORDS and KING of KINGS. The world last saw him crucified; now it will see him crowned. At last everyone will recognise that Jesus Christ is Lord. Nothing and no-one will be able to challenge his rule. He is coming to Judge the world. God will be seen as perfectly just and all the injustices of history will be set right.

When Jesus returns he will put an end to sin, sorrow, sadness, sickness and decay. Evil, the devil and his demons will be destroyed. Death itself will be banished for ever. There will be a great reunion with those who have gone before, who have died trusting in Jesus. We will be given new and perfect bodies in a renewed creation.

In the light of fact that Jesus is coming again as King and as Judge, there is absolutely nothing that is more important in our life today than to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are Christians, that we are trusting in Jesus for today and for the future. It's not about pie in the sky when you die, or hedging your bets for the future. God longs for us to have a relationship with him and to experience his amazing love now. When we have that assurance, then when Jesus returns, it will be like welcoming the greatest of all friends, with an unimaginably wonderful future in store.

Steve Pittis

BRAISHFIELD ENTERTAINS YOU!!

on

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March 2016

At the Village Variety Show

The Village Hall Committee is planning another show and invite all user groups and Villagers to join in providing the entertainment.
Thanks to those who have already booked their slot.
We still need more acts – whether a sketch – musical or not, a dance performance, a poem – whatever!!
We also need helpers behind the scenes - leading up to the show and on the night.

Would you like to be part of this event? If so, please call or email one of the team:

Graham and Jane Bennett 368109 or graham.d.bennett@btinternet.com
Iain and Sue Coleman 367064 or iainsue5853@gmail.com
Ian and Wendy Jeffery 367282 or ianandwendyj@btinternet.com
Tim Howkins 368330 or timhowkins@me.com
Ian and Meri Knights 368516 or meri.knights@btinternet.com

3rd Romsey Cubs

3rd Romsey Cubs entered the Supreme Box Cart Championship which is held annually at Goodwood. The sun shone, the Cubs had fun and a great day was held by all.

There were lots of different cub packs taking part and they all had their own design for the kart. In the morning we had our kart inspected to make sure it complied with all the safety rules. We were given tape measure to check the width of the kart, how long the wheel base was and had to explain what it was made out of. There were lots of stewards organising the races and making sure we were safe in the surrounding paddocks of the race course. Each team was made up of three cubs: one to steer and two to push. There were sixteen heats so each cub had a go at either steering or pushing.

We asked the cubs what they thought of the event and they replied:
"Fabulous"
"Great"
"I will definitely recommend this to my friends"
"Exciting"

Next year we will design a faster kart and get lots of practice before the day

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BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

Weekly Events

Monday Nights –	Free Pool
Wednesday Nights –	Fitness Class 6.30pm
Thursday Night-	Braishfield Table Tennis
Saturday Nights –	Meat Draw
Sunday Nights –	Bingo (No Bingo Sunday 27th December)

We also have Pigeon Club, Dart, Pool and Crib teams always looking for new members.
Snooker Room, Table Football, Skittle Alley all available to Non Members.

Forthcoming Events

Quiz Nights held fortnightly on Friday Nights (see board outside club for next date)

Xmas Draw - now	12th December (Sat) draw tickets on sale
Sloe Gin Competition - per entry Judging at 1.00pm	20th December (Sunday) 12.00-2.00pm £2
Xmas Eve Vinyl Evening - welcome)- free	24th December (in members lounge, all
Boxing Day Celebrations -	12.00 – 7pm with cheese and biscuits
New Years Eve Disco- from club	31st December 7pm – 1am tickets available
Burns Night Celebrations – Free	Sat 23rd January 2016 (Members Lounge)-

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

We are closed Tuesday 22nd, Friday 25th, Tuesday 29th December and Friday 1st January.
Normal opening times other than these and Boxing day (12.00 – 7.00pm)

Tickets for Events: From the Bar or see Village Noticeboards for further info.

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28th January	AGM, Church Rooms with American Supper
25 Feb	A Blast from the Past - Irene Hickson
24 March	Wedding Wonders - Carole Stables

Meetings held in The Church Room from 7.30pm .For further information contact Chairman Maggie Batchelor on 01794 368125 or Eileen Norman on 02380 731162

*Open Evening Meeting will be held in Braishfield Village Hall

Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 14th & 28th December:
11th & 25th January 2016
Household waste weeks beginning: 7th & 21st December
4th & 18th January 2016
Garden waste green bags are collected the same week as household waste, every other Friday morning, but no collection between Monday 21st December and Friday 1st January 2016

see TVBC notice which will be attached to your bin in December for Christmas and New Year collections

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Braishfield Village Diary

Regular Meetings	Where	Time	When	Next meetings		
Parish Council	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.00	1st Tues excl. August	1 Dec	5 Jan	2 Feb
Village Lunch	Church Room	12.00	2nd Mon excl. August	14 Dec	11 Jan	8 Feb
Horticultural Society 🕮	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.30	2nd Tues excl. June/July/Aug	12 Jan	9 Feb	8 Mar
Flower Arrangement Society 🕮	Church Room	7.30	4th Thurs excl. Aug/Dec	28 Jan	25 Feb	24 Mar
Art Group	Football Pavilion	10 - 12	Every Thursday except August			
Toddler Group	Comm. Room Village Hall	10 - 12	Wednesday – tel:07817 739903			
The Pantry Shop & Cafe	Comm. Room Village Hall	9 – 12 3 – 6	9.00 – 12.00 & 3.00 – 6.00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (9-1), Friday Saturday 9.00 – 12.00			

Events 🕮	Where	When	More Details
Christmas Tree Festival	All Saints	Friday, Saturday, Sunday 4/5/6 December	11 – 6 Fri/Sat 11 – 4 Sunday
Art Exhibition	Church Room	Friday, Saturday, Sunday 4/5/6 December	11 – 6 Fri/Sat 11 – 4 Sunday
BUMS Christmas party	Church Room	Monday 14 December, 7.30pm	See page 19
New Year's Day walk	meet at The Wheatsheaf	Friday 1st January 10.30 -11am	See page 8
BVA AGM	Comm. Room Village Hall	Thursday 21 January 8.00pm	See page 6
Senior Citizens Lunch	Social Club	Sunday 31 January	See page 11
Village Variety Show	Village Hall	Friday/Saturday 11/12 March	See page 29

🕮 **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