



# **BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS**

Issue 218 August 2016



**Villagers gather for the cutting of the cake and the Loyal Toast as Braishfield celebrates Her Majesty's 90th birthday**

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](http://www.braishfield.org)

## Braishfield Village Association

### Committee - 2016

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Committee	Ian Jeffery	367282

### Editor's Notes

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

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

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

[mike@braishfield.org](mailto:mike@braishfield.org)

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

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

**Latest copy date for the next issue is: 22nd September 2016**

## From the Chairman

What a great day. Villagers and friends gathered on the recreation ground on the 11th June to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed their day with music provided by the BUMS, Headrush, the Elderlys and Jeremy North. The Village Voices led the spirited rendering of Happy Birthday and Richard Brazier was our suitably dressed Master of Ceremonies.

I have so many people to thank for planning and organising the day. To Jonathan Williams and Williams Shipping for providing the stage. Paul Fielder and the Social Club for providing the 'wet weather' option in the Club and, most importantly, the bar! Sharon for the cake and Mrs Byrne and Mrs Payn for doing us the honour of cutting it. To Steve Renvoize for running the banner competition, and congratulations to Caroline Anderson for winning. To Hazel Prince and her team for arranging a special tea party for the Social Contact Group with scones provided by the Brownies and with an endless supply of tea provided by Mike. The BVA committee for manning the BBQ and Ian Jeffery, Kate Marshall, Julie Kemp for organising the raffle and the music; to Nicky Ayres and Malcolm for the electrics. Finally to Carole Renvoize for co-chairing the HM90 committee and to Sheila Still for taking over my duties at very short notice. All in all

it was truly a village affair; informal, relaxed and fun. Quote from one villager "most enjoyable village event I've attended in 34 years living here!" Her Majesty would have been pleased".

You will have noticed that this edition of the BV News (BVN) has a colour centre. We hope you like it. Sadly as things stand we can't afford to have this wealth of colour for every edition but you could help. As an association we have to raise every penny we spend and we do that by running events and through donations. A small donation of £5-10 per year from each household would help us to run the association, produce the six magazines a year, enable us to have some colour in every edition and maintain the vital Village Website. A number of you already contribute and I implore you to continue.

Finally your committee try hard to keep you informed of events or developments that could interest or affect you, and most importantly create events such as the HM90 Picnic in the Park.

We need one more committee member! Could that be you! See the 'bold' note on page 4!

## From the Editor

Following the Chairman's piece, there is little for me to add. What I will say, though, is that for quite some time I have been 'banging the drum' for colour. I now feel as if several Christmases have arrived simultaneously! The last colour occurred in 2012 when two sequential issues celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with coloured front covers. Now, as we celebrate HM90, we have 12 ambitious pages in the centre of this edition! It won't, and cannot always be as rich as this but, yes, with care and a degree of generosity from all our punters, we can achieve a continuous level of cheerful presentation into the future. One further observation. The concept and much of the planning for the very successful Picnic in the

Park originated from our Chairman. In the run-up to the event it was therefore a jolt to lose him to the medics. However, such was the solid foundation he'd established that everything moved forward without a tremor. As you will all know, he's well on the way to full recovery, so I can look forward to being chivvied again!

Apart from the HM90 centre-spread, where I hope many of you will spot your pretty/handsome faces(!), we cover the globe from the Isle of Wight to Syria, bounce off Brexit, glance at music, military history, birthday celebrations (local!), the Flower Show and of course display the many activities available to us all in and around the village. I hope you enjoy it at every level!

### **NEW BLOOD REQUIRED FOR BVA.**

**Age no barrier just enthusiasm, sense of humour and passion for our village way of life. Oh and time – but not too much. We meet once every couple of months at each other's houses. With wine and nibbles ideally! We produce the BVA News by coordinating the contributions we welcome from all villagers. We work on fun events that will bring us together socially and we keep an eye on any planning events that could affect us.**

**IF YOU THINK THIS COULD BE YOU WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

### **BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB**

Two more lucky winners in our monthly draws for June and July. Both of them named Geoff Briggs! Remarkable but not unique – it's actually the second time that someone has won two consecutive times. And donations were given to the Social Contact Group and All Saints Church. The next draw will be in August, so hurry to join in and qualify for our amazing and life changing wins – currently over £100 each month!

Contact David Robinson on 368774, or e mail [dbr33@john-lewis.com](mailto:dbr33@john-lewis.com)

## Donations to Braishfield Village News

We would like to thank all those who donated toward the cost of the Braishfield News last year. We hope that the content of the News makes good village reading and keeps you up to date with events. We do not run it on a subscription basis but we obviously incur costs to publish. We would welcome any support you can give to keep the News viable during 2016. 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](mailto: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



### PANTRY WEBSITE

Now that the new Shop is officially open, we have a new website detailing the opening hours, price lists for the café, photos and details of events etc.

It can be found at  
[www.braishfieldpantry.com](http://www.braishfieldpantry.com)

**Please have a look and let us have your feedback. Opening hours are detailed on the back page in the diary.**

### BRAISHFIELD GOLF SOCIETY

The second meeting of the season was held at Test Valley Golf Club on a dry and sunny day in early July.

9 ventured out and Charlie Menzies Wilson cleaned up, not only winning the Stapleford competition with 35 points but also nearest the pin.

An enjoyable day rounded off with a hearty Ham Egg and Chips washed down with a beer or three.

Our next meeting will be in September. Anyone interested in joining us please contact:

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

### 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 August:  
5th & 19th September.

Household waste weeks beginning: 1st, 15th & 29th August:  
12th & 26th September.

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



**BANK HOLIDAY WEEK 29TH AUGUST BLACK BIN WILL BE COLLECTED ONE DAY LATER THAN USUAL.**

## Notices

### BMADS AUTUMN PRODUCTION

BMADS have started preparing for this year's play, which is to be 'Lloyd George Knew My Father'. Described as a black comedy, by William Douglas Home, it is a tale of a family's reaction to a dual carriageway being built on land that they have owned for hundreds of years. It is certainly going to be great fun to rehearse which bodes well for the production!

Make a note in your diaries now; the dates are Friday November 18th and Saturday November 19th, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016

The village collection in aid of Christian Aid organised by, this year, All Saints Church, raised a magnificent sum of £775.80.

Many thanks to all who contributed. The money goes to help the poorest of the world in projects such as providing clean water supplies and helping people help themselves in flood-prone areas.

Hazel Davies  
Organiser

### THE ROUNDABOUT

Could I please make an appeal for someone to do something about the state of the roundabout at the top of Crook Hill? Ever since this whole project began, there has been something more than a little farcical about this edifice. Initially, it was built at such a precarious angle that it induced feelings of intoxication upon approaching – this was thankfully partially remedied with a rebuild. My main issue now is the state of the vegetation on the roundabout itself.

This is the main entrance route for almost all villagers to Braishfield. It is also a route that many visitors to Hampshire will use when driving to Hilliers Gardens. Surely this is not a good indicator of how we value our area? With Hilliers right on the doorstep, I wonder why it is not possible for the roundabout to be a display area of fabulous planting? Or perhaps HCC are working towards providing us with the national collection of weeds?

Wendy Dolby-Stevens  
Willowbrook House  
Braishfield

*Couldn't agree more! - Ed.*

## Notices cont.

### BMADS SPONSORED CONCERT ON SEPTEMBER 17th

BMADS is very pleased to be able to support another concert in September. This will be our third this year, following Duo Bayanello, the wonderful cello and accordion combination and Mairi Campbell Scottish Folk Singer. This time it is another String Quartet – the Lobkowicz Quartet.

The players are: 1st violin Kati Debretzeni, 2nd violin Claire Sterling, viola Sophie Renshaw and cello Robin Michael. Kati has led the English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner since 2000 and is one of the leaders of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. She has worked with most of the 'big' names and you can see her solo playing on Youtube. Claire is Co-Principal with English National Opera, and also was with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra until 2011. She plays with several other orchestras including the Australia World Orchestra of which she is a founding member as well as playing with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Sophie is based in Winchester and plays with many orchestras and ensembles, among them the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, London Mozart Players and Garsington Opera. Robin Michael is a very busy principal cellist with many orchestras including Australian Chamber Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Britten Sinfonia and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

As you can see, amazing, mature musicians who are excited about the chance to play as a Quartet for the first time, in Braishfield. They will be playing Haydn's String Quartet opus 20 No2, Schumann's String Quartet opus 41 No1 and Beethoven's String Quartet opus 74 'The Harp'.

It will be presented on Saturday 17th September at 7.30pm in the Church Room and you can reserve your seat by contacting Wendy Quarendon on 368015 or [wendy@quarendon.net](mailto:wendy@quarendon.net)

The price will be £20; we do not aim to make a profit, but naturally we do like to cover costs and not make a loss.

### **BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY 2016**

22nd Sept.	'I love Flowers'	Christine Evans
27th Oct	'Tales from the Forest'	Lyn Mackenzie



Meetings held in The Church Room at 7.30pm.

For further information contact Chairman Maggie Batchelor  
on 01794 368125

or Eileen Norman on 02380 731162



## Notices cont.

### BREXIT – SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Well, we know the outcome of the referendum. In Test Valley 36,170 (48.06%) voted to Remain and 39091 (51.94) voted to leave, a result quite close to the overall national result, and slightly more in favour of 'Leave'. (We do not have separate figures for Romsey and district.) We know that David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister and that Teresa May is now in place. It is possible that we may have a General Election before too long, but that again is by no means clear. We know that the EU will not enter into informal discussions about the terms of our departure and subsequent relationship until our Government has triggered off Article 50 of the Treaty of Rome. On a brighter note, we are aware that some leading global 'players' have indicated their interest in future trade deals with the UK – China, India, Australia, to name a few.

In a parallel universe I happen to sit on the editorial committee for the Romsey Romsey & District Society. In that capacity I undertook to interview our leading local citizens post- referendum. However, in short, we remain in a state of uncertainty and some confusion, as do our leading citizens, of necessity. So I will not be interviewing them for the time being. What could they say? But when things are somewhat clearer, I may well be knocking at their doors!

David Robinson

### BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE VOICES

Nearly two years ago and more than eighty songs later, Braishfield Village Voices is going strong, meeting once a month in the Church Room, where singers of all ages and stages are welcomed to 'come and have a sing'.

We all recognise the value of getting out, meeting up with friendly faces and having a chat over a cup of tea/coffee. Singing melodies old and new is a bonus – everyone can sing! Come and join us on any/all of the following Mondays 2–4pm: 22nd August, 26th September, 24th October, 28th November We look forward to seeing you.

Meri Knights/Wendy Quarendon

### **Braishfield Village Hall**

Flexible space available for social and sporting activities , clubs and groups at reasonable rates: [katel.knight@googlemail.com](mailto:katel.knight@googlemail.com) Tel: 01794 368173

**Special Rates for Children's Parties**

## All Saints' Braishfield – Dates for your diary



**Saturday 1st October**

7.00pm Harvest Supper

**Sunday 2nd October**

9.30am Harvest Festival

**Saturday 5th November**

9.30am Churchyard  
WorkingParty

**Sunday 6th November**

10.00am Annual All Saints  
Celebration Service

**Thursday 1st December**

Christmas Tree Festival –  
Preview and Candlelit supper

**Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th December**

ChristmasTree Festival

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

**More details? Please contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109**

## Scouts Vacancy

Dear Parents

Due to some re-organisation within the Group, we are able to invite parents/grandparents/friends to become an Assistant Beaver Leader.

This opportunity would give you the chance to see what the Beavers really get up to, have a say in what activities are run for them, as well as having fun and finding out more about Scouting - all while helping the local community!

This position could be filled by one adult, or by a couple of adults who share the role on a rota.

If you think this role is suitable for you, or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Beaman on 02380814295 or by e-mail [scouts@3rdromseyscouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@3rdromseyscouts.org.uk).

Thank you.



## Jumbulance Garden Party

### OPEN GARDEN and TEA PARTY

with the Braishfield Bums Ukulele Band



To raise funds for the local Jumbulance Group  
**3pm Saturday 13th August 2016**

at Oakfield, Farley Chamberlayne, Romsey, Hants, SO51 0QR

Homemade Cakes and Cream Teas, Raffle, Bring and Buy,  
Lucky Dip, Cakes & Jams, Book and Toy stalls  
Children and well behaved dogs on leads welcome

Gypsy caravan, woodland play house, a walled potager and lots of space  
with garden toys Teas and Stalls in the Barn if it is wet

RSVP for catering purposes 01794 368120  
or cookchrisr@aol.com  
Chris Chisholm

*The Local Jumbulance Group takes sick and disabled people on holidays and days out in the jumbulances (specially equipped, part ambulance, part coaches) We, the affiliated groups all over the UK are all volunteers with no overheads so every donation goes to help directly and the care and support is provided free by local volunteer nurses, doctors and helpers.*

*All volunteers and the sick and disabled people pay for their holidays but many need assistance and we need to raise at least £5,000 for each holiday. Last year we only raised £9,500 of the £20,000 we needed and, if we don't raise it this year, we will have to cut down on the holidays next year or put up the prices; which will then exclude some people who really need a holiday and their families a break, and deter low income volunteers.*

**We appreciate donated books, toys, Bric a brac and cakes and I can collect.**

### Monday 5th September

A talk at Braishfield Church Room at 7 30pm All welcome  
'Life of Contrasts : Britain and China' Speaker - Lady Joan Appleyard, DL  
Lady Appleyard lived in Beijing for some years when her husband was  
Ambassador.

*She is chairman of the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust.*

## Braishfield Amateur Tabel Tennis Society

### Braishfield Amateur Table Tennis Society

welcomes new members

Do join us at Braishfield Social Club, Common Hill Road, Braishfield

Thursdays from 7-9pm

Joining fee £5

£3 per session

All ages and abilities welcome

For more information, please call:

Steve Lumb 01794 368068

Jane Bennett 01794 368109

Anne Edwards 01794 368193



## Thanks to the BVA Vice Chairman & Committee

In my capacity of Parish Council Chairman, please pass on the congratulations of the Parish Council and, of course, the people of our uniquely special village of Braishfield, to the BVA Committee, for all of your efforts in making last Saturday such a memorable occasion. I am confident that everyone enjoyed the day and the entertainment. The fact also that Jimmy was so unfortunately diverted from enjoying his personal efforts with us all, and you, having to step in at such short notice, speaks volumes for you, and the BVA, as an organisation. It is apparent to me and, I'm sure, a lot of people in the village, that whenever Braishfield puts anything on in the line of village entertainment, the BVA Team are always there in the forefront!

Well done to all of you and please make sure, as we all should, that Jimmy is aware that his early efforts in the planning phase came to such a very special climax.

Much appreciation and best regards to all,  
as ever,  
John

John Bevan

Chairman Braishfield Parish Council

01794-368205/ 07925476533 jandabev@btinternet.com

## Ride & Stride

Preserving our wonderful heritage church buildings, Heritage Open Days and 500 Bell Ringing Challenge



Chris & I are off on our bikes again for Ride & Stride day on Saturday 10 September - a nationwide event\* - and will be cycling round the Alresford area. With up to 400 churches open and taking part the Trust hope to raise over £60,000 and we would be delighted if you would sponsor us again.

Meryl is cycling for All Saints Church and a sponsorship form will be left in the church if you would like to add your name or contact Maggie Brooks, 523928. Chris will be cycling for the United Reformed Church. Please contact Shirley Smith on 368447 if you would like to sponsor him.

If villagers are interested in participating (come and join us!), getting their own sponsorship and nominating a church that would be brilliant. Please go to the Trust's website [www.hihct.org.uk](http://www.hihct.org.uk) for details on Ride & Stride. Half the sponsorship money raised will come back to the nominated church or it can all come to the Trust! An easy and most enjoyable way to raise money – no effort needed except by the participants!! It is also a wonderful day to visit lots of open historic churches with refreshments on offer! Last year Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust gave out a record £87,000 in grants mainly thanks to Ride & Stride efforts and also grants received from Hampshire County Council and the National Churches Trust.

\*There are County Historic Churches Trusts throughout England and Wales all participating in Ride & Stride so you can join in if you are on holiday!

Last year we managed to visit 17 churches and cycled 33 miles starting at Warnford and ending up at Liss! A beautiful area and much jollity on the journey with 3 others. Fortunately transport was arranged and we didn't have to cycle back to Warnford! It is always a wonderful day.

Heritage Open Days also happen that weekend, 8-11 September and some churches will be part of that too.

To announce Heritage Open Days this year, they are running a 500 Challenge whereby they hope that 500 Church Bell Towers will register with them and the bells will ring out between 6 and 7 pm on Thursday 8 September. Listen out for them! All details are on their website.  
Meryl Balchin 368427 / [meryl@hihct.org.uk](mailto:meryl@hihct.org.uk)

## Talk on Syria - Braishfield Church Room July 11th

*Voices from inside Syria in the midst of conflict - talk by Revd Andrew Ashdown*

Andrew Ashdown is an Anglican priest who has been a regular visitor to the Middle East for many years. He is one of very few non-journalists to have travelled to Syria and has visited 4 times in the last two years. He returns to Aleppo at the end of August. After 25 years in parish ministry, Andrew has now stepped aside to undertake PhD research into Christian-Muslim relations in Syria. He spoke in Braishfield Church Room on 4th July and those who attended were spellbound at what he had to say. There follows a summary of some of the things he said.

### Introduction and Historical Background

There are many truths about Syria; Andrew gave his own impressions, after visits to Beirut, Damascus and other cities and villages where he met with a whole range of people and heard their stories.

Syria's 22 million people live mainly in the densely populated coastal strip. It is worth remembering that over several decades around a million rural Syrians moved from the former 'Breadbasket of Mesopotamia' where a peasant agricultural regime was failing, into the cities, giving rise

to instability, and that before the present conflict began in 2011 Syria had taken in 1.5 million refugees from Iraq. Syria is at the cross roads of ancient trade routes and has always been cosmopolitan. Today the US, Western Europe and Russia are concerned about current trade routes, which include the oil pipelines running beneath the country.

There is a saying: 'Americans think in decades, Europeans in centuries and Arabs in millennia'. Andrew reminded us this region was the home of ancient civilisations; substantial ruins date back to Roman, Greek and earlier times. The Crusader castles remain as stark reminders of that brutal time when the Crusaders massacred not just Muslims, but Jews and Christians as well (the invaders failed to appreciate that not all Arabs were Muslims). Fast forward to 1916 when under the Sykes/Picot agreement France and Britain carved the country up, imposing artificial divisions which led to great unrest.

Today the population is largely Syrian Muslims, including Sunnis (75%), Shias, Alawites and Druze. Among other ethnic groups are Kurds, Arameans, Armenians, Syrian Turkmen and Greeks. The Christians include Armenians, Copts, Mennonites, Roman Catholics, and protestant denominations. Almost

all the Jews have left.

President Assad is an Alawite Muslim who presides over a secular government. If he is overthrown the likelihood is that the Sunni Muslims would govern, but this would be a religious group, bringing many complications. Although the Assad regime is far from ideal, most of the people he has met wish for it to continue.

### Voices

Andrew has met with the Grand Mufti (leader of the Muslims) several times. He is a gentle, holy man, a great scholar. He is passionate about the co-operation of ALL faiths within Syria. As a liberal, he is intensely disliked by the Sunnis. He would love to travel to the UK to speak but he will not be granted a visa because he is an Assad appointee.

In 2010 Andrew and his family had a wonderful holiday in Syria. They hired a car and travelled to Beirut, Damascus, Aleppo, saw some of the amazing ancient sites. Unthinkable today! The place then was buzzing; tourism was growing. 'Come back in five years and see our tourist industry then!!' was the enthusiastic claim. Last year he met university students studying tourism, showing that people in the country are still hopeful that the situation will improve soon.

Damascus in 2015 was a city of fear, of economic hardship, poverty

and starvation. Andrew was very reluctant to visit the caravanseraï (souk/local trading area) - would it be totally empty? To his amazement he found all the craftspeople there. "Our resistance to terrorism is to be here and to keep going, so that when peace comes we will be ready to continue," they told him.

He asked a Syrian Christian cafe owner about freedom. "Freedom? I hate the word! It means guns, bombs, suicide missions . . . I have deleted the word from my vocabulary. We had peace before we had freedom." People are terrified of what will happen if Assad falls. They actually welcome the bombing of an area, if it will get rid of the terrorists. Andrew joined local groups meeting to discuss how to end the conflict. Western governments don't recognise these groups because they want to keep the present regime.

Syria was a beacon for religious freedom before the conflict, although there was brutality within the regime.

Hannah Boothman

*You can read more about Andrew's impressions online.*

*For example at*

*21stcenturywire.com/.../voices-from-syria-reports-from-inside-syria-by-revd-andrew-ashdown.*

## Braishfield PC: presentation to Mike Prince

Before the July Meeting, the council welcomed back its former Chairman Mike Prince for a presentation to commemorate his retirement in May 2016.

Vice-Chairman Mike Edwards gave a speech of



thanks to Mike Prince for his voluntary work for the parish through his 21 years of membership of the council (including 9 years as Chairman). Parish Councillors presented Mike with a gift, and Mike's wife Hazel with flowers.

Mike Prince continues to be of service to the community through volunteer work, including at the Village Pantry and working with the group responsible for the Community Emergency Plan.

## Braishfield Churches Celebrate HM Queen's 90th

All Saints' and Braishfield United Reformed Church hosted a joint 'Songs of Praise' to celebrate HM's 90th Birthday. This was preceded by a delicious cream tea in the Church Room, catered and served by members of both churches, including wonderful scones and cakes in abundance. The room buzzed with conversation and all agreed it was a tremendous success.

Members of 'Village Voices' joined the church choir to lead the joyful and heartfelt singing. During the service extracts from the book 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves' were read, and then linked to the subsequent hymn. Copies of the book were distributed afterwards to all who attended. The two churches also arranged for smaller books on the same theme to be presented to every child in Braishfield School.

As one focus of the service was the Queen's encouragement to those undertaking voluntary service in their communities, gifts were invited for the Jumbulance Trust, the URC's charity for 2016. A total of £159.33 was donated.



## A Magical Braishfield Summer's Evening

On Saturday 16th July a packed Church Room played host to the second BMADS-sponsored musical event of the year - an evening of words and music from Scottish folk singer Mairi Campbell.

To describe her thus is true but only tells part of the story: Mairi Campbell is a multi-award-winning performer, story-teller, song-writer (with her husband Dave Francis), musical director and teacher. Braishfield was indeed lucky to catch her on her way back to Scotland - to perform in her own solo show at the Edinburgh Fringe - having come from performing at a music festival in Cornwall. Mairi's digression here happened because she is a friend of Sophie Renshaw, the Winchester-based viola player who joined her in an affecting viola duet during her wide-ranging programme. We were also lucky that Mairi's husband Dave was able to join her for the second half of the programme.

Mairi has a gentle, expressive and mellifluous voice which can also rise to heights of passion when the emotion of the lyric and the tone of the music require. In the first part of her programme she showed her range in a series of moving songs about eternal subjects - love, loss, family, place - featuring her great gifts of speech, vocalising and song, accompanying herself subtly on viola and keyboard. She created an immediate rapport with the audience and invited participation in the songs, which found a willing response. Her

style has been described as creating an emotional landscape with 'a rooted and powerful quality' - the audience would readily attest to that. The second half of Mairi Campbell's programme was a continuous sequence of words and music with Dave Francis on guitar. Together they told the story of her grandparents who travelled to China as missionaries and where her grandfather Gordon died at the tragically young age of 28. Her grandmother then travelled back to Scotland with her young children via Canada against the backdrop of the Second World War and the German blockade of the Atlantic. It was a poignant tale, eloquently told through the poetic tapestry of words and music to a rapt Church Room audience.

It was altogether a magical event, greatly appreciated by all. Afterwards the audience was able to mingle and chat to the performers over a glass of wine and nibbles. A superb way to spend a beautiful Braishfield summer's evening.

As with all these concerts, thanks are due to Wendy and Peter Quarendon for their inspiration and organisation in devising the event, as well as to Sophie Renshaw who brought Mairi Campbell to Braishfield and who herself will be one of the players in our next concert on Saturday 17th September.

Richard Groves

## Braishfield Men / The Armed Forces

We have just remembered the events of 1st July 1916 when very heavy casualties were suffered on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Braishfield was affected by this event due to there being two casualties from the village, killed on the first day, and their names are on the Braishfield War Memorial.

Thomas Pitchard, age 31, was a member of the 1st Btn. Hampshire Regiment and was sent to France on the 21st April 1915 and is presumed killed on the first day. He has no known grave and his name appears on the Thiepval Memorial.

Ernest Weston, age 33, was a member of the Royal Field Artillery and was sent to France on the 23rd August 1914, and was killed on the 1st July 1916 in the Battle of the Somme. He is buried at Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet.

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

#### Armed Forces Day



*from left the Air Force, Royal Navy and the Army*

Armed Forces Day falls on the last Saturday in June each year, and provides an opportunity for the Nation to show our support for the work, and often sacrifice, of our Armed Forces, past and present. It is celebrated across the country in

both large and small communities. Here in Braishfield, at 0800 on Saturday 25th June, 2 Union Flags were hoisted on the Village Hall flagpoles by, respectively, the Army (George Elliott) and the Royal Navy (Mike Mullane). There they remained proudly for a week. On Saturday 2nd July, again at 0800, the Flags were lowered by the RAF (John Bevan) and Royal Navy (Mike Mullane) under the command, quite rightly, of the Army (George Elliott).



*George orders the haul-down*

## Graham Bennett's Retirement from the BVA.



Cast your minds back to the end of June, the weather was poor – strong winds, lower temperatures and occasional sun. However, Mother Nature decided to be very kind to us, as a group of current and former BVA members which included two past Chairmen and a long serving secretary, descended on Sue and Mike Mullane's house and garden to celebrate the retirement of the longest

serving member of the BVA committee.

Graham decided to step down after twenty-odd years, some of those as Vice Chairman. Sounds a bit sketchy? Well, even Graham doesn't know when he first joined – maybe the passing years are taking their toll after all?

All joking aside, Graham has been a valued member of the BVA over the years and brought with him great ideas, a keenness to "muck in" and an enthusiasm second to none. We'd like to echo the kind words spoken by Sheila Still (standing in for the recovering Jimmy, who I'm pleased to mention was also briefly there) in thanking him for all his efforts and wishing him a very

long and happy retirement – and don't worry about not being busy Graham, I'm sure you'll still be called upon to help out!

It really was a perfect setting with excellent food and weather. Thanks to all involved.

Congratulations and best wishes Graham.  
From all at the BVA

Ian Jeffery



## Social Contact Group Outing

On one of our rare sunny afternoons in June, the members of the Social Contact Group went by mini-bus (driven by Tim Howkins) to Hazel and Peter Davies' lovely holiday home situated on the beach at Hill Head.

We were so lucky to spend the afternoon sitting on the beach in the sunshine, enjoying scones, cream and jam, followed by home-made cakes whilst watching the activities on and around The Solent. We all very much appreciated Hazel and Peter's kindness in inviting us once again.



Hazel Prince

## Braishfield Primary School Summer Fayre

The Fayre took place on Saturday July 2nd, providing a wide range of activities for young and old, plus stall-holders and, this year, an indoor play parachute! Whilst the arena provided Country Dancing, a dog show and hula-hooping, parents and staff manned various stalls and there was a huge selection of delicious cakes donated by the school parents, as well as a popular barbecue and bar. The Year 5 and 6 pupils ran their business enterprise projects, which included car washing, dog-grooming and selling

plant-and-grow packs; this raised money to buy and plant trees. As usual, the whole village joined in the fun and the sunshine almost held out!



Thank you so much to all who supported the event, which raised £3,300, and very well done to the Braishfield School Association for their excellent organisation.  
Frances Hardy

## Scouts at the Romsey Summer Carnival

### Go-Kart Race

Fantastic preparation all round! Isaac and Lily came 3rd with 'Showbusiness' (plenty of glitz!), Louie and Toby 2nd with 'Death on Wheels' (very sinister!) and William & Oliver 1st with 'Tanzania', heralding their trip to Africa next year.

Other worthy contenders included Jamie and Jack

'R' (Dennis the Menace), S. and Marcus (Ferrari la Go Kart) and Henry B. and Theo C. as Pokemon Mega Ruby and Alpha SapphireX.

The kart racing was followed by the Wheel Barrow and Bed races, and then Prize Giving. Well done to 3rd Romsey Scout Group for pitching in.



### Carnival Float

Starting with a blank lorry and staple guns, cable ties, loads of bunting and hard work, we created a birthday party fit for the Queen; our theme being "Happy Birthday Ma'am", with bunting, Union flags, hats, home made cakes and the most wonderful HUGE birthday cake for her Majesty. The Beavers,

Cubs & Scouts from 3rd Romsey were impeccable and lots of adult help made the day a pleasure! Huge thanks to Harris Transport and the lovely driver Adam for the lorry and looking after us, and to all the young people, Leaders, Exec, parents, grandparents and friends who helped



make it such a brilliant day! Thank you!

Sarah Beaman

3rd Romsey Scout Leader - Ashanti Troop

## All Saints' Outing to the Isle of Wight

Sunday 10th July the day of all the major sporting events, why was there no service at All Saints' Braishfield? Had we all gone to watch the Tennis, British Grand Prix or the Final of the Football in Paris!! No, we were off



to have a day out on the Isle of Wight visiting All Saints' Freshwater for our third annual visit.

The day started off looking a bit miserable with rain coming

down as we reached the ferry port of Lymington, but Kate Marshall assured us all that the sun would shine soon and she had not brought any waterproofs, unlike the rest of us who were prepared with full wet weather gear. She was right though; as soon as we arrived at Yarmouth to commence our walk the skies started to lighten and we began our walk down the Yarmouth estuary. We reached the Royal Oak Pub in Freshwater Village, where we met up with the car duo and enjoyed a delicious meal together; some of us were tempted by the strawberry pavlova, but remembered we were having a cream tea later.

Luckily All Saints' Freshwater is right next door to the pub in an idyllic setting and as they had a wedding on the previous day the church looked beautiful, decked in cottage flowers on the lych gate, pew ends and floral arrangements in the church. All Saints' Freshwater has Saxon origins and is rather grander than our Braishfield Church. We had a short service of worship



together and with unaccompanied singing you really felt that this church had been a central part of worship in this corner of the Isle of Wight. It is reputed that Alfred Lord Tennyson worshipped here and members of his family are buried in the church grounds. It was good to have a member of the local congregation present



to welcome us and wish us well on our stay on the island. Our next stop was The End of the Line Café for our cream tea; this meant following the old railway line to the café where by now the sun was shining and Andy Murray was on his way to winning the final. Jane Bennet kept us well organised and we left the café to walk the rest of the way to Freshwater Bay.



The tide was in, with waves pounding the beach; some of us managed to paddle without getting too wet and others sat on the wall enjoying the sun, watching youngsters surfing in their wetsuits and helmets with one intrepid canoeist riding the waves. All too soon we had to make our way back to the ferry then back to Yarmouth.

We had enjoyed our day together, met new friends, had a good chat and really felt we had been blessed with good weather and good company.

Watch out for details of next year's visit; we will try not make it on such a sporting occasion, but you will all be welcome to join us.

Alan Lord

## Picnic in the Park for HM 90th birthday

The idea of a Picnic in the Park was the brainchild of Jimmy Chestnutt Chairman of the BVA. His organisation from the start was so well planned that when he became ill four days before the event it was very easy for me as Vice Chairman to step into his shoes and take over the BVA side of the venture.



*BUMS start the day's events*

Thanks must go to Carole Renvoize who acted as the Parish Council representative and all the work she put in together with Richard Brazier who kept the events running to schedule in his usual inimitable way. Thanks to the BVA Committee running the BBQ



*Tea fit for a Queen*

which kept many people well fed with hot dogs and burgers, but the biggest thanks must go to the villagers, family and friends who came to support us and by all accounts had a really fun day.

Sheila Still

## With A Royal Thank You

I would like to thank all my loyal subjects for making my Birthday Party on June 11th such fun. I loved watching my subjects enjoying themselves. This was



*Richard guards the royal knickers*

my second visit to Braishfield and I was most impressed by Sharon's magnificent cake cut by my fellow nonagenarians. The BBQ and music were excellent, but most of all I admired the way in which the Social Contact Group made sure that no one felt alone. Drinking, eating and laughing seem to be very popular in this village.



*The BBQ*



*The Raffle*



*The Banners*





*'Headrush' keep the party swinging*



*Queen Jan*



*Kate and Wendy with Meri at the keyboard lead the B V V with singing across the decades*

My long reign has only been made possible by the Diplomatic QSS, the Queens Survival Service. These spiffing people make it possible for me to attend the events I want to, and avoid others, without upsetting people. They are masters of disguise and have access to numerous Queen Lookalikes and electronic wizardry. Innumerable pompous Mayors speeches, openings of Sewage Works, Diplomatic dinners and talks on cars and aeroplanes are more than an old lady of 90 can stand.



*The delicious cake made by Sharon with 72 eggs!*

In my 90th year I wanted to go to a real village celebration but my schedule said I must attend the Trooping of the Colour on that day. Now, I do love horses but 400 filing past for 2 hours seemed a bit much. The problem was that the TV eyes of the world would be on me. So the QSS hatched a brilliant cunning plan. A lime green outfit. everyone was so shocked and mesmerised by the colour that they did not look closely. So nobody realised it was not me and I was able to come to Braishfield.

So a big thank you to Braishfield and I look forward to popping into the Village Pantry on my next visit.

er... aka Queen of Braishfield



*The Social Contact Group*



*Young and old enjoying a dance to round off the day*

## Official Opening of Braishfield Community Shop and Café



*First two photos courtesy of Bill Hunsley*  
Braishfield had another reason for celebration at the recent Village Association event held to mark the Queen's 90th birthday – the official opening of its community shop and café.

Local resident and regular shop visitor Mrs Trudy Scoggins joined Councillors Alan Dowden (HCC) and Martin Hatley (TVBC) to cut the ribbons and declare the shop officially open.

"I look forward to visiting the shop and seeing lots of people who have become my friends" she said.



Thanks to the generosity of both HCC and TVBC and many villagers, the shop has become a valued community hub, offering a welcome to all in its new purpose-built facilities, on the site of Braishfield Village Hall.

Ian Knights



Our Community Shop and Café continues to develop with a refurbishment including shelving and both indoor and outdoor seating.

If you haven't been in recently then pop in and take a look and see what has been done, or you can view the photos on the Website.



The shelving is recycled from the "The Good Life Farm Shop" in Kingsworthy that was being refurbished.



One other addition is a blackboard on the wall. The Blackboard comes from Maison de Monterban, a company based in France specialising in creating items for the home and garden from reclaimed French raw materials, and



was purchased using a donation from the Braishfield Bridge Club.

Our thanks go to all the individuals and societies whose donations made the refurb happen.

We have started to open on Wednesday mornings since the last BVN and the shop and cafe now attract over 1000 customers per month.

A particularly successful event was the Wine Tasting to help decide which wines you would like us to stock. Over 60 people dropped in, buying around 120 bottles of wine, so look out for a similar event using Berry Brothers in the Autumn.



We are still looking for more volunteers to help run the shop and if you are interested in joining us then pop in or contact either Anne Edwards (368193) or Julie Kemp (368894), drop us an email at [braishfieldpantry@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldpantry@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.braishfieldpantry.com](http://www.braishfieldpantry.com)

**Exciting News - Hot off the Press! The Braishfield Village Pantry has just been selected as a finalist in the Rural Enterprise section of the 2016 Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Hampshire Countryside Awards. Results will be known in September - updates to follow, but for now a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supports and encourages us at the cafe and shop in any way. This is your achievement.**

## Farley Chamberlayne Celebrates HM Queen's 90th Birthday in great style.

The little Norman church of St John's, Farley Chamberlayne played host to the local community and visitors from further afield over the weekend to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. Magnificent flower arrangements adorned every surface - with a patriotic theme of red, white & blue - the "crowning" glory being a stunning floral crown, created ingeniously by Emma Weston. (picture shown) Photographs and historical documents were on display throughout



the weekend and a continuous slide show of old photographs created much interest.

One visitor, who began work aged 14 at Farley Farm in 1949, supplied the names of all the farm workers at that time. A never ending supply of refreshments was on hand for thirsty visitors - not to mention the scrumptious cakes generously donated by members of the

parish.

The focal point of the celebrations was a lovely service of thanksgiving for Her Majesty's selfless duty to our country, led by the Very Reverend Trevor Beeson, himself sharing a 90th birthday this year with our Queen.

After the service, the congregation spilled out into the churchyard where they enjoyed a picnic, commenting on how lucky we were with the weather... the rain held off until mid afternoon! The gathering ranged from the youngest member of the community, Grace Wrigley, at 2 months old to a handful of nonagenarians like the Queen!

Melanie Legge

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MOLLY  
RUSSELL WHO CELEBRATED HER 95TH  
BIRTHDAY AT THE VILLAGE LUNCH ON  
JULY 11TH**

**seen on the right with her niece Christine  
accompanied by her husband  
Brian Kinnear**



**AND.....CONGRATULATIONS ...**

**to JULIE KEMP and her team of volunteers for attaining a 5 out of 5 rating after her Food Hygiene Inspection undertaken by the Principal Environmental Health Officer from TVBC (operating the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme). The new sticker displaying the top rating will be displayed during the Village Lunches.**

**Next two lunches are:**

**Monday September 12th**

**Monday October 10th**

## Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show

Margaret O'Keeffe organised this event with her customary care. Teas were provided in the village hall whilst a busy plant stall and raffle plied their business outside. Exhibition numbers were slightly down but flower and children's entries were up, and the produce quality was high. Sheila Still won the Watkins cup for the highest number of points and John Chaplain's plate of delicious strawberries won the President's Challenge Salver for best Horticultural entry. In Flower Arrangement Eileen Norman took the Dawkins Cup for best entry with her 'Fiesta time in Rio'; a riot of bright purples, orange and green in true party style. In the Culinary section Wendy Quarendon's Banana and Walnut Loaf was judged best.

The Best in Handicraft section was won by Eileen Norman with an intriguing origami angel made from music manuscript. A

photograph of caterpillars won first prize in the 'Garden Pest' category and the children's entries for 'Paint an insect on a stone' provided a great variety and interest. Highest points were given to Tilly Legg and Molly Marshall.

In years 3&4 Freya Baker and Isabelle Knight won the Hobcraft Cup and, in years 5&6, Eleanor Windebank and Lily Glowacka the Vine Trophy. Toby Morey's plasticine elephant took the Pre-school prize.

Jeremy North presented all the prizes and the Chairman, Steve Renvoize, thanked everyone for their help in

creating such a successful event. He has since announced the amounts raised: Teas - £230 (donated to PLANET); Plant Stall - £130; Raffle - £244 Admittance - £72; Entries - £68. The final account will be presented at the AGM along with the gifts to charities.

Viv Robinson



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HAZELWOOD, CROOK HILL, BRAISHFIELD

ROMSEY, HANTS. SO51 0QB

Family run business for 30yrs

## BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

### Weekly Events

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

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

Snooker Room and Skittle Alley available to Non-Members

### Forthcoming Event

<b>Quiz Nights</b>	<b>- held fortnightly on Friday Nights</b>
<b>Newport Players</b>	<b>- first Saturday of each month</b>

### Future Events

**Harvest Celebrations, Themed Night - 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Classic Car Show - 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**Christmas Sing a long - date to be arranged**

**New years Eve Disco - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

**Please see Club Notices for more details**




**LARGE FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE**

**WE NOW HOLD THE VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR – PLEASE  
CONTACT OUR STEWARD FOR FURTHER DETAIL**

telephone 01794 368458

email: [braishfieldsocialclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:braishfieldsocialclub@hotmail.co.uk)

# Braishfield Village Diary

Regular Meetings	Where	Time	When	Next meetings		
Parish Council 	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues excl. August	6 Sep	4 Oct	1 Nov
Village Lunch	Church Room	12.15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon excl. August	12 Sep	10 Oct	14 Nov
Horticultural Society 	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues excl. June/July/Aug	13 Sep	11 Oct	8 Nov AGM
Flower Arrangement Society 	Church Room	7.30	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs excl. Aug/Dec	22 Sep	27 Oct	24 Nov
Village Voices	Church Room	2 - 4	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	22 Aug	26 sep	24 Oct
Art Group	Football Pavilion	10 - 12	Every Thursday except August			
The Pantry Shop & Cafe	Village Hall	9 – 12 2 - 5	Mon – Sat 9 – 12 noon Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 2 - 5pm			
Story Time	Village Pantry	11 – 12	Thursday, Wendy Lord 367015			

Events 	Where	When	More Details
Jumbulance Garden Party	Oakfield, Farley Chamberlayne	Saturday 13th August 3pm	see page 11
5 Alive meetings	Church Room	Mondays 5th September and 3rd October 7.30pm	see page 11 for first meeting
BMADS String Quartet Concert	Church Room	Saturday 17th September 7.30pm	see page 8
All Saints' Harvest Supper	Church Room	Saturday 1st October 7pm	see page 10
BMADS play	Village Hall	Friday 18th, Saturday 19th November 7.30pm	see page 7

 Please see BVN or Notice Boards for further details

Please refer to [www.braishfield.org](http://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