



# ***BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS***

Issue 226 December 2017



**It must be nearly Christmas! Join us for the BVA's annual Singalong. Father Christmas will be in his grotto waiting to see the children! See page 13.**

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 - 2017/2018

Chairman	Jimmy Chestnutt	367953
Vice Chairman/Treasurer	Sheila Still	368384
Secretary/Website	Chris Balchin	368427
Editor	Mike Mullane	368099
Distributor	Sue Mullane	368099
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Events	Ian Jeffery	367282
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## Editor's Notes

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

The BVA Editors

Hazel Cottage

Braishfield

Romsey SO51 0PR by the date shown below.

Copy may be written, typed or sent by email to: [bvn@braishfield.org](mailto:bvn@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 Sue, the News Distributor on 368099.

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

**If you would like to join the village network, email: [network@braishfield.org](mailto:network@braishfield.org)**

**Latest copy date for the next issue is: January 20th 2018**

## From the Chairman

My day was spoilt by a simple sign! A "For Sale" board outside Hazel cottage.

A quick phone call confirmed that Mike and Sue Mullane are moving out of Braishfield and into town. Like so many villagers before them they are emigrating to Romsey.

They will be missed by many of us as friends, by the BVA as hardworking committee members, and by all of us for their contribution to this village.

Mike and Sue have edited, produced and distributed the BVN for many years, an unglamorous but demanding and much appreciated task. We will need to find a replacement. Could that be you?

On 21 October the BVA hosted a Trafalgar night dinner at the village hall with educational entertainment provided by BMADS. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable evening. The event would not have been possible without the efforts of the committee and friends, Richard Groves and the BMADS players and those of you who attended and paid for the privilege of providing themselves with table service. Next year we intend to celebrate 100-year anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

We have had some good news about mobile phone coverage. Vodafone tell us that they will give many of its Braishfield users improved coverage. Those of us who use one of the other providers will continue to suffer, but not in silence.

I have written to Caroline Nokes to ask how the government intend to deliver their promise to ensure that virtually all UK premises must be able to receive a 4G signal by the end of this year, and to put pressure on all providers to improve their coverage in this part of Hampshire.

On behalf of the association I laid a wreath on the 12th November at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. Sadly, yet again we had motorists ignoring the ceremony and two-minute silence. I believe that we all accept that the emergency services are exempt, but I do not believe that a Chelsea tractor pulling a horse box qualifies. Surely all of us can organise our lives so as to be stationary or silent for that brief period in remembrance of those who died to protect our way of life and freedom.

Finally, I was very disappointed that at the meeting of the Parish Council in November, councillors were unable to agree to form a planning committee. The requirement for more houses will put increased pressure on rural areas and villages like ours, and we will need all the expertise we can muster to comment on planning issues that will have an impact on our village. We will continue to press for its formation.

Our next event is our annual Christmas Carol and singalong at the village hall on 20th December. We look forward to seeing you.

## From the Editor

I suppose that all systems or organisations would, in their perfect world, seek to be loved by the people who pay them and who they ostensibly serve. It would be a joy and honour to give TVBC that accolade.

Braishfield remains a lovely and vibrant village, although I do have reservations about the development in the surrounding areas. Sue and I moved into a cottage at the north end of Braishfield 10 years ago. The village road (which still, thank goodness, reduces to a single-track just to the north, on the way via the unspoilt country lanes to King Somborne and Stockbridge) was a very peaceful and uninvaded route.

But, as we all know, the pressure for more housing began to bear

down relentlessly. Thus around us, and on Braishfield Road, we have Abbotswood, the incipient Abbotsford, the new development outside Hilliers, and a myriad of other developments spawning around Romsey.

Within a year of assuming the editorship of this magazine I predicted that within 15 years Braishfield would become a peripheral lump on the side of Romsey, and that Romsey itself would, within about 20 years, become an outskirt of Southampton. I mistimed it; we're nearly there now!

Never mind – forget my grouse! Thank you all, as ever, for your very wide-ranging and interesting input, and a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

### BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB

Winners of the monthly draws in October and November were Christine Arthur and Gill Allison, and we were able to make donations to All Saints Church and Serve Direct, the charity in Uganda which the Dugdales have put so much time and effort into. Elspeth Dugdale sent us a really nice thank you note tell us that the money will be spent on sets of primary readers for the new literacy centre in Gulu, northern Uganda, and she also wrote 'I love the idea that residents in one village can so directly help those in another rural area.' We are so fortunate to live in such a caring community.'

Don't forget that if you are raising money for a good cause, we may be able to support you with a donation.

And if you'd like to join us, give me a call: 368774.

David Robinson.

## Donations to Braishfield Village News

We would like to thank all those who have 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 2018. 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

### UPDATE ON THE BRAISHFIELD RD / WINCHESTER RD TRAFFIC LIGHTS

An alternative design, without the need to relocate the fibre optic cables, has been progressed and this second design was given technical approval by HCC earlier this month. Some preparatory works have also been undertaken on site by service providers.

In terms of a delivery programme, the developer has not yet organised the pre-start meeting where the relevant parties (including HCC engineers, the HCC Streetworks area coordinator, the developer and their contractors) meet and agree the way forward for construction of the works. Given the need for the developer to mobilise their contractor and for HCC to book road space, combined with the Christmas period embargo on road works, the signalisation works will not commence this year. Furthermore, there are remedial works to the junction of Cupernham Lane/ Winchester Hill scheduled for January 2018 which cannot run concurrently with the Winchester Rd/ Braishfield Rd works. While confirmation is required, we currently anticipate the Braishfield Rd/ Winchester Rd signalisation works will follow directly after the Cupernham Lane/ Winchester Hill remedial works and therefore will commence in March 2018. It is likely the Braishfield Rd/ Winchester Rd works will require a 16 week programme to complete the signalisation, although this again requires confirmation.

Richard Brazier Braishfield Parish Council

### BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH.

The book chosen for this month was 'The Good Earth' by Pearl S. Buck and was about an illiterate, peasant farmer and his family in China at the end of the Quing Dynasty at the turn of the 20th Century. We thought it very interesting and profoundly moving. The book was written in 1931.

Val Hillier.

### VILLAGE NOTICE BOARDS

Please make sure that all notices that are put on the village boards are no bigger than A5 size.

### WELCOME

A big welcome to anyone who has recently moved into Braishfield. Please email or telephone Sue Mullane if there is any information you need.

## **Notices cont.**

### **BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

**Thursday 18th January 2018**

**7.30pm**

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 2018, 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](mailto:webeditor@braishfield.org)). Anyone wishing to stand for election to the Committee please submit your name along with a Proposer and Seconder by Monday 8th January. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

### THE PUCKNALL POST BOX

Some of you may be aware the box has been closed for a month or so, its access being unsafe due to the uneven approach.

It is of Victorian origin and the Residents of Pucknall would like to see it retained. It is in the wall of a barn opposite Pucknall Cottage. The building belongs to Pucknall Farm house and Richard Beese the owner has kindly offered to improve the access. He is now in touch with the Royal Mail and hopefully the work will be done, to the satisfaction of RM, and the Box will be open again soon.

Richard Brazier  
Braishfield Parish Council

### 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

## Notices cont.

### BRAISHFIELD GOLF SOCIETY

Our last meeting of the year was at Hockley on a bright sunny day in October with 16 Golfers and the Caddie. Coleman (AGAIN !!) took first prize with 35 Stapleford points followed by Bevan (33) and Sherritt (32).

During the season we have met 4 times and it is pleasing to see the numbers have increased. For the four meetings we had 16 - 16 - 11 and 16. We enjoyed an end of season drink at the Dog and Crook and now look forward to 2018 and maybe increasing our membership. Should anyone be interested to be added to the list please contact me.

Richard Brazier  
368414  
rdbrazier@hotmail.com

### “STORY TIME “ at The Pantry

September saw the return of Story time at the village shop as the Autumn term commenced and the usual activities were in full swing. Several of the previous groups started “Big” school but were replaced by younger children starting Rugby Tots in the main Hall. Numbers have picked up again as the term has progressed.



STORY TIME is from 10 15am until 11.45am on Thursday mornings in term time. There are baskets of books in the shop to read and share with your children at other times.

It is a free “drop in” session open to all, so why not pop in and enjoy a slice of Sharon’s delicious cake

and a coffee, and meet your friends whilst the children enjoy a story.

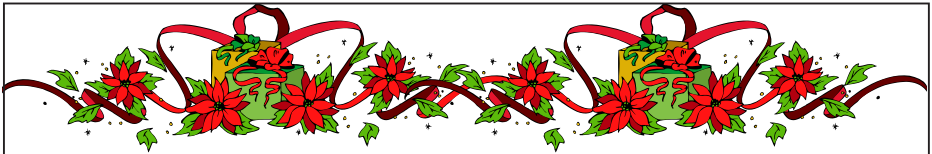
Posters are on the village hall notice boards.

Thank you

Wendy Lord



## Notices cont.



Hampshire County Councillor

Alan Dowden

wishes all the residents of

Braishfield

A Very Happy Christmas

And

A Peaceful New Year

### DISTRIBUTORS

A huge THANK YOU once again to all our Braishfield Village News distributors. Without them your News would not arrive on your doorstep on time six times a year.

A farewell and grateful thanks to Rodney Robson who has distributed in the Slackstead area for many years. Would anyone from there like to take over his round?

Sue Mullane

### BVA NEW YEARS DAY WALK

By popular demand, the BVA will be organising a new year's day village walk again. The aim, as ever, is to meet up with fellow villagers, blow any festive cobwebs away and finish with a pint in the pub. We intend to start and finish at the Wheatsheaf 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 email [michaelstubbs@braishfield.org](mailto:michaelstubbs@braishfield.org) so we can get an idea of numbers.

Michael Stubbs

## All Saints' Festival of Flowers

The Festival of Flowers and Harvest Supper took place in All Saints' Church and the Church Room from Friday 29th September to Monday 2nd October.

The church was full of flowers and vegetables with floral exhibits being created by members of the churches, clubs and organisations in the village linking their group to a saint. The creativity

of all age groups was amazing with the Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society designing and creating an altar frontal with flowers, and children from Braishfield school, the Brownies, Story Time and Sparks Club filling and designing wellington boots that lined the way from the porch to the altar.

The Harvest Supper took place on the Saturday evening combining a hearty meal with lively entertainment by BUMS (Braishfield Ukulele Music Society).



The Harvest Festival weekend was concluded on the Monday afternoon when we welcomed the

Braishfield school teachers and pupils for their Harvest service in All Saints' church.

Thanks to the support and generosity of so many, the Festival of Flowers and Supper raised £829 which will be shared between All Saints' church and The Jumbulance Trust.

The presentation will be made to Mrs Chris Chisholm for The Jumbulance Trust at the Family Service on Sunday 3rd December at 9.30am. We hope you will be able to join this celebration and hear more about the pilgrimages that our giving will help towards.

Jane Bennett

Braishfield PCC Secretary



# BUMS

## BRAISHFIELD UKULELE MUSIC SOCIETY

Join us for our Christmas Party  
Everyone's welcome - young, old and in-  
between

Sing along to some old standards  
and Christmas favourites



**Free entry. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.**

*(there will be sausage rolls and mince pies in the interval)*

**Monday 4th December, at 7.30**

in the Church Room, All Saints', Braishfield.

## Classic Car Show

The Classic car show held on Sunday 8th October at Braishfield Social Club saw about 50 beautiful classic cars arrive, driven by enthusiastic owners, and admired by the many visitors we had on the day.



The sun shone, the burgers and hotdogs were consumed and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We had all age ranges come to have a look. Some had owned cars like these years ago and others who wished they had!!

The day was a huge success and

many thanks to all who came and supported us. We look forward to next year.

Lin Hughes





## **Braishfield Village Association**

### **Christmas Sing-a-Long on**

**Wednesday**

**December 20th**

**from**

**5.30pm - 7pm**

**Prize draw**



**Come and join us for Christmas singing led by the BUMS. Mulled wine, mince pies and hot dogs available for purchase and for £2 per child Father Christmas will be in his**

**grotto with goodie**

**bags for each of**

**them**



## The Hooping Challenge

### HOOPING FOR HAPPINESS AND MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

I am so grateful to Broadlands for allowing and trusting me to host 'The Great Hooping for Happiness' in aid of Macmillan in their stunning grounds. It is with great pride that I am able to say that the day was an amazing success and a complete SELL OUT!!!



The 'Hula Hunnies' are truly grateful that Braishfield supported this wonderful family event and opened their hearts to what was a spectacular, magical day for one and all. From the initial concept, the Braishfield community came together with expertise, ideas and practical help. Jennie Maizels designed our beautiful artwork, Chris and Meryl popped round with pipe just when we were panicking about numbers, Jonny and Tor Williams supplied the stage with

their awesome lorry. Kathleen and Les, Braishfield Social Club supplied equipment and wine, the award-winning Braishfield Pantry supplied a beautiful hamper, Sarah Puffett a yummy cake and The Wheatsheaf donated wine for the raffle which Rachel manned so very well.

We had been given money from the Braishfield 200 club which was

a real boost to our finances and spirits! The Hula Hunnies approached people in the community and the answer was always YES, each time we received another YES it spurred us on that this incredible feat was indeed achievable. Sam Newborough said yes, the BSA said

yes, Braishfield School, Malcolm Ayres, the Quarendon's said yes and many many more. The Braishfield community came together to make this event so special from start to finish, buying tickets and donating their time and talents.

The hunnies worked tirelessly to make the day a success and often thought outside of the box to come up with another brilliant idea, it truly was a collaboration of great minds working together in a team effort!

each person played an important role which empowered the team to play to their strengths.

For me, the personal highlight of the day was when Heidi Rehman from Haven Breast Cancer Care led the minute silence in respect of everyone affected by cancer, just before we attempted the Guinness World Record. Heidi is living with secondary breast cancer and works tirelessly for the Haven charity. Heidi asked us to all hold hands and the physical and emotional contact between people was palpable. The reason we had all come together was evident to see from the emotion held in a moment in time. There were tears of sadness but also hugs, smiles and comfort given, even the sun chose to share its golden rays, warming people's hearts and bodies. I have been inundated with people wanting to say thank you and showing their appreciation, it's been overwhelming the response

that the day has had on people and I have felt humbled and honoured, although I must admit I was terrified on the day!!

We then attempted the Guinness World Record to the one and only song we could have chosen 'All you need is love' sang by Kim G, 548 people succeeded in doing three moves with their hula hoop for the required time of 1 minute 30 seconds, this was then verified by our witness Mr John Parker who received rapturous applause and whoops of joy.

The Hunnies are truly grateful that we have been able to do this for Macmillan Cancer Support. Standing on the Williams Lorry is a moment I will never forget, seeing a sea of hoops twirling in aid of Macmillan in beautiful Broadlands surrounded by the heart and soul of Braishfield Community, a special thank you goes to William Fielder whose star shone. **As a community, together we raised £4,800.**

Congratulations on taking part in the GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



Dottie  
Sally  
Kate  
Rachel  
Debbie  
Fleur  
Kathleen  
Kerry  
Dorothy  
Jude  
Gemma

PS: lots of our hoops are being donated to good causes for Christmas!!!

## Braishfield Primary School



I can't believe how quickly my first term as Headteacher of Braishfield Primary School is whizzing by and how much we have already packed

in!

Since the start of term we have been embedding our Citizenship Values of kindness, honesty and respect and our Learners' Values of inquisitiveness, resilience and independence across the school.

We strongly believe in igniting the children's curiosity through the delivery of a rich and broad curriculum and this term we have certainly hit the ground running! I am incredibly lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team of teachers and support staff who always go that extra mile to inspire the children and provide exciting opportunities for learning.

Our new Reception intake of Little Acorns enjoyed learning outdoors during their recent trip to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. The Victorian hospital at Royal Victoria Country Park helped Year 1/2 to imagine what life was like for Florence Nightingale and her patients. Year 3/4's trip to the Hindu temple in Southampton developed their understanding of different cultures and faiths and the Year 5/6 children in Oaks enjoyed an action-packed week at Land and Wave Activity Centre, near Swanage, during which they had the

opportunity to try a range of exciting new activities such as coastering, raft building, pioneering, fire making and kayaking.

We are always keen to offer sporting opportunities for children of all ages and abilities, bringing in a range of specialist P.E. coaches to develop skills in a range of sports. Many children have also represented the school competing against other local primary schools in cross-country, football and New-Age kurling.

We all got creative making welly boot gardens for the Flower Festival at All Saints Church with the whole school walking to the Church for a special Harvest Festival service. Braishfield Village Hall kindly welcomed us for our first Parent Forum with coffee and a delicious array of cakes! Braishfield Social Club have also supported the school providing rehearsal space for our Junior Rock Challenge performers. Fantastic community support! Thank you all.

The children have been thinking about their role as active citizens making a positive contribution to society. To this end the School Council have helped organise and lead several fundraising events in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, Southampton City Mission Food bank, the British Legion Poppy Appeal, Operation Christmas Child (we even exceeded my challenge of donating 100 boxes!) and Children in Need.

Finally, on a personal note, I would



like to thank everyone in the community for welcoming me so warmly. I feel excited and privileged to be helping to lead such a special school on this next exciting stage of its journey and look forward to developing further links with you all as we move into 2018. **Our annual Christmas Fayre, organised by the Braishfield School Association (BSA), will be held on Saturday 2nd December from 11am-2pm.**

There will be a variety of stalls, tombola, tea/coffee and cakes, Santa's Grotto and a performance by the school choir to get everyone in the festive mood! We would love to welcome you into our school.

Lou Rhodes  
Headteacher



## Braishfield Horticultural Society - Garden Club

**A**t the October meeting, Rosemary Le Grand made a return visit and treated us to a journey through Bhutan looking at the wonderful flowers. She entered the country from northern India, passing from the bustle of the town there, through an ornate arch into the peace of Bhutan.

On the lower slopes there were orchids, Cobra and Great Himalayan lilies, and the first Rhododendron of many. Walking through a beautiful green fertile valley, Mount Chomolkhani's snow-capped peak could be seen at a height of 7314 metres.



**T**he Bhutanese believe that the Gods live in the mountains.

There were more Rhododendrons to be seen and a field of purple Primulas. Climbing higher, visiting ornate temples decorated with beautifully wooden carvings, they encountered groups of the 'work force' – local people dressed in bright coloured national costume-who worked on making the new roads.

The journey climaxed with a seven day trek, staying in tents overnight. Climbing to 4.000 metres, they saw Rhododendron of all colours, especially Edgeworthii, a beautiful white and blush pink fragrant flower with dark foliage.

This was special to Rosemary as her father had propagated it in England. There were also white Orchids, Gentian, Trillion, and a whole pasture of yellow Daphne. The bark of these is used to make the local postage stamps!

A fascinating journey with a host of rare plants.

Viv Robinson

## Armistice Day and Act of Remembrance

The rain held off for the annual gathering at the war memorial on Saturday 11th November. George Elliott who led the short ceremony addressed the assembled villagers. John Bevan, Parish Council chairman read out the Roll of Honour; Arthur Rose read the Exhortation before silence was kept at the eleventh hour. George then read the prayer from the Kohima Epitaph before he and John Bevan laid wreaths at the memorial. It is always a moving occasion.

The following day, a service took place for the United Service of Remembrance led by Revd Jane Thompson and Revd Mary Thomas who were accompanied by the Churchwardens and the choir from All Saints' together with Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from the uniformed organisations.

A hymn, the Act of Remembrance and the Roll of Honour, again read by Parish Council chairman John Bevan, was followed by the Laying of Wreaths and the Kohima Epitaph read by Tom Greenwood. The choir sang an extract of the anthem 'We will remember them' and the Act of Commitment completed the ceremony.

Mazie Swanbrow played the Last Post and Reveille.

The Service continued after processing to All Saints' where the Colours were received.

The collection of £402.05 will be sent to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Jane Bennett



## Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

Kate has bought a sheepdog puppy, a very good natured female called Fern. She is young still, roughly 4 months old, so is being taken for walks and out into the field to watch Tilly, the oldest and most experienced dog, to see how everything should be done. At this stage she is being taught how to behave and respond to simple commands; it will be interesting to watch her develop into a really good sheepdog.

There has been a lot of preparation in the last few weeks leading up to the rams going in with the ewes this weekend. The ewes need to be in very good condition in order to produce good lambs and the rams must be really fit for their busy few weeks and in something like 20

weeks we will be watching the new born lambs. It really does make time fly by.

Kate took possession of another 20 North Country Mule yearlings a couple of months ago, which she will put to the rams this time next year. They left the Lake District one afternoon, Ian picking them up from Salisbury at 10 o'clock that night and bringing them home. Given water, they were left in the trailer overnight and in the morning let out onto the grass. They seemed to be completely at home straight away, spread out in the field munching the grass and casually looking up when we went by. They will have a nice life here. Let's hope for a good early winter.

Wendy Quarendon



**MONDAY December 11th**

**Join us for our special Christmas lunch  
in the Church Room from Noon.**

**Christmas fayre and festivities.**

**Next village lunch Monday 8th January**

**Julie Kemp Tel: 368894**

# Pantry News!



**Merry Christmas Greetings from Everyone at:**



**Thank you for your  
support**

**A year of change, achievement and celebrations**

Remember to pick up your pre-ordered turkey on Saturday 23rd December

Sat 23rd Dec	0800 - 1200	closed
Christmas Eve	closed	closed
Christmas Day	closed	closed
Boxing Day	closed	closed
Wed 27th Dec	0900 - 1200	closed
Thurs 28th Dec	0900 - 1200	closed
Fri 29th Dec	0900 - 1200	closed
Sat 30th Dec	0900 - 1200	closed
New Year's Eve	closed	closed
New Year's Day	closed	closed
Tues 2nd Jan	0900 - 1200	1400 -1700
Wed 3rd Jan	0900 - 1200	closed

Thank you so much to everyone who came out and joined us at the Pantry for our late night shopping event. There was a quite a buzz. Hopefully everyone enjoyed sampling the nibbles, chocolate, wine and mince pies. And also enjoyed browsing and shopping. *(continued on next page)*

But don't worry if you didn't make it – there is plenty of Christmas stock to entice you - from chocolate coins and chocolate Santas to pop in the stockings (or mini bottles of Prosecco if the stocking is for someone a little older!), boxes of chocolates to give to loved ones, biscuits and fudge in beautiful tins and crackers and chutneys galore. But that's just a sample of the goodies we have – do pop in to see the full range.

We also have our usual order form for those wanting to take some of the stress out of Christmas. You can order everything from your turkey and hams, to trout, cheese and chocolates. We also have a wine order form – but if a specific wine isn't on the form – just speak to Ian. There are also Sharon's hampers – some already made up to tantalise you – but don't be shy – just collect the items you'd like to include and let Sharon create a beautiful gift.

The Pantry is here for all of us, so please do pop in and see if we can tempt you with one or two goodies, or just a pint of milk and a loaf of bread – the Pantry does try to cater for everyone. To keep up to date – log on to our website – [www.braishfieldpantry.com](http://www.braishfieldpantry.com)

**A reminder that until Christmas the Pantry will be open Wednesday afternoons from 2-5pm.**

Gemma Quarendon

## Fernhill Woods

If you are walking through the woods in the next few months do not be surprised or concerned if you see people working there. We have arranged for Sparsholt College to bring students here to work initially in the first section, clearing the scrubby bits and cutting fallen branches. The youngsters will be using hand tools, with a little use of chain saws where necessary, by the tutors. The aim is that they will keep tidy as they go, probably having small fires and the logs piled.

The work should start by December and will have to end in February. However they are very keen to continue the process next year, so it will be slow and sure, ideally

becoming part of their routine. The fillet of woods on the right, which goes down towards the end of Dummers Road, will eventually become part of the programme.

It would be very good if this does happen routinely, as nothing has been done in the woods for many decades. The plan is not to end up with beautiful parkland, but to have a more managed area with perhaps more bluebells showing through the undergrowth. Nowadays one is encouraged to leave natural debris for insect life and there will continue to be plenty of that.

We wait to see what will happen.

Wendy Quarendon

## Jumbulance update

What a busy autumn. In September we took a local group to Lourdes in S.W France on a 9 day pilgrimage and enjoyed mild weather and wonderful companionship. We stayed in the accessible Polish Convent and went every day to different sites associated with the life of St Bernadette. We also had a blissful sunny day up in the mountains at Gavarnie. It is sometimes



hard to quantify what happens on these pilgrimages but something good happens to us all, not just our VIPs ( sick or disabled people in Jumbulance speak) A sense of peace yes but we all carry a cross, only we don't always admit to it and healing occurs in all of us in unexpected ways.

We then had our 8 day Wheelchair Walking Challenge in October. We did not have particularly good weather as we hit Hurricane Ophelia who certainly did her worst in Cumbria and many other areas of the UK. However, our 20 (abled bodied and disabled) walkers and wheelers (age range 33 to 89) were not deterred and went out each day as planned. In some cases, we could not walk the planned walk as it was flooded but

we had reccied more walks than we needed so just went to do another instead... in the end we all enjoyed the walks - Great Langdale Skelworth Bridge to Elterwater; Elterwater to Old Dungeon Ghyll then the south side of Coniston Water (group picture here) on Monday and a very wet, cold, windy Brothers Water on Tuesday. Wednesday, our rest day we went to Keswick to the Theatre by the Lake to see Handbagged, Thursday we had a long walk

and picnic along the south side of Windemere having crossed over on the Chain link ferry as we couldn't get the Jumbulance there. All in all a tough ask of all our self-wheelers and our pushers but we had a lot of laughs too...Endless jokes about the commode that followed us everywhere, rattling along covered by a wheelchair waterproof.

Everyone who has contributed to the Wheelchair Walking Challenge as a walker, wheeler or sponsor is to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts in securing the future of the Jumbulance Trust and all it offers.

In November we are off to Blackpool on a Turkey and Tinsel 4 day break...it is a very lively group; we have cabaret, dancing and fancy

dress every evening after days out Christmas shopping, and visiting local attractions like Madame Tussards....you don't come on this one unless you can stand the pace! We are already planning next year and the details will be out in the

new year and I hope also a goodwill visit date to Romsey for the new Jumbulance, J3.

Happy Christmas to our many volunteers, VIPs and supporters.

Chris Chisholm 01794 3682650

## Uganda update

It seems odd but also appropriate to be writing a 'thankyou' before Christmas. We wanted to say a big thank you so much and 'apwoyo matek' (in Acholi) for the kind donation from the Braishfield 200 Club. As many of you know, we are back in Uganda for the finishing stages of the new primary resource centre in Gulu, northern Uganda. This is four hours north of our Ugandan home base and the secondary school in Wobulenzi. Thanks to the generous book donations from the UK, the new library has a stock of 1,700 books already, which is a great starting point.

The Braishfield donation enables us to buy sets of primary readers in the local language (Acholi) and sets of textbooks and readers in English, written for Ugandan children. Although I am not a big fan of Christmas shopping, buying books is always great fun and I can't wait to go shopping! And it will be a great honour to spend the donation wisely and be in a position to buy complete sets of class readers for the new centre.

We have just had a team of nine UK friends out to help us with the finishing touches for the new centre.

They worked extremely hard in Gulu with us landscaping, digging, planting, painting, concreting and making primary resources. Having totally worn them out, they are now on a two day safari to one of the wonderful game parks here and back to the UK on Sunday.

Further news of both Wobulenzi and Gulu is on our website [www.servedirect.org](http://www.servedirect.org) or on our Facebook page



ServeDirect. If you are already looking for unusual Christmas presents, we can help you. Take a look at our most recent article on the homepage entitled 'Five-gold-rings? Or How to be a good sport at Christmas'

Once again, thank you so much for your kindness and ongoing interest. We hope to catch up with friends and family at Christmas – but if we don't see you ' Krismasi mkunjufu' – a Happy Christmas to all!

Elspeth and Jerry Dugdale

## Trafalgar Day Celebrations

Just over a year ago, Jimmy Chestnut sowed the seed of putting together a celebration of the Battle of Trafalgar and Lord Nelson. From that moment on the serious issue of planning began. A small team gathered on a regular basis and slowly but surely the plan took shape.

The date was set – Battle of Trafalgar Day – 21st October. The bar opening time was set 18:05 – the year of the battle. A delicious



the British fleet.

Our 27 ships took on the might of the combined French and Spanish – 33 ships. Nelson sent the signal to his fleet “England expects that every man will do his duty” and they did it victoriously. By the end of the battle, the combined forces had lost 22 ships, whilst the British hadn’t lost a single ship.

Every ship in our fleet played its part – from HMS Victory where Nelson delivered his battle orders to the tiny HM Schooner Pickle, at just 22.3m (73ft) in length. Pickle was kept away from the fighting as a broadside attack would surely have sunk her but she was the first ship to bring the news of Nelson’s victory to Great Britain,



four course meal was decided and with the immense help of BMADs, the evening’s entertainment was secured.

I’ll admit I knew little about the battle and, rather ignorantly, hadn’t appreciated its importance. All that was put right with excellent sketches performed by BMADS and a very interesting talk by Jimmy. We learned that against a backdrop of a possible (and likely) French invasion, the French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte knew he had to conquer





finally arriving at Falmouth on 4 November 1805.

Victory was bitter-sweet as Nelson was fatally injured during the battle. Shot through the shoulder, the round then lodged into his spine. He was taken below deck but died shortly after. Despite some conflicting stories, his final

words were “Thank God I have done my duty”. Without him, and indeed all the ships and men that served during this battle, Britain would be a very different place today.

Thank you Jimmy for opening our eyes to a true British hero and thanks to all those involved in the build up to the evening and on the night – the BVA team for organising, BMAD’s for excellent sketches, Wendy Jeffery and Carole Brown for cooking the food, all those who loaned us slow cookers and helped up set up especially Angela and John Bevan, Sam Kemp and

Niamh Hardcastle, Tim Howkins and Richard Brazier, with the support of the Social Club, for running the



bar, Lily Stickley and Maisy Sykes who kept the food orders coming and did an excellent job of keeping the kitchen “ship-shape”, the Allen family for welcoming everyone and encouraging them to buy raffle tickets, everyone who supported the event and, we hope, had a fantastic evening. Please forgive me if I’ve forgotten to mention anyone.

Finally, and most fittingly, to Nelson and his ‘team’ for making it all possible in the first place.

Cheers Horatio!

Ian Jeffery

*Following the successful Trafalgar Night function the BVA were in a position to make a donation to BMADS in appreciation of their excellent renderings of short pieces about Nelson.*

*At a recent rehearsal for their latest play “Number One” (see page 28) a cheque for £200 was presented by the BVA Chairman Jimmy Chestnutt (as shown in the photo here) to Richard Groves who gratefully accepted it on behalf of BMADS.*



## All Saints' Braishfield

### Saturday 4th November

A big thank you to all church work party volunteers. A heavy drizzle didn't deter a good number of volunteers who gave up their Saturday morning to help in the important work of keeping the church and its grounds in good order. The weather brightened up and much was achieved. Many thanks to Jane Bennett who provided the refreshments – bacon butties have now become an essential part of these occasions.

The All Saints' Day service on the following day gave expression of the Church's appreciation to all volunteers who give up their time throughout the year to help in the running of the Church. This voluntary work is a two-way process – the generous giving of people's time and talents help to ensure the church and the grounds are in good order but, we hope, also helps to create a positive and outward looking presence in the community.

*Andy Brooks, Churchwarden*

### Sunday 5th November All Saints celebration

We were pleased to welcome so many people to this special service at which a new digital piano, given in memory of Mrs Janet Russell and Mrs Heidi Treglown, was dedicated. The work of the many volunteers who contribute to the life of our church was celebrated; thanks was also given to God for all aspects of village life. The celebration continued after the service in the Church Room with a range of refreshments to be enjoyed, and plenty of conversation.

*Sarah Boothman, Churchwarden*



### Dates for your diary

**Sunday 3rd December at 9.30am.** Presentation of cheque to Chris Chisholm for The Jumbulance Trust (see page 10)

**Sunday 17th December** 6.00pm Carol Service followed by a festive drink and mince pies

**Sunday 24th December** 4.00pm Christingle Service  
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion Service

**Monday 25th December** 10.00am Christmas Day Family Service

**Sunday 31st December** 10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion at Michelmersh

**We do hope you can join us for all or some of these events and services. More information? Please contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109**

## 3rd Romsey (Braishfield) Cubs

Earlier this month a small selection of Cubs from 3rd Romsey (Braishfield) Cub Pack joined with others from across Romsey District in the much fought after Scrapheap Challenge Trophy. The Cubs were gathered together so that one of the Leaders could read them The Pirates Next Door. They were then challenged to build a model using the "scrapheap" available to them - cardboard boxes, tissue tubes, yogurt pots, paints and glue, amongst other things. Cubs had to plan their model and try to keep the finished product as similar to the design as possible or else explain why they changed it. Judges mark the Cubs on their design and model as well as how well they work together. 3rd Romsey Cubs designed and built a pirate ship, with Rum bottles (that



mysteriously went missing!). They impressed the judges so much with their team work and design that they came first place! Well done 3rd Romsey!! - A very proud Akela

Katie Brown Cub Leader  
3rd Romsey Cubs  
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## 'Number One' BMADS

This year's excellent performance by BMADS was "Number One", a comedy written by the very successful French playwright Jean Anouilh, adapted and translated into English by Michael Frayn.

It was directed and produced by Mike Allen and Melanie Legge and it could be described as a nightmare.

him. He has heard it all before, they all irritate him, and he is tired of their constant demands for money. Colin maintained a suitably bored detached attitude to their tales of woe throughout the performance.

As the play progressed we got insights into their characters and most importantly what Léon



No - not the performance but a possible interpretation of the plot of the play.

On the face of it the plot is simple. The action takes place in Paris in the 1980s. The central character, a successful playwright Léon Saint-Pé, played brilliantly by Colin Kennedy, was seated at his desk and struggling to write his new play. Inspiration will not come, and he is further frustrated throughout the day as he is constantly interrupted by friends, family and his doctor all of whom want something from

thinks of them. Whether it was a nightmare, a daydream or reality is not clear. However, the way they act and exaggerate their unpleasant characteristics and excesses, suggests that it is simply the way he sees them.

The housekeeper, played by Dorothy Ross, appeared at the beginning of the play as a harbinger of doom to announce that a plumber was needed and set the scene for a day of misery. Further appearances were only to give believable reports of increasingly serious plumbing

problems. She was followed by Gaston Lepied the schoolboy friend played by Steve Day, who was very convincing as the ungrateful, needy and clingy friend constantly begging for money while at the same time belittling his friend's achievements.

Léon had gout and was being treated by his doctor played by John Edwards, who gave us an unnervingly convincing performance as an incompetent medic. Léon has no respect for him.

Wendy Quarendon gave yet another sparkling performance this time as the abandoned wife jealous of the new girlfriend but perhaps more concerned by the prospect of the family money disappearing.

Richard Groves, Penny Brindle and Elizabeth Templeman all gave strong performances as spoilt children providing proof, if ever it was needed, that our children never really leave home.

Penny Brindle as Marie Christine is the daughter with Champagne tastes who is finding it difficult to live within her allowance and wants an increase as she prepares to marry the latest in a succession of young men.

Richard Groves as Arthur was strangely believable as a young man clearly unable to handle money and in need of some financial advice, with bailiffs now knocking at his door; Lucie, played by Elizabeth Templeman is the daughter who is

having an affair and seeking a way out of a boring marriage. She is trying to persuade her father to break the news to son-in-law Bernard while she is away on a weekend break!

Bernard the cuckold husband played so well by Richard Clifton was in



the end more concerned about protecting the family name than the infidelities of his wife.

Even the mistress, Josephine played by Giordana Burns, found cause for complaint blaming her famous husband for her failures as a struggling actress. Her references to the casting couch and pressures put on budding young actresses struck a rather topical note. Clearly Paris in the 80s was no different to Hollywood.

Léon was surrounded by a dysfunctional scrounging family with everyone looking after their own interests, and perhaps not surprisingly by the end of part one he had earned the sympathy of the entire audience. (*cont. over page*)

We were invited at the beginning of the play to wonder if Léon would be able to resist their demands and get his own back. The answer comes when Gaston becomes an overnight success and wealthy, and for a change finds himself the target of the scrounging team of relatives and friends.

At this point Léon realises that he has the story line he has been seeking and starts writing about a group of people; his friends and family all of whom are out to look after themselves - looking after Number One!

At this point the housekeeper reappears to give the same message

as she gave at the beginning of the play, as if nothing had happened -a Groundhog Day moment. So perhaps it was a daydream or nightmare after all!

It's all too easy to be captivated by the performance and to lose sight of the supporting team and the preparation that goes in to productions such as this. The set was as convincing as always, well-made and decorated. With good lighting and sound, front of house ticket management and the bar all combined to make this night at the theatre a great success.

Well done BMADS!

Jimmy Chestnutt

### **NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

Thoughts and objectives of an older member of the Braishfield Village family:  
Nun's Prayer

LORD – Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

George Elliott



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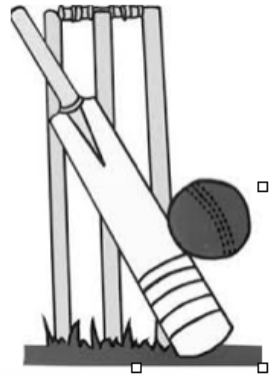
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## **BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY**

**2018 PROGRAMME WILL BE IN THE NEXT NEWS**

All meetings are in the Church Room at

7.30pm except October

which will be in the Social Club at 7-30 p.m.

November meeting at the village hall

For further information contact Chairman

Maggie Batchelor on 01794 368125 or

Eileen Norman on 02380 731162



## **BRAISHFIELD SOCIAL CLUB**

### **Weekly Events**

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

We also have Pigeon Club, Dart and Crib Teams, Pool Team always looking for new members  
Snooker Room and Skittle Alley available to Non-Members

### **Regular Events**

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

### **Future Events**

Everybody welcome

Christmas Draw	9th December 2017
Sloe Gin Competition (entries welcome)	17th December 2017
Christmas Eve Celebrations	24th December 2017
Boxing Day Celebrations	26th December 2017
New Year's Eve Celebrations	31st December 2017

Please see Club Notices for more details

**MORE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2018.**

Visit the club to find out more

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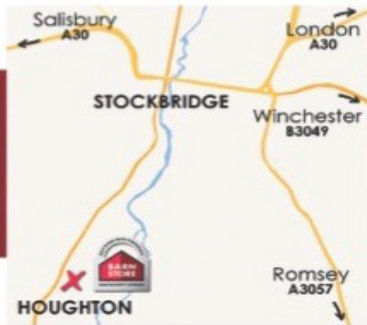
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- **Spare Parts**
- **Oils & Batteries**
- **Hand Tools Sharpened**
- **Keen Prices On New  
and Used Machines**
- **Garden Machinery Hire**
- **Impartial Advice Given Freely**

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**Braishfield, Hants**

# Seasoned Hardwood Logs



Locally grown Timber  
cut and split to your requirements

Tel:- 01794 368513

For your convenience

As well as Tipped Loads we now also supply Firewood in Net Sacks and  
Vented Bulk Bags

# Mop 'Til We Drop

## Cleaning Services

For a reliable, trustworthy and honest  
cleaning service.

Specialising in private homes and small  
businesses.

Quotes are also available for a  
one off cleaning blitz.

All quotes are on an hourly basis  
For professional and affordable cleaning  
in your area

Contact Mark on  
07757674456

References are available from many of  
our satisfied customers in your area.



## Recycling Is Easy!

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

**Paper Cardboard Plastic bottles Tins and cans Aerosol cans**

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

**Glass bottles and jars Textiles Aluminium foil Cartons Books and media**

To find your nearest Local Recycling Centre use Recycle Now's Recycling Locator:  
[www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling](http://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling)

Brown Bin Recycling Tips

Ensure your recyclable items are clean and dry.

Don't bag your items – keep them loose or they won't be recycled!

Don't put other plastics (pots, tubs, trays) in your bin – we can only recycle plastic bottles.

If in doubt, have a look at our recycling guide [www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide)

Vanessa Cheung

Business Development Manager TVBC

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[vcheung@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:vcheung@testvalley.gov.uk)

[www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)

## Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning: 11th & 25th December:  
8th & 22nd January

Household waste weeks beginning: 4th & 18th December:  
1st, 15th & 29th January



Garden waste green bags are collected the same week as household waste, every other Friday but **NOT** between Christmas & New Year.


**See Collection Calendar 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	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues excl. August	5 Dec 	2 Jan 	6 Feb 
Village Lunch	Church Room	12.15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon excl. August	11 Dec	8 Jan	12 Feb
Horticultural Society 	Comm. Room Village Hall	7.30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues excl. June/July/Aug	9 Jan	13 Feb	13 Mar
Flower Society 	Church Room	7.30	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs excl. Aug/Dec	25 Jan	22 Feb	22 Mar
Village Voices	Church Room	2 - 4	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	22 Jan	26 Feb	26 Mar
The Pantry Shop & Cafe	Village Hall	9 – 12 2 - 5	Mon – Sat 9 – 12 noon Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 2 - 5pm			
Story Time	Village Pantry	10.30 – 12	Thursday, Wendy Lord 367015			

Events 	Where	When	More Details
Braishfield School Fayre	Braishfield School	Saturday 2nd December 11 - 2pm	see page 16
BUMS Christmas party	Church Room	Monday 4th December	see page 11
BVA Sing a long	Committee Room and outside village hall	Wednesday 20th December	see page 13
Christmas Church services	All Saints' church	through December	see page 19
New Years' Day walk	start at The Wheatsheaf	Monday 1st January	see page 9
BVA AGM	Committee Room	Thursday 18th January	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