



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 245
December 2020



See p.7

“Braishfield Duck Pond at Christmas”

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

Braishfield Village Association

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The BVA attempts to deliver a copy of the ***Braishfield Residents Guide*** and the ***Village Design Statement*** to all new residents. If you have not received these publications, please contact Julie, the Distributor, on 368894.

Latest copy date for the next issue is: **Friday 22nd January 2021.**

Cover Illustration: *Lorna Dolby-Stevens*

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Donations to magazine</h2>

We would like to thank all those who donate toward the cost of Braishfield Village News. We welcome any support you can give us to keep the magazine viable in 2021. If you wish to make a donation please complete the slip below and send with your donation to:-

BVA Treasurer
Mrs Sheila Still, Orchard View, Braishfield SO51 0QB

I enclose £..... towards the running cost of the Braishfield Village News.

Name (please print)

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.....

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Tel: EMAIL:

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Account name: Braishfield Village Association.

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

EDITORS NOTE:

Please send all items for the BVN by email: bvn@braishfield.org.

All items for publication must show the name, address and contact number of the originator. Topics should be relevant to the village of Braishfield.



From the Chairman

As I write this, we're coming to the end (hopefully) of lockdown 2. I hope you have managed to avoid illness and are keeping well.

On a positive note, we have once again seen an increase in the number of families and people walking and cycling. It's great to see. It was on one of these walks that we paused to read the sign on the bench so conveniently placed half-way up Crook Hill. We laughed out loud and were reminded of some very happy times with Ron Blizard. Thanks to Jan for providing it.

We're so sorry that this year's Christmas event has had to be cancelled. It will return and we really hope to bring you something bigger and better next year. All of us at the BVA wish you a very happy and, especially important this year, healthy Christmas and New Year. Please keep safe.

Just for fun, there's a few Christmas themed quizzes included in this issue. There's no prizes, but you could earn the bragging rights if you manage to answer all of the questions! Every effort has been made to ensure the answers are correct, but should you find a mistake, please remember the season and be forgiving!!

Do keep your letters and comments coming in. We love to read and share them where we can.

Best wishes and a very merry Christmas and New Year to you all.

Ian

Letters

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

Dear Braishfield residents,

What a year 2020 has been? The Covid-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down. Many have needed to rely on key workers and volunteers. However, what it has shown locally and nationally is how people can rise to the challenge and work to assist others. As a Community Leader I have been proud to witness so many volunteer groups and individuals helping others within my division.

We must rise to a further challenge, Climate Change, the consequences of widespread flooding and forest fires. We must all act now to save the planet.

I am therefore more than happy to support your parish council and Councillor Sally Yalden and her team of volunteers to finance through my HCC community grant the proposal to sow wildflowers on the highways within Braishfield.

I hope that everyone gets to spend

time with family and share. A happy Christmas and I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division

Dear Editor,

Lucky Friday 13th

Last Friday I enjoyed a socially distanced walk round the village with a friend.

We stopped at the Pantry and enjoyed a take-away coffee and slice of delicious cake. When I got home I realised that I had lost my trekking stick. I am most grateful to the kind, honest person who handed it into the Pantry for safe keeping as it is of great sentimental value.

Thank you

Janet Blizard

BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB

We missed the deadline for the last News, so here's the news from the last four months. We have had four winners: Angela Bevan, (August), Val Hillier (September), Graham Bennett (October), and Val Hillier (AGAIN!!) (November).

We made donations to the Hampshire and Isle Of Wight Air Ambulance, ServeDirect, and both of Braishfield's churches.

Remember that we are open to suggestions of worthy causes and charities, preferably which have some connection with the village.
Just let David Robinson know (tel: 368774).

And we would LOVE to have some new members to contribute, and win a month's draw cash prize!

DEADLINE DATES FOR BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS 2021

January 22 for FEBRUARY
March 26 for APRIL
May 21 for JUNE
July 23 for AUGUST
September 24 for OCTOBER
November 19 for DECEMBER

Romsey Foodbank appreciates the support and goodwill from our wonderful community. At this time of year, they are looking for donations of Christmas treats - cakes, tubs/tins of chocolates, big boxes of biscuits and savoury snacks. Thank you for your continuing support.

Tree and Hedge Maintenance

We are fortunate in Braishfield to be surrounded by beautiful trees and hedgerows and we know that residents of the village value the wide range of wildlife, from hedgehogs to songbirds that these trees and hedges support. This year during lockdown people particularly noticed and appreciated the wonderful sound of birdsong when the usual background noise generated by daily life was absent in the spring.



This is just a reminder to all those fortunate enough to own trees and hedges who might be needing to maintain them that the time to do it is now!

The RSPB recommends not cutting hedges and trees between March and September as this is the breeding season for nesting birds, and it is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Therefore, please make sure that all cutting back of trees and hedges is completed by the end of February so that the sound of birdsong can be heard throughout the land, even more loudly next spring!

Thank you for helping us to keep Braishfield such a beautiful place to live.

Braishfield Parish Council



"BRAISHFIELD DUCK POND AT
CHRISTMAS"

Illustration by
Lorna Dolby-Stevens
lornadolbystevens@gmail.com

Braishfield Parish Council

A few useful numbers in case of emergency

Loss of Electricity

Phone 105 or SSE on 0800 783 8866

If you require special assistance

call SSE on 0800 294 3259 to register for Priority Services

Water supply or wastewater emergencies, blocked drains or possible pollution

Phone Southern Water on 0330 303 0368

Police

Phone 101 or 999

if people are injured or there is a threat to life

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year

from Braishfield Parish Council.

We are here to help so please do not hesitate to call us on

01794 368109.

Green Homes Grant: make energy improvements to your home

The Government has launched a grant for all homeowners or residential landlords whereby you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home.

Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces.

You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2021.

For further information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

School Governor Vacancy

The Governing Body of Braishfield Primary School has a vacancy for a new Community Governor, ideally, with financial expertise. The Governors are a friendly, forward thinking body and we are seeking new members to work with school leaders to achieve the best for our children. Anyone can be a Governor – it just requires a commitment to children and some free time. Governors can make an important contribution to the school and the Local Community. A vital part of the role as a Governor is to both support and challenge the school. Governors need ask questions of the school to help it to scrutinise how effective the educational provision is for our children. They meet every half-term, alongside school visits, training and background reading.

Being a Governor can be an enjoyable, stimulating and very rewarding role and comprehensive training and support are available.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, or know of anyone who might be interested, please contact the school on **01794 368359** or by email **adminoffice@braishfield.hants.sch.uk**.

SOCIAL CONTACT GROUP

Sadly, but not surprisingly we have not been able to meet together or go on our outings, but we have next year to look forward to!

However, all the Members of the Social Contact Group would like to wish everyone who reads the BVN a very Happy Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Healthy 2021.

Please don't feel lonely, if you would like to join our very friendly group, just give me a call on **368339**.

Hazel Prince

Braishfield Brownies



Braishfield Brownies are continuing to meet up, not in person but via the wonderful world of Zoom. I really don't know what we'd do without it! My lovely leaders and I got together and planned an exciting programme for this term - we packaged up activity packs for the girls and delivered door to door.

We've done virtual scavenger hunts, bingo, beetle drives, and crafts, we even had an online Promise evening and a Halloween dressing up night. This half of the term the Brownies decorated remembrance pebbles and made poppies, some of which were placed at the war memorial. We've got an animal theme evening and another Promise evening for 5 new girls. Lots of games and some crafts to do.

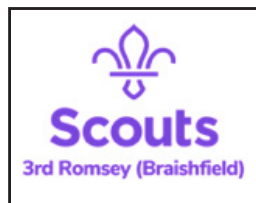
At the beginning of December some of the girls will take part in a Winter Wonderland virtual sleepover.

Girl Guiding in Braishfield is definitely alive and kicking.

If your daughter would like to join us we have spaces, just contact brownies@braishfield.org

Many thanks
Brown Owl

Hello from all at **3rd Romsey Scouts**. For our update in this edition of the BVA News we have handed over the responsibility to 2 group members, one who is a Cub and the other a Beaver. See their contributions opposite.....



Whilst Connie and William have grabbed your attention, we'd like take the opportunity to share some news. Sadly our Scout Leader has stepped down from her role, so we have a vacancy.

I'd be really interested in chatting to anyone from the village who would be interested in joining the Group and to lead the Scout Troop into 2021. Please drop me a note to gsl@3rdromseyscouts.org.uk.

*Ben Merrills,
Group Scout Leader*

Beavers - Obuasi Colony

In Beavers most of the time we are outdoors and playing games. But once we learnt about fair-trade and another time about the green cross code.

I was very disappointed in lockdown because I could not go to Beavers and have fun. Sometimes we had a Beaver Zoom meeting and once we made a chocolate cake. I even had a camp fire on Beavers Zoom.

I really hope Covid-19 ends soon so we can go somewhere exciting like Flip-Out.

Connie Ivy Horton

Cubs – Kumasi Pack

Normally during our time at Cubs we do a range of activities from knitting and making tea, to trekking across woodland and visiting Disneyland Paris.

But sadly, due to the coronavirus situation we have had to do Zoom calls, which have been a completely different experience.

We normally attend the Remembrance Day service at the war memorial in Braishfield but we couldn't do that this year, so we did some mindful colouring of poppies and spent time thinking about the people and animals who have taken part in wars so that we have freedom.

I do hope that we will be able to meet up as soon as possible, so that we can carry on doing all the fun activities that would normally take place.

William H

United Reformed Church

Events Report

Just to bring everyone up to date. Our Minister, the Reverend Mike Perrott, and I decided it would not be right to re-open Braishfield URC on 6th December, as we hoped, after a recent Risk Assessment. We hope in the New Year, things will have changed and we will be able to return to our church early in 2021. Watch this space – we will share details of church services again as soon as we can – and look forward to being able to do so!



I will take the opportunity to remind people you can join in on any of the meetings on Zoom that Romsey URC are holding for **Sunday Worship at 10.45 am**. If you are not on Zoom, you can still join in by following the service sheet. We will be together in spirit at least! If anyone wants to know how to obtain a copy of the weekly service sheet and/or join in with the services on Zoom, please do contact us (details below).

The church might not be open as I write this but the pastoral care work of the church never stops so do please contact the Minister or myself should you need this.

Looking back, it was good to see that, for the Remembrance Sunday Service held at the Braishfield Village War Memorial on 8th November, there were a good number of people there. We were pleased Derek Hiscocks, an Elder at Romsey URC, led the prayers and Margery Randall from our congregation laid a poppy wreath on behalf of our church. The Armistice Day service, also at the Memorial, held on 11th November, was also well attended.

Although this year has been a difficult one for everyone, I think it would be appropriate to end with wishing everyone as Happy a Christmas as possible. Let's all hope for a much happier New Year!

Shirley Smith

For more details please contact:-

The Minister: The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA - 01794 512163

The Church Secretary: Shirley Smith - 01794 368447

All Saints' Church

Coping with Covid: living hopefully

Although the church has been locked, the gates of the churchyard have been left open, not only to avoid spreading the virus but to welcome everyone to the churchyard to reflect in peace and tranquillity. We are very grateful to the Mowers for keeping the burial ground in such good order and we were pleased to take part in the "Clued up" broadcast in October on Radio Solent with Richard Brazier speaking about our village and the churchyard!



On 5th July we 're-opened' for worship, initially sharing services with St John's, Farley Chamberlayne. We have adapted to distanced seating and wearing masks and have adjusted our services, having music to listen to and, more recently, the choir singing anthems and hymns. It was good to have a baptism during our Harvest Festival and to be able to offer funeral services, with restricted attendance, inside the church again. We are fortunate to have the Reverend Jane Thompson, our Associate Priest, to help lead services and provide daily 'Thought for the Day' emails. Our 'Friends of All Saints' email network helps to keep us in touch with what is happening, not forgetting the Village Network which keeps us all up to date with events. Thank you, Lorna!

Not being daunted by the second lockdown, we continued with the Act of Remembrance service jointly with the United Reformed Church at the War Memorial with a bugler playing the Last Post, Reveille and the National Anthem.

We look forward to Christmas and how we can arrange services for everyone to enjoy. We hope to have a **Carol Service on Sunday 20th December**, and a **Christingle event outside on Christmas Eve**. We aim to have our usual **Family Service on Christmas Day**.

Details are being finalised so look out for updates on the Village Network, Facebook page and asbchurch.org and please share with friends and neighbours who don't use social media.

Christmas will be different, but we can be joyful. The message of peace and love and hope is at the heart of our Christmas celebration every year and this will not change. We need that encouragement this year more than ever.

Jane Bennett - PCC Secretary

Sarah Boothman – Churchwarden

*****STOP PRESS***** *All Saints' church is having a defibrillator installed on the wall of the Church Room. More information will follow shortly.*



RON'S BENCH



If you walk up Crook Hill on the fantastic new John Bevan path you will know that a new bench has recently been installed. It was funded

by Jan Blizzard in memory of her husband Ron, and dedicated to the Braishfield Ukulele Music Society (affectionately known as the BUMS). We were delighted to be recognised and honoured in this way. Even the Beatles never had an honour like this!

Ron was a founder member of the BUMS, and sadly died earlier this year. Janet was joined by three of the original members of the band to inaugurate it. They joined Jan and Carole Renvoize (who steered the project through the labyrinthine processes of our local government) to celebrate and 'open' the bench.

Jan Blizzard said: 'BUMS are all about having fun and added so much enjoyment to Ron's life. He had never played an instrument before but as a teenager had loved Pop Music. It all started with a chance remark at a Village Apple Day and the offer of a loan of an instrument. John Bevan was probably the only original member who could play properly, and he also had a wonderful voice. Practice Nights involved much drinking of red wine, laughter, and a little playing. Enthusiasm was sometimes greater than talent. Ron practised regularly for the gigs and enjoyed being part of the Group. He later joined RUGS as well and played at several Ukulele Festivals. What makes BUMS so unique is that they are true entertainers; the audience are always the most important part of the show and encouraged to join in.

From an extremely shaky start in 2012 (on the Rec at the Jubilee party) we have stuck at it. On a good day you could reasonably say that we are not too bad. The BUMs now have twelve members and have kept going during the lockdown with Zoom and outdoor sessions and until the latest lockdown practiced weekly in groups of six in the Braishfield church room. In happier times we play regularly in care homes and friendship clubs in the area, raising money for charity, and having a laugh!

We look forward to the day when we can resume all that.

David Robinson.

Braishfield Primary School

For Remembrance Day, the children did a wonderful job designing and painting their own poppies for a special display at Braishfield War Memorial. The school bells were rung by two Year 6 pupils to mark the two-minute silence, and all the children stood quietly for a period of reflection and respect.

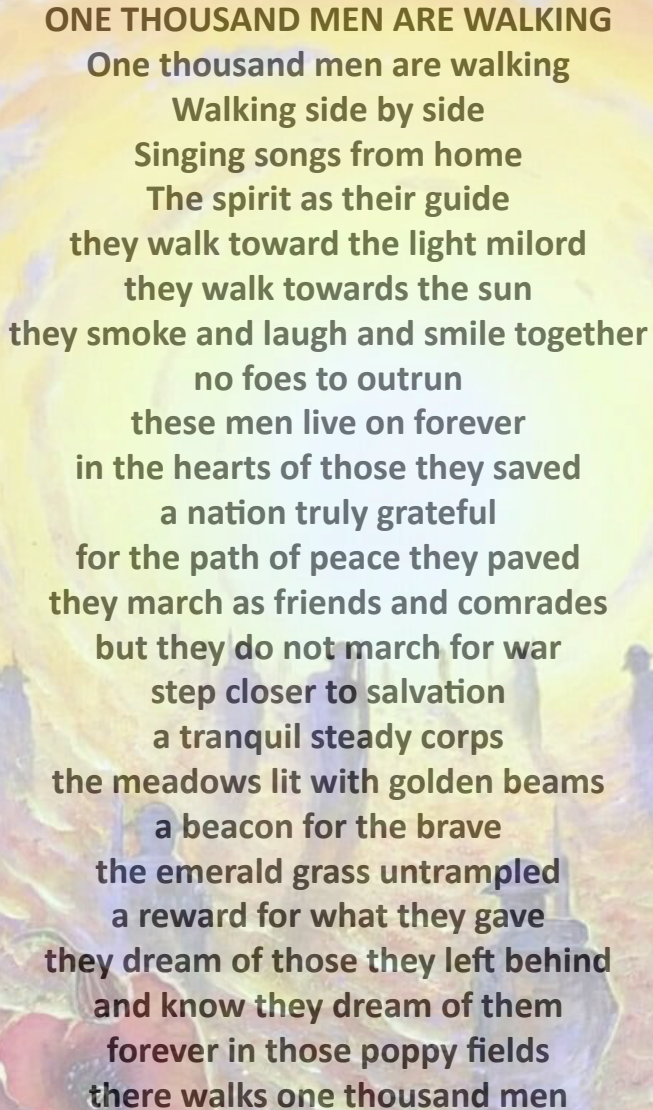
Each child received a poppy with parents making donations directly to the Royal British Legion.

Lou Rhodes
Headteacher



From further afield.....

Powerful.. Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later (without any help) he produced this..



ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING
One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men

Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14). Lest we forget

MOLLIE'S WAR (reprinted from August 2013)

Reprinted here at popular request - the memories of one of Braishfield's residents, as interviewed by David Robinson.

Mollie Russell 1921-2020

Mollie Russell lived in Chapel Close. In 1941, aged 20, she enlisted in the WAAF (Women's Auxilliary Air Force). Her father (1914-18 War) was in the voluntary National Defence Corps, her mother was a VAD nurse and her brothers in the infantry and Home Guard; so collectively they were more than "doing their bit". For her part Mollie joined the Barrage Balloon section, part of Air Defence. Initially staffed by men, in 1941 it was decided that women could take over to release men to front line duties. These hydrogen balloons were lighter than air and tethered to winches which eased them up to a chosen height between 5---1500 feet when enemy aircraft were expected. The idea, mainly at night, was that low flying enemy planes would hit the wire to which explosive devices were attached, and the combination would bring them down - and it worked.

So Mollie (feisty as always!) was kitted out with uniform etc. in Gloucestershire (handed out by Doris Dewey, also from Braishfield!) and then off to do her basic training at Morecombe (square bashing, bitterly cold!) and Wythall, near Birmingham (technical training); then posted to Solihull, close by, and then back to Wythall for additional training and a "trade test". They made her a corporal, unpaid, which she took on but the unpaid part of it still rankles. "Basically", she says, "we were cheap labour". Nonetheless, she had to lead teams of girls, some pretty unreliable. Two in her crew were particularly hopeless on night watch. The phone rang one night with orders to "fly" and the two duty girls said they had never heard it - presumably because they had fallen asleep. Shoeless, Mollie dashed out in the ice to answer it. A stickler for proper conduct, she found this extremely difficult to handle and at one point asked for a transfer to another team. Her crew then threatened mutiny if she went, so she gritted her teeth and stayed!

July 1942 saw very heavy raids on the West Midlands. Mollie's unit was stationed at Small Heath (a suburb of Birmingham); a very difficult site with concrete blocks to tether the cables to, which caused complications. On

one occasion she reluctantly agreed to a reputedly “accepted” short cut in the procedure for refuelling the balloons with gas. As a result the cable was not connected to the winch correctly so when the order came to “fly” the balloon was not controlled - Mollie had to use an emergency device called a “snatch brake” to prevent it heading off into the ether; they got away with it but Mollie remembers her anger at the carelessness and poor advice that caused the problem.

On another occasion, checking on the balloon, Mollie found it flying but displaced some distance from the winch; the crew had allowed the cable to get tangled up in a hawthorn tree instead of going straight up; and there was an explosive device on the cable in the tree! Bravely Mollie climbed up and freed the cable by sawing through some of the branches. All in all, her career as a barrage balloonist was not entirely uneventful.

In 1943, when enemy raids had reduced and the RAF went on the offensive, Mollie volunteered to become an airframe mechanic; another example of women stepping into men’s shoes, freeing them in preparation for D Day. More training and then she was granted a posting to Andover, much nearer home; arriving unheralded with another girl. No one knew anything about them, so she was randomly allocated work in one of the hangars and made herself useful for six weeks until the paperwork finally caught up - and then she was officially posted to the hangar next door - talk about disappearing off the radar! “We could have been enemy agents!” she says. There she stayed for the remainder of the war.

She often worked with an experienced mechanic named Jack Thompson, she on airframes and he on engines. A duty crew of two mechanics remained on standby at the end of each day until 8.00pm to deal with any late arriving planes. One very rainy night at 6.00pm only she and Jack remained. Thinking that nobody would be flying in those conditions, they stood themselves down, wet through. Mollie was enjoying a good soak in the bath when the Tannoy called “Duty Crew to Action!”. She belted out of the bathroom, hair in a towel and uniform more or less on, to find that she and Jack had to help a woman ferry pilot, who had landed in a very large puddle, to push her plane into a hangar. The pilot in question was settled very comfortably in the officers’ mess!

Chocks away! She and another mechanic, also named Jack, were working on a Tiger Moth with an engine problem. Starting it up to identify the problem, Mollie sat in the cockpit and Jack swung the propellor as she controlled the magneto (ignition) switches. The engine fired up, at which point the aircraft started moving - straight towards a petrol bowser! Mollie frantically looked for the brakes, then remembered that Tiger Moths didn't have brakes. Jack was hanging on grimly as the plane gathered speed, shouting suggestions. Finally Mollie remembered the switches, turned off the engine, and Jack gave a mighty heave to slew the plane away from the petrol bowser and hit a large sign instead! They put the plane in a hangar and swore each other to secrecy. Their unforgivable sin? Forgetting to put chocks against the wheels. Mollie still refers to herself as Hitler's secret weapon!

Mollie was demobbed in 1946, returned home, worked at Wills Nurseries in Romsey and cared for her father. She still goes to yearly reunions of the former barrage balloon ladies. She remembers the fun of it all, as well as some pretty scary moments! Modestly she says that she did nothing out of the ordinary. But her story demonstrates how the war changed perceptions of what women could do, and perhaps laid the foundations for the social changes that shape the present day. It also shows what silent heroes and heroines we still have among us.

David Robinson

(2013)



Braishfield Pantry



It was lovely to see many of you in the Community Room as The Pantry once again was able to offer inside café facilities. Sadly, this was sweet but short lived but we hope to welcome you later in the year/2021.

We were unable to hold a 'live' AGM but there's a report of the year posted on our website (documentation).

With the latest lockdown, we've been happy to serve takeaway drinks and cakes again – many of you have appreciated the opportunity to shop locally and sales have reflected the footfall. It's also been great to continue to welcome many people who discovered The Pantry earlier in the year.

Christmas is definitely happening in The Pantry! - tables are loaded with tempting Christmas goods and order forms for turkeys, meats, trout pate and cheeses are coming in. Hopefully, by the time you read this, many of you will



have looked at our website and already 'Christmas shopped' with us – NB **Wednesday late night opening 5-6.30pm until and including 16th December, turkey collection (and last-minute shopping!) on Wednesday 23rd morning.**



Yes, we're opening between Christmas and New Year! Our Christmas opening hours are posted around the village, at The Pantry and on the website.

Many thanks for your custom and support during such a strange and challenging year – may the year ahead be more settled. Season's greetings to you all.

BRAISHFIELD MUSIC AND DRAMA SOCIETY

Some of you will have been aware that there has been no BMADS play this year; we have so missed doing one, but it was impossible with all the restrictions to rehearse, which is the fun bit, and of course there was no way we could have an audience. We are experimenting with an online play reading in a few days; it will be really nice to have a virtual get-together and do something dramatic!

Music – well. Our wonderful cello and accordion duo, Duo Bayanello, were due to perform in September but of course that could not happen. Iosif the accordionist, who comes from Russia, has been there since March, but he hopes to return here as soon as he can. We do have another date for them to perform, which is Saturday September 18th 2021, in All Saints church. Our fantastic string players who came here last October, are due to perform for us on February 27th next year in the church. We don't know yet whether this will/can happen. If it does come off it will be well advertised and tickets will be on sale. It is so hard for professional musicians who are used to life with an income from performing and teaching, with the associated practicing and travel, to having none of that now. Let us hope that their lives will improve very soon.

Also in the diary, provisionally, on May 15th next year, we have a concert to be given by an exciting young string quartet. Based in London, The Bloomsbury String Quartet has strong Romsey connections as the viola player, Rachel Maxey went to school and has family in the town. They have received wonderful reviews for their performances and are gaining a very good reputation.

Meanwhile, we mere audience members who have really missed live music concerts sincerely hope that all this talent waiting to come to perform here in Braishfield will be able to do so in 2021.

We also hope that BMADS very soon can get back to doing what it does best, which is providing entertainment, both amateur and professional for all to enjoy!

HEALTH WALKS IN THE VILLAGE



Photo taken at the start of the Romsey Health Walks, BBC Countryfile Ramble. This was our contribution to “Children in Need” we raised a total of £290 in donations on that day.

This year during the period between lockdowns we have been meeting at the Braishfield Village Hall to start our walks. The Health Walks were started by a GP in South Oxfordshire to encourage his patients and those in the community to improve their mental and physical health. The walks last for an hour and are free to join. Trained volunteer leaders lead each walk. The Romsey Group cover all abilities with three different walks, one Brisk a Main and a Slow Walk. For further information contact healthwalks@testvalley.gov.uk

Alan Lord

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Christmas Number 1's Quiz



1. Only one group has had four Christmas number one songs in history. Can you name them?
2. Aside from the above, one female group had three consecutive No. 1's in the 1990's. Who were they?
3. The contest to be Christmas No. 1 began in earnest in 1973 when two glam rock bands released two of the best known hits. Wizzard, with I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday was kept of the top spot by which group/song?
4. One group has had a Christmas No. 1 twice with the same song. Who, and with which song (clue – it's not a Christmas song).
5. Mary's Boy Child is the only song to be Christmas No. 1 for two artists. Can you name them?
6. How many times has 'Do They Know It's Christmas' been a Christmas No. 1?
7. In recent years, two charity records have made the top spot. They were Military Wives with Gareth Malone (2011) and Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir (2015). Can you name the songs?
8. In 2008, Hallelujah made the No. 1 position. Which X Factor winner sang it?
9. Cliff Richard has had four Christmas No' 1's, two of which were on his own. Can you name these two solo songs?
10. Famous for holding 9 of the top 10 chart positions in March 2017, this person also had the Christmas No. 1 that year. Who is he?



4

Hidden in the grid below are 21 words associated to Christmas. They appear forwards, backwards or diagonally, but always in a straight line. Can you find them?

S	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	H
Y	A	F	L	E	E	U	Y	O	E
L	O	N	A	R	D	V	L	L	A
S	O	J	T	O	I	L	D	H	W
D	T	R	L	A	Y	N	S	Y	I
R	E	P	A	P	A	I	J	O	S
A	H	G	W	C	W	C	E	T	E
C	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M
A	N	G	E	L	K	Y	U	L	E
S	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	A	N

Christmas General Knowledge Quiz

1. Traditionally white Chess pieces are made from the wood from which type of tree?
2. How many Christmas Cards were recycled by the Woodland Trust scheme in January 2008, was it;
 - a. 12.8 million
 - b. 34.7 million
 - c. 49.3 million
 - d. 73.6 million
3. For the UK to have an official White Christmas, according to the Met Office how much snow has to fall?
4. Which Christmas carol based on a poem by English poet Christina Rossetti has been set to music many times, the most famous by Gustav Holst?
5. What is a female turkey called?
6. What's the name of the ballet traditionally performed around Christmas each year?
7. The French word "Noel" is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?
8. Which is the only English county you can spell without using any letters in the word CHRISTMAS?
9. Which celebrity won the first ever Strictly Come Dancing in December 2004?
10. Which sister opens LM Alcott's Little Women by grumbling "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents?"
11. In which year was the first royal Christmas broadcast and which monarch made it?
12. What were the children drinking in the first commercially produced Christmas cards by Henry Cole?



**Answers to all these quizzes can be found on page 32.
Don't peek!!**

All Saints' Church, Braishfield Christmas Tree Festival

Many of you will be thinking that this Christmas is going to be just a little bit different this year and Carole and I were so disappointed that because of the Covid 19 crisis, we had little choice other than to cancel the children's festival this year. The festival gave the children, and their parents, the opportunity to decorate a tree and place in All Saints church with the result that the church received a real Christmassy effect over the period and reminded us how special the birth of Jesus was on Christmas Day.



Alan Lord has come up with a splendid idea that will retain this interest and remind us that the festival is not forgotten, especially for the children, and help to ensure that hopefully in a year's time, the festival can return "live" in All Saints. Alan's idea is to create on the church's website, a Christmas Tree and Decoration Festival that would run from the 14th December through to January 3rd. Naturally, we would need the permission and consent from parents to include their picture of a decorated tree and child's name etc. and the website would then have a series of entries from the children, adults can also send a photo of a special tree or floral decoration that can be seen by us all, as if the festival were alive in All Saints church... this way it really is !!.

All we will need is for you to take a photo of the chosen tree or decoration and send it by email to fivealivechurches@gmail.com. If the file is too large, send in medium format, or use Dropbox. Add details of name, age etc. otherwise it will be posted as anonymous. You can send in the photos anytime from **1st December**, they will be then added to page. Carole and I hope that many will be encouraged to enter a contribution. Again, with our grateful thanks to Alan and let us all have the happiest of Christmases that we can, given the current circumstances that unfortunately prevail.

Stephen Treglown & Carole Renvoize.

website: asbchurch.org

Census 2021

will provide a snapshot of modern society
Households across Braishfield will soon be asked to take part in Census
2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said. “This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on **March 21**, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

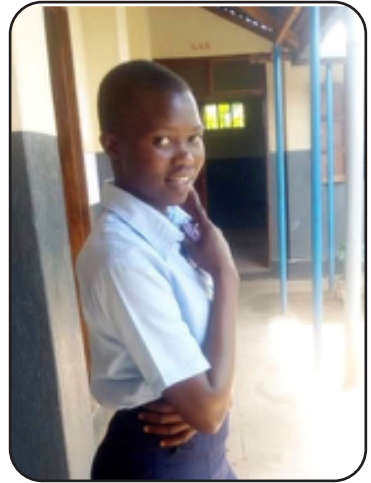
For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).



School Stories from Uganda, from ServeDirect

Lockdown is back again at the forefront of all our lives and shared experience, at the moment. 2020 seems to have unravelled in many ways for us all. Despite the 9000 km distance from Braishfield, and thanks to efficient (mostly!) technology, Jerry and I have been able to remain involved in the work in Uganda, even though this strange situation has lasted much, much longer than any of us expected.

For our dear friends and colleagues in Uganda, little has changed since March 20th, when lockdown started and all schools closed. In the last few weeks, schools have partially opened, but only to two year groups of students taking O' levels and A' levels. Those in other year groups remain stuck at home indefinitely with little to do – a difficult situation for such education-hungry young people.



Rachel's story is typical of so many young people from lower income families in Uganda. We asked her what she would be doing if she didn't have a place at Wobulenzi Town Academy. She replied: 'I would be stuck at home with my parents who are peasant farmers, looking for food and digging the land'. Fortunately, the school was set up specifically to provide education for students like Rachel, who would otherwise never make it to secondary school. She is genuinely ambitious to do well academically and support her parents in the future.

By some miracle, students and teachers are hoping to complete the whole syllabus in the next few months to take exams early 2021. Parents with little financial security are desperately trying to find the fees and exam registration costs, after 6 months of little income of their own due to national lockdown. Government support doesn't exist.

If you wish to make a 'Christmas donation' to our ServeDirect 'safety net fund', this is passed on directly to the school to help students like Rachel

with scholastic materials (books, pens, Maths sets etc), personal toiletries – simple school basics or towards their exam registration fees to enable them to go onto the next level. The smallest donation is highly valued, plus we guarantee that 100% of each gift is spent directly in this area. Donations can be made via the homepage of www.servedirect.org (look for the ‘Donate’ button) or if you prefer an alternative method/further information, please email me: elspeth@servedirect.org.

Thank you so much, and thanks also for your interest in our news from our ‘other village’ in Uganda. Wishing you a happy, healthy peaceful Christmas season.

Elspeth & Jerry Dugdale

SHEEP MATTER AT ELM GROVE

The Suffolk rams, big, chunky, experienced boys who knew exactly what their job was, went in with Kate’s main flock, the North Country mules a couple of weeks ago and all seems harmonious in the field. Hopefully there will be a number of good lambs in about 5 months. The Lleyr ram was slightly more reticent and took his time to woo his ewes, but he soon got the idea and they are happily living together for the duration.

This time of the year, once the rams have gone in with the ewes, it seems a little quieter with things ticking over. Mind you, there is always a lot to be done to make sure that the ewes are kept in prime condition to carry lambs; feet, bottoms, teeth, there is always something to keep an eye on with sheep!

Winter is looming and Kate had a 10ton delivery of fodder beet the other day which she hopes will last the winter providing a tasty addition to the sheep’s food. They do enjoy them.

The dogs are fine – Tilly, Kate’s old dog enjoys mooching around in the field while Fly and Mist rush about and go further afield. Fly is becoming very proficient at what she is asked to do, which is a great help to Kate (most days!).

WQ



Affiliated to the Jumbulance Trust: registered charity No. 1090731

We do not usually do holidays in the winter months because there is no demand but this year we have sadly been unable to do any at all since our January Ski Trip which was shown on television on Ski Sunday and gave us excellent publicity. This accessible ski trip for younger people takes place in Austria and uses special adapted ski equipment and specialist instructors.

It is open to younger disabled people from anywhere in England. My Occupational Therapist daughter Emily, who is a great skier and is also a founding member of this group goes as a volunteer carer every year with them and was interviewed on the BBC Ski Sunday program. If you know someone who is disabled and who would like to try it in the future please get in touch with me.

Next year we have holidays planned in July to Blackpool and in September to Norfolk. With Brexit looming we are not going abroad in 2021. We are offering free days out in May to the MND Ass, Royal Br. Legion and the Romsey Cheshire Home and later in the year to the local Braishfield Social Contact Group, The Can Do Club in W.Berkshire and new people we can't fit on our holidays next year. I am currently booking Oberammagau for 2022.

Sadly and inevitably some people have died this year and much time has been spent supporting the 70 + people who travel with us calls, letter and some visits.

Our fund raising has not been able to take place but we are solvent thank goodness due to the generosity of many over the last few years. We are also looking for new helpers as some older ones have "retired" and without the volunteers we won't be going anywhere. Why not offer to help in 2021?

***For more information please contact me, Chris Chisholm 01794 368120
0788 774 8224 cookchris@aol.com www.jumbulance.org.uk***

Village Hall News

It was wonderful to welcome many groups (respecting social distancing guidance – thank you!) to our newly refurbished Village Hall. In addition, we were able to offer space for the Pantry's café facilities in the Community Room. All was going well..... however, these arrangements were short lived.

We are very sorry that in these difficult times, our Village Hall cannot be open to provide a valuable community space for our village.

We hope that as many of you as possible will come to use these facilities – this is the first major refurbishment since the Village Hall was built and we're very grateful to Iain Coleman, who sourced the grant funding and to Malcolm Ayres and Chris Balchin, who spent many hours facilitating and co-ordinating the building works carried out by Safe Spec – thank you.

I am pleased to say that whatever happens, the Village Hall will be there, with its' newly refurbished facilities. Hopefully not long after you receive this, things may again be returning to a 'new normal'.

Ps. Village Hall AGM via Zoom – Thursday 3rd December @ 7.30pm

Please register if you'd like to attend via the following contact –
sally.yalden@braishfield.org.uk



TV Capsule - A film for you, made by you.

The Essentials

- We want people to produce a 2-3 minute film about their life in Test Valley
- Films will be used to create a 'Video Tapestry' - a time capsule of today.
- Anyone can take part, no special equipment is needed. Help is available.
- The closing date for film submissions is December 31st 2020.

Visit <https://www.tvcapsule.co.uk> for full details.



QUIZ ANSWERS

Christmas No. 1's:

1. The Beatles (they also held the top two chart positions in 1963 and 1967 – the only group to do this).
2. The Spice Girls.
3. Slade with Merry Xmas Everybody.
4. Queen with Bohemian Rhapsody (1975 and 1991).
5. Harry Belafonte (1957) and Boney M (1978).
6. Three – 1984 (Band Aid), 1989 (Band Aid II), 2004 (Band Aid 20).
7. 'Wherever you Are' and 'A Bridge Over You'.
8. Alexandra Burke.
9. 'Mistletoe and Wine' (1988) and 'Saviour's Day' (1990).
10. Ed Sheeran.

Wordsearch:

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| ANGEL | PAPER |
| CANDLE | PRESENTS |
| CARDS | RUDOLPH |
| CAROL | SANTA |
| ELF | SNOW |
| FAMILY | TOYS |
| HOLLY | TREE |
| IVY | WISEMEN |
| JESUS | WISH |
| JOY | YULE |
| MISTLETOE | |

General Knowledge:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Holly | 7. Birth, birthday or relating to birth |
| 2. 73.6m (answer D) | 8. Devon |
| 3. One snowflake within the 24 hours | 9. Natasha Kaplinsky with Brendan Cole |
| 4. In the Bleak Midwinter | 10. Jo March |
| 5. Hen | 11. 1932, the Queen's grandfather, King George V |
| 6. The Nutcracker | 12. Wine |



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9th December 2020
 27th January 2021

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 Wednesday 1st/3rd/5th 5pm/6.30pm
 Thursday Minslie Club 5pm/6pm
 Friday Calmore Road 5pm/6.30pm

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RUBBISH NEWS

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



Recycle weeks beginning:
7th and 21st December

Household waste weeks beginning:
14th and 28th December

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

Recycling Is Easy!

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

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

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

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

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

www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling

Brown Bin Recycling Tips

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



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