



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 258
February 2023



*Braishfield Primary School nativity play
December 2022*

Distributed free of charge by the Braishfield Village Association
to the residents of Braishfield and the surrounding hamlets.
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 17th March 2023.**

Front cover: Braishfield School

From the Chair

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. With all the rain in recent weeks, we were very lucky to have fine weather for our New Year walk. A good turnout as ever to blow away those Christmas cobwebs.

A bumper copy of the BVN this time.

A new feature in this edition is a gardening section written by Sue Boswell. This is going to be a regular contribution to help those green fingered villagers amongst us to keep our gardens looking great all year round.

The Farming Times is another newish feature which will be appearing quarterly . A really interesting read for those of us living in a rural community, and an informative insight into life on the farm.

Finally, many of you will have seen the Romsey Country Market stall in the centre of the town, selling a variety of homemade edibles and handicrafts. Well, the good news is that they are coming to Braishfield on a regular basis. Please see page 35 for full details.

A Saturday morning browsing the market followed by coffee at the Pantry sounds like a good start to the Weekend !

Bye for now, Julie.

EDITORS NOTE:

Please send all items for the BVN by email: **BVNeditor@gmail.com**. All items for publication must show the name, address and contact number of the originator. Topics should be relevant to the village of Braishfield.

Letters

Contributions for “Letters to the Editor” must provide the writer’s name and address to the Editor. Maximum word count for letters is 250.

Hello!

The family of Rusty Smith would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards and texts, phoned and visited us, following the very sad and sudden death of Rusty on 15 th November 2022. It was such a shock and unexpected to us all that he passed away so suddenly.

We would also like to thank everyone who was able for coming to Rusty’s funeral service at his much loved United

Reformed Church, where he and Shirley were married on 25 th March 1961.

We would also like to thank those who came to the wake at The Wheatsheaf. Thank you also to everyone who helped on the funeral day for all that was done to make the day go as planned. So many thanks to so many people but thank you all.

Love from Shirley, Alan, Dawn, Nicola and Stephen

**DEADLINE DATES FOR
BRAISHFIELD
VILLAGE NEWS
2023**

Mar 17 for APRIL
May 19 for JUNE
July 21 for AUG
Sept 22 for OCT
Nov 17 for DEC



Keep up to date

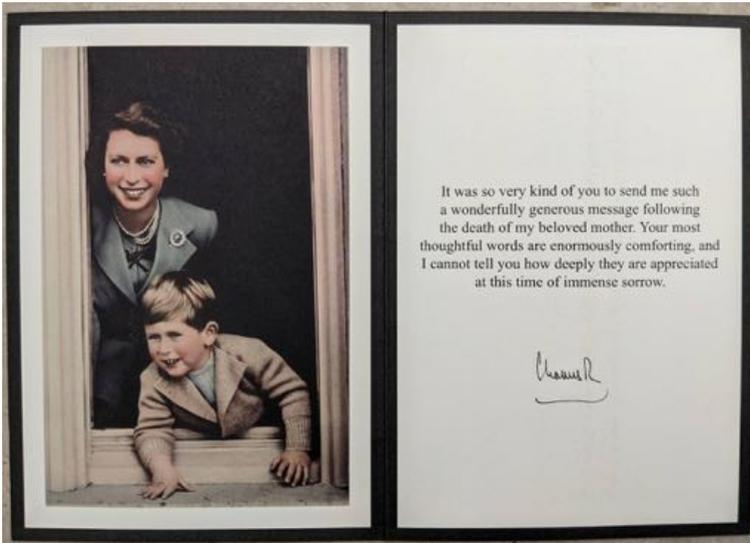
Facebook and twitter are a great way to keep in touch and up to date with your local neighbourhood team. Follow us on:

Facebook: Test Valley Cops

Twitter: @TestVlyRuralPol

Hampshire Alerts is a free messaging service keeping you up to date with events and incidents via www.hampshirealert.co.uk

Notices



TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY

As you may be aware, Braishfield has its own library located at the old telephone box opposite Newport Lane.

It's wonderful to see this used and enjoyed by so many of you.

Its purpose is to allow residents to exchange one **paperback** novel for another. Children's books are also accepted (on the bottom shelf please).

Regrettably, in recent weeks a number of very inappropriate books, hardbacks and reference books have been left – with over 40 being removed in the first 10 days of this year.

Not only does this create more work for those who tend to the library but there is a danger of heavy hardbacks falling and injuring people. We also do not want to see children picking up inappropriate material.

Please:

Paperback novels only

Exchange one book for another

Stand books on the shelves only and don't pile others on top

No hardbacks, reference or inappropriate books

Braishfield Parish Council

The Braishfield 200 Club in 2022

Last year was a good year for the village lottery. Our income for the year was over £3600, an increase of more than £500, thanks to the abiding loyalty of members and some generous newcomers. So we were able to pay out an average monthly prize of around £120, and an average donation to good causes in excess of £180 per month. Our 'administrative expenses' were £20 for the licence to operate, paid to TVBC.

Do remember that if you are raising money for a charity, irrespective of whether you are a member of the lottery or not, we may be able to support you with a donation. Most of our contributions go to causes which have an impact on the village in some way, but we have also paid out to organisation supporting Ukrainians, the Countess Hospice and the Romsey food bank in the last twelve months.

60% of each month's income goes out as a donation, and 40% goes to one lucky winner. The draw is conducted by the Promoter (me) in the presence of the two trustees, Graham Bennett and Tom Greenwood. We use a very low tech, totally random selection process to arrive at the lucky winning number. (It's three bags with golf balls in them each numbered 0 – 9.)

If this inspires you to join, give me a call or email me. £5 per month is the entry fee, and each month you will have donated £3 of it to a good cause.

*David Robinson, Tel 01794 368774,
email david.robinson1571@gmail.com.*



Braishfield Village Voices.....

4th Monday in the month, 2.00 – 4.00,
in the Church Room

Feb 28 / March 28 / April 25

Look forward to seeing you at any/all of these sessions...and bring a friend!

Wendy 368015/Meri 368516

WANTED -TO RENT
I am looking for an off
road space to store an old
sports car.

If anyone has a garage,
barn or outbuilding that
they feel would be suitable
and would be willing to
let me use , please get in
touch.

It would be purely for
storage , no maintenance
or work would be carried
out.

Prepared to pay a
reasonable rent.

Julie Kemp Tel 368894.

All Saints Church, Braishfield – Christmas Donations

Many thanks to everyone who supported our
two special collections



£307.22 raised at 'Carols on the
Rec' has been sent
to Action for Children



£163.71 donated at the
Christingle Service on Christmas
Eve has been sent to the
Children's Society

Both charities carry out much needed work in
support of vulnerable children and young
people

In Case of Emergency

Loss of Electricity - Phone 105 or SSE on 0800 072 7282
or report/ check a power cut

<https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack>

If you require special assistance

call SSE on 0800 072 7282294 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

Community Emergency Co-ordinator
Cllr Jane Bennett 01794 368109 or 07823 320910

Donations



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 2023. This can be a ONE OFF PAYMENT or a MONTHLY STANDING ORDER. If you wish to make a donation please complete the slip below and send with your donation to:-

BVA Treasurer
Kate Marshall

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

Name (please print)

Address.

.....

Postcode.

Tel: EMAIL:

Please make cheques payable to Braishfield Village Association or bank transfer to:

Sort code: 30-97-14: Account no 31483060:

Account name: Braishfield Village Association.

A standing order form to make annual donations to the BVN is available.

Please contact the Treasurer, Kate Marshall, and she will send you one.

Obituaries

“Rusty” Smith

Russell Alan, known to us all as ‘Rusty’ was born at Kienton on 9 April 1933. He lived at Birkhamstead until he was about 13. He then moved to Chilworth with his parents Charles and Nancy and his brother Charlie. He then attended Romsey School, known to everyone as ‘the cow sheds’. He left school aged 14 and worked at Unity Heating at Chilworth Manor, and trained as a draftsman. But this was not for him – he wanted to work on a farm, with animals and tractors! Hence Shirley thought our verses from St Luke about the farmer sowing and reaping was most appropriate for today.

Rusty soon got a job at Hall Farm, Braishfield and rode his bike every day from Chilworth for 6 am milking. At the age of 18 he was called to do his national service and spent his two years in the Royal Artillery in Hong Kong. After this he returned to Hall Farm before moving to work at Pucknall and Hawkes Farms, where he worked for three different farmers, until he retired aged 65.

“During this time Rusty and his mum and dad moved down the road to the Wheatsheaf where they were ‘mine hosts’, and Rusty lived there for 11 years before his marriage to Shirley who was the daughter of ‘mine hosts’ at the Newport at the time. Rusty and Shirley were married here in this church (Braishfield URC) on 25 March 1961 nearly 62 years ago. Rusty worked hard in this church – he was always here to help, whatever needed doing. He was church treasurer 38 years; church cleaner, and was seen Sunday mornings sweeping a ‘clean path’ to the church door. He used to support all the church fundraising events and loved being host to the sherry and mince pies evening at their home where ‘the parrot’ always helped with the raffle!

“Rusty loved his garden and spent many hours in it, working. Following his retirement he started a gardening business and soon had his week filled doing other people’s gardens. He also helped Alan with his gardening business and helped him at Gardeners World (Birmingham) and Hampton Court, and was proud when Alan received medals at both

international shows. Rusty also helped Alan and Dawn when they opened their sweet shop in Romsey, known as 'Humbugs'!

"All of his life, from 18 to 80, Rusty worked behind the bar at The Newport and was known there as 'the posh barman'!

"Rusty loved his family – he was delighted when Alan was born in 1967 and was always on hand to help him right up until he passed away. He was pleased to welcome Dawn into the family when she and Alan married at the Abbey URC in Romsey, by Revd Alan Green, here today with Brenda.

"Rusty was proud grandad of Nicola and Stephen, and used to love taking them out on Fridays for the day, and Shirley went too! They would sometimes go to the IOW for fish 'n chips – they had many trips out and he loved every minute. Rusty would always on hand to help anyone at any time. He will be missed by so many, especially by Shirley, Alan, Dawn, Nicola and Stephen."

Alan says, "What can I say about dad? He has taught, helped and supported me throughout my life. [He] never complained and always had time and [was] always there. From Airfix models, go-carts, to building gardens – [he] was never too busy to help and showed complete patience – even through driving lessons. With darts, even with the amount of practice I did I could never beat him or gain as many trophies as he won. One of my funniest memories was when mum and dad took me to see my first concert to see the band Madness and dad sat there with tissues in his ears. Again, he never complained – he was just there. Love you and thank you dad."

Nicola and Stephen write: "Our grandad Ben, when we try to think about a special moment or specific memories, it's hard to pick just one. From as far back as we can both remember, 'Grangar' has always been an integral and important person in both our lives. The fondest memories come from all the outings and time we spent together on Friday with granny & grandad. We would always get to choose where we would go; from the gateway, to Portsmouth arcades or the seafront. Our favourite was always Paulton's Park or Marwell. We were treated beyond measure and we appreciated every moment. Not once did he complain that he was tired or wanted to go home after aimlessly walking around. Actually he didn't particularly like

McDonalds – while we would sit there with our ‘happy meals’ (or as grandad called them, ‘miserable’ meals) he would sit there eating his apple pie. It fills us with great sorrow that we will never see him pottering around in his greenhouse, planting his hanging baskets or see him sat in his chair in the lounge reading his newspapers. It really is the little things that we will miss so very dearly.”

These have been but a few memories of Rusty’s life – Shirley will always remember him as a wonderful, kind and loving husband – the best there could be for nearly 62 years. Also a wonderful dad and lovely father-in-law and a much loved grandad.



Braishfield Ukrainian Support Group (BUSG)
invite you to

‘BAND TOGETHER FOR UKRAINE’

a musical evening kindly performed by

SOUTHAMPTON GRADUATE BAND

Saturday 25th March
Braishfield Village Hall, SO51 0PN
7.30 pm

SGB Concert Band will be performing a variety of entertaining pieces including
jazz, classical and popular music

Bar & Raffle

Tickets: £8 for adults and £4 for children & Ukrainians
To purchase tickets please email: bush2022@gmail.com

All proceeds to BUSG to support Ukrainians in Braishfield and local area

NEW YEAR WALK

It was wonderful to be joined by so many of you for the New Year walk this year. We counted 44.

Despite the rain in the previous weeks, we were blessed with glorious weather meaning refreshments could once again be enjoyed outside. It was lovely to see everyone chatting, enjoying themselves and welcoming walkers from further afield.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you next year on New Year's Day (back to our usual time) when a new walk will be awaiting you.



Andover Crisis and Support Centre, which has been helping local survivors of domestic and sexual abuse move forward with their lives since 1975, has today announced it is changing its name to reflect the broader range of services it now offers.

Finding Freedom From Abuse operates across the entire Test Valley region and provides a range of services and programmes that offer emotional and practical support.

For more information about Finding Freedom From Abuse, please visit www.findingfreedom.org.uk or email enquiries@findingfreedom.org.uk or call 03332 422 055



Braishfield Scouts



As I write this update, 3rd Romsey Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are just starting back after their Christmas break. The group leaders have spent time over the break planning lots of amazing activities for the children for the coming term, already Scouts are off to the Army Flying Museum next week for a STEM Event along with other scouting groups, and there's a camp booked for March (hope it isn't so wet!).

At the tail end of last year, we held our AGM, and there was so much to celebrate from the year. Including: climbing trips, baking; lantern making; first aid training; camping; hikes (including night hikes); trips to the local fire station; bike rides; raft building; and learning circus skills.

We are also pleased to welcome Keith and Nicki Pickering to the group. They have joined the Executive Committee as Chair and Secretary.

So – do you have a young person (aged 6-8) who might enjoy these activities? If you do – why not speak with Matt our Beaver leader about joining...

BEAVERS

TIME FOR FUN

For fun, friendship and activities that get you thinking as well as doing for kids aged 6-8.

Camping; cooking; campfires; arts and crafts; games; hikes and much more.

Interested? Come and join 3rd Romsey Beavers at Timsbury Jubilee Hall, Mondays from 5.45-7pm.

Contact Matt – beavers@3rdromseyscouts.org.uk

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Braishfield Primary School

October

In October, we held a fabulous Macmillan Fundraiser. Parents, carers, family members, staff and Governors baked, donated, attended and gave generously. We had a great time in the hall this afternoon: much cake was eaten and money was raised- over £500!



One visitor whom we see very regularly in school is Reverend Jane, often leading our assemblies. This month, she helped Little Acorns with their RE day and read them a story. We really appreciate Rev. Jane and Rev. Tom's support as a school community- thank you!

November



Oaks class begin their swimming lessons this month. At Braishfield, we ensure that every child has swimming lessons every year. Like cycling (which all children have a go at through the Bikeability training), swimming is a skill which we hope they'll use on a

regular basis in their lives to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

On another sporting note, we compete regularly with other local primary schools - recently in a girls' football tournament. All the girls had fun and enjoyed every game. All worked together as a team and supported each other. They won 3 games, drew 3 and lost 3. Well done!

Weeks like November's Anti-Bullying Week are important touchstones



in the year. They help reinforce in a very upfront and public way what we aim to do all year round. Embedded in our school culture at Braishfield are our values of Respect, Kindness and Honesty. We expect every interaction - whether that be pupil to pupil, adult to pupil or adult to adult - to reflect these values. When there are fallings out or misunderstandings, we

provide time and support for restorative conversations which unpick the misunderstandings and allow a chance for apologies and reconciliation. All year round, I emphasise anti-bullying messages with our pupils and the recent 'Odd Socks Day' was a chance to celebrate our individuality and inclusivity.

December

You may have heard that we now have new school guinea pigs, Chocolate and Brownie. The decision to purchase new guinea pigs and retire Oreo to a loving family was solely the decision of the pupils, who debated the pros and cons of the situation. We love our new piggies!



At Braishfield School, we love to give the children opportunities to perform and push themselves in areas that they might not be confident in. This month, the Little Acorns and Big Acorns children performed their Nativity play, Baarmy Bethlehem. They sang beautifully, didn't miss a cue and said their lines perfectly. If you weren't there, you missed out! See the front page!!

Jim Cascarini
Headteacher



GARDENING - JOBS FOR THIS MONTH



If you're lucky to be growing a wisteria on the walls of your house, then it's a good time to prune now. This will encourage strong healthy blooms that will sing your praises in Spring when it will flower profusely for you. After a prune don't forget to feed and mulch.



If you haven't mulched your garden or collected leaf debris from your borders then January is a good time to get be doing it. Clearing the leaves means that you're not harbouring damaging pathogens which could harm your soil and your plants.

Ahh and our wonderful roses will need some attention too this month that is if we don't get a cold snap. If we do then please wait to prune until after it's over! In the meantime, we can

be mulching - a wet organic mulch is best and put it generously around the base of the plant. When you get around to pruning remember to clear all the leaves off the plant including any that have dropped onto the ground.

Are you thinking of planting trees or hedges, or main structure evergreens this year? Doing this now or between January and March will be timely. There will be time for the roots to nestle down before the plant needs to send signals to start growing. There are techniques for planning trees and if you need advice let us know.

This should keep you busy but if you need help with any of this or with other jobs then please don't hesitate to contact us. We can advise on mulches, pruning, planting and make plant recommendations. We also can arrange to visit you for a consultation.

Happy Gardening!
Susanne

07900 312120 sueboswell@hotmail.com
www.susanneboswellgardens.com

Braishfield Horticultural Society

Thursday 10th January saw our first meeting of 2023. 28 members and visitors listening to an interesting talk with slides by Gordon Massie on the Royal Horticulture Society Wisely – its history, a tour of some of the garden and new developments.



Braishfield Horticultural Society

The Village Gardening Club

Wisely was established by G F Wilson, a chemist and horticulturist. After



BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Programme 2023

Jan 10th – Gordon Massie 'A visit to Wisley' – its history, a tour of some of the garden and new developments

Feb 14th – Ray Broughton 'New Developments in Horticulture', the Sparsholt expert gives us an update.

March 14th – Alan Horgan 'Pests and Disease control with relation to gardens – a lifetime experience.

April 11th - Martyn Cox - 'Clever ways with Vegetables' - from this gardening columnist, author and horticulturist.

May 9th – John Baker - 'Gardens of Russia' - a tour of beautiful private and state gardens in Moscow and St Petersburg

June - Garden Visits

July 15th – Flower Show

Sept 12th - Ben Cross 'British Flowers Rock' – from young Alstroemeria plants to the cut flower.

October 10th - Members Eve

November 14th - AGM

his death the garden was purchased by Sir Thomas Hanbury and gifted to the Royal Horticulture Society on centenary, 1903.

Following this short history Gordon took us on a walk round the grounds from the car park along the Jellicoe canal to the cottage garden, the exotic garden, up to the trails garden then the RHS Hilltop complex completed in summer 2021.

In the cottage garden we saw crocus and a large area of *Commasia leichtlinii*. June is the best time to benefit from the display of colour from this garden. We then passed through the pergola and viewed the topiary on our way to the exotic garden. This for me was my favourite garden with a selection of tropical plants to grow in a UK climate. *Arabis Cordala* from the Far East, *Abutilon Naob*, and this perennial had grown to 3 metres in height, *Arbutus Unedo*, the strawberry tree along with *Eucomis* from South Africa. I was taken by the height of the plants, a garden to visit.

It was then to Battleston Hill for hydrangea, camellia and rhododendrons. Then on to the trial gardens where we saw *Echinacea Cucurbita* – pumpkins/squashes along with fennel. The viewing area was planted with lavender and rosemary. It was then back down the hill to the pond and glasshouse.

The Hilltop complex was opened in 2021, what a stunning building, built in a Y shape it measures 4,750m². This area provides scientific laboratories and exhibitions.

One interesting point for all we gin drinkers is that juniper is not grown at Wisley in their Herb Garden this is due to rust fungus.

Wisley is a leading experimental garden where many cultivation techniques are tried and tested. Their fruit fields have over 700 cultivars. Wisley receives approximately 1.2 million visitors a year and cover an area of 240 acres, certainly now on my list of places to visit.

Gordon's tour was taken over a three year period and covering different seasons.

Angela Bevan



BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

Affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies and the Wessex & Jersey Area of NAFAS

PROGRAMME 2023

Monthly meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms of All Saints Church, Braishfield except * the Open Evening on 23rd November which is held in Braishfield Village Hall

26th January - **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

23rd February – **FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD**
Demonstration by Claire Delmege

23rd March – **CELEBRATION OF NATURE'S BOUNTY**
Demonstration by Kelly Shaw



27th April - **ANYTHING GOES**
Demonstration by Martina Coleman

25th May - **YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE**
Demonstration by Andrea Hillyard

22nd June - **CARDBOARD CAPERS**
Workshop with Christine Wright

27th July – **CLUB'S RUBY ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

28th September – **SUMMER ENDING**
Demonstration by Yasmin Reilly

26th October – **DOWNTON ABBEY**
Talk by Brenda Dossett

23rd November - **OPEN EVENING *
THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**
Demonstration by Emily Broomhead

This is a ticketed event and open to the public
More information will follow





UPDATE FROM BUSG

Our Ukrainian guests have been in the village now for ten months and Braishfield has welcomed them with warmth and generosity. Each family has had a different experience since their arrival.

The first priority was to find suitable schools for the children and young adults. This was accomplished successfully with places found at Romsey School, Awbridge School, Embley, King Edward's Southampton and Winchester University.

The second priority was finding employment for the adults, who were keen to be earning and moving towards self-sufficiency. Most have found positions in local hospitality businesses.

The original plan was that accommodation with host families would be for a limited period and our guests would progress to independent accommodation. This is now beginning to happen. With the help of Test Valley's Homeless Prevention Support Officer one family has been found a bungalow in East Wellow. The process of trying to find independent accommodation is an on-going and lengthy project.

The Christmas period was a difficult time for our guests and it was decided to organise and fund some special events for them.

A traditional Christmas dinner was provided at the Wheatsheaf, which was a great success.

One of the main celebrations during the festive period in Ukraine is 31st December. Our guests were offered the use of the Church Room where they organised a New Year's Eve party in their own style. The variety and array of food was quite exceptional. Following the Ukrainian tradition, they watched the Ukrainian President's address to the nation wishing that the year 2023 is the year of returns – the return of Ukrainian land back to it's motherland, the return of Ukrainian soldiers and their displaced families to their homes.

In line with our own tradition of gifts at Christmas we used the opportunity to present a gift to all the host families and also to each of our Ukrainian guests.

Many of the Ukrainians continue to be worried about family and friends who remain in Ukraine without energy and water supplies for much of the time. BUSG

decided to give a significant donation to 'New Forest for Ukraine' who are bulk buying generators and transporting them to Ukraine. Our donation has provided 2 generators.

Our regular Friday afternoon 'Social' in the Community Room of the Village Hall continues to be popular. BUSG are very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for continuing to provide the use of the Community Room between 4.00 – 5.30 at no charge. It's a great opportunity for Villagers to come and share a cuppa with our friends.

For those unable to meet on a Friday afternoon, there is now an opportunity to meet in The Wheatsheaf on a Monday evening from 7.00 pm – everyone is welcome.

In addition to the above, BUSG also arranged a Yoga Course in the Church Rooms accessible for non-English speaking guests

We are very fortunate to have Kateryna living in the Village who has experience over many years working as a seamstress. Thanks to BUSG and hosts she now has all the equipment required to once again undertake repairs and alterations to clothes and to create curtains. If you have any work you would like her to undertake, please do let me know and I can put you in touch with her.

So what to the future! Finding independent accommodation for our Ukrainian friends is a top priority and we are working hard on this together with Test Valley. We are optimistic of a successful outcome.

There continues to be financial expenditure in our efforts to help the Ukrainians gain more independence. We are subsidising transport costs in many ways including support in purchasing cars, driving lessons as well as travel fare reimbursements.

If you would like to support BUSG financially then a donation can be made online as follows:

Account name: Braishfield PCC

Sort Code: 60 18 46

Account Number: 21204470

Reference: BUSG (donor's surname)

In addition please notify Geoff Briggs, BUSG Treasurer of your donation so that he can ensure that these are properly accounted for. Please email Geoff at busg2022@gmail.com

A date for your diary – Saturday 25th March 2023 – 7.30 pm Braishfield Village Hall

Southampton Grad Band have kindly agreed to perform and all money raised from the Concert will be donated to BUSG. Further details will be announced at a later date.

We continue to be very grateful for all the help and support from the Villagers of Braishfield. If you would like any further information of the work of BUSG, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Steve Renvoize

stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com

Chairman Steering Committee

Braishfield Ukrainian Support Group (BUSG)

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hampshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so

whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.’

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

All Saints’ Church

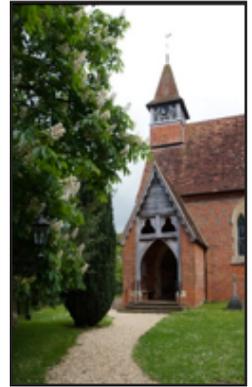
Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 11th March

9.30am Churchyard Working party with refreshments

We do hope you can join us!

www.asbchurch.org or contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109



FROM REV TOM

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard with all our Christmas services and events. This is not as belated as it sounds – I am writing this at the beginning of January!

Secondly, we are at the beginning of a brand new year with all the challenges and joys that that will inevitably bring with it. I am sure that I

am not alone in sometimes feeling that we seem to have more challenges than joys to look forward to over the coming months. However, it is also true, I think, that there is still much to be grateful for. We are fortunate to live in a great part of the country, places that still have such a strong sense of community and where by and large we can live our lives in safety. When there seems to be so much chaos in terms of finance, politics, and conflict etc it can skew our view of the world, it can seem a very dark and cruel place, and although there are cruelties and there is darkness those things do not dominate on a day to day basis. The truth is that the world still turns on kindness, those small acts of love that get us through and that we can give and receive every day.

This month sees the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 22nd. Christians use the six weeks before Easter to prepare themselves for Holy Week and the great joy of Easter Sunday itself, - the most important in the Christian calendar when we celebrate that Jesus rose again. One dictionary says that 'Lent is normally observed as a time of fasting and abstinence.' Hence the question 'What are you giving up for Lent?'

Some people set themselves the challenge of giving up smoking or chocolates or alcohol during Lent and to turn it into a positive exercise it seems a good idea to give away the money thus saved. Some people try to read a chapter of the Bible each day, or go to a Lent Course, or spend five extra minutes a day in prayer. There are all sorts of ways we can take positive steps to grow in our faith and Lent seems as good a time as any to do it.

Lent is something of a journey and on the 22nd we start on the road that takes us to the foot of the cross and on to new life and freedom in Christ. It is a journey during which we hope to learn something more about ourselves and God - our relationship with him, his will for us individually and his world at large. It is not an easy journey – those that are really worthwhile are seldom easy—but it is a journey that takes us to the heart of Christianity and the heart of what it means to be truly fully, alive to our selves and to God.

So now let's look forward to our journey as we travel on together.

God Bless,
Tom

Braishfield United Reformed Church

Happy New Year to everyone from all at Braishfield URC (and we hope you enjoyed your Christmas).

Many thanks to all who came to or helped out in any way with our various Christmas services. It is a busy time of year! The Carols by Candlelight service was lovely and the church looked beautiful.

Many thanks to all who came to Rusty's funeral on 14th December and who helped out "behind the scenes" in any way. The support from everyone was incredible and much appreciated. It was very touching to see the church packed.

We look forward to welcoming our Minister and lay preachers throughout the coming year. There is a lovely mix of visiting preachers who take services for us when our Minister is at Romsey URC. It is great when our visiting preachers are keen to come back to us too!

We are always pleased to welcome visitors. Our service times are at 9.30 am for Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. That service is a short half an hour one but all other services are at 10.00 for an hour. Do come and join us. We would love to see you.



For more details please contact:-

The Minister:

The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA - 01794 512163

The Church Secretary:

Shirley Smith - 01794 368447

Rural Times - The Farmer's Year - Winter

After finishing Autumn land work and the sowing of arable crops, during the winter months, farming activities in the fields slows down and it is the ideal time for farmers to carry out maintenance to hedges, fences and ditches along with farm buildings and winter servicing of machinery. Dairy and beef cows are housed for the Winter and cows in an Autumn calving pattern will be mated.

By the arrival of the New Year, farmers are preparing for the early lambing season to start, and by February will be looking forward to sowing early potato crops and preparing machinery for sowing cereals, in the early to mid-Spring. Vegetable farmers will have their Winter months filled with harvesting root vegetables, such as Turnips, Parsnips, Leeks, cabbage and the expected staple in December, brussels sprouts!

It is during these Winter months, of shorter days and inclement weather, farmers experience more thefts of equipment and farm machinery from yards and barns – thieves use the good opportunity of darkness and windy nights to mask their criminal activities. The aftermath of such raids on farm buildings causes a tremendous amount of damage to buildings, gates and fences, and risk of injury or death to livestock, in their determination to extract their ill-gotten spoils. Farmers are then further hindered by being left with little, or no equipment to feed animals and carry out essential daily husbandry.

R Harper-Adams MIAgSA



Braishfield Pantry

2022 ended on a high for your Village Pantry with record Christmas sales thanks to everybody who shopped, for small and large purchases. It was particularly rewarding to see customers come in with the specific intent of shopping local for their Christmas gifts and treats for all in the family.



Amongst the Christmas highlights was the introduction of our new Lemon & Lime Drizzle Gin, produced in partnership with the Wessex Spirits and named after a popular cake offering from us at the Pantry. The gin is unique to the Pantry and can only be bought here in Braishfield.

In 2023 the Pantry will evolve more 'destination' offerings whilst still looking after those customers who want the convenience of being able to shop local – with a great shopping experience.

The New Year holiday allowed the team to completely refresh the look of the shop. Before the year end we stripped the shop bare, moved everything into boxes, pulled out cupboards and cabinets, met the challenge of sell by dates on fridge produce, and cleared shelves - all a bit like moving house! On Sunday 8th Jan we started the clean and rebuild, re-thinking through the shop and produce layout. We brought groceries back out of storage, and laid the shop out for our 2023 opening – Wednesday 11th January. We've also made good and had everything painted from the wooden beams through to the walls and woodwork. The kitchen has also been deep cleaned and repainted.

Our next step will be to replace the veg and fruit displays – in part because we want to improve the aesthetic of the shop from the outside and partly in response to health and safety concerns over the fruit display structures – this should happen later this month.

In terms of what you can buy at the Pantry we will continue to look out for and promote local suppliers where we can. If on your (local) travels you come across interesting produce please come in and let us know.

We have undertaken all this work because we want the Pantry to continue to be a lovely place to shop, stop and snack, and attract visitors to

Braishfield to see our village at its finest.

Thank for all your support once again, to our customers and volunteers,
may we wish you a happy new year -

*Yours,
The Pantry Team.*



Social Contact Group

It feels such a long time ago that we met for our Christmas Lunch at Steff's Kitchen, Beaulieu in early December. It was a return visit for us and it did not disappoint! We were so well looked after, the meals were superb and it was full of Christmas cheer as we sat amongst the Christmas decorations. Time just flew by, so much laughter & chat and it was therefore such a surprise when we realised it was nearly 3 o'clock, time to go home and therefore no time to take photos of a very happy occasion.

At the time of writing, we are focused on our next event, a fish and chip lunch in early February in the Church Rooms with Rev. Tom as our guest with future trips already planned.

If you would like to join our happy and very friendly group, please give me a ring on 368339.

Hazel Prince



making travel possible

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Our national accessible ski trip for younger people is taking place in Neiderau, Austria at the end of the month with special adapted ski equipment and specialist instructors - it is open to younger people from anywhere in England.

We have again had some generous donations for our local group and the national Jumbulance Trust has also benefited by over £1000 from the efforts of the BUMs who are so popular locally. This benefits us locally as well and we will be offering Day Trips in June.

Our main summer holiday is 8 days (14th – 21st July) to the Manor House Hotel near Oakampton on Dartmoor. New to us it is the largest Spa, Sports and Craft Centre in England though we'll really only be doing the Spa and Craft parts and maybe Archery and swimming plus of course days out in the Jumbulance. Best of all it has the most accessible rooms apart from the Bond Hotel in Blackpool, in the UK and has entertainment every evening.

Our 2nd holiday, also new to us, is 7 days (18th– 24th Sept) at Northgate House Hotel, Buckfast Abbey and will include a Quiet Day in the Abbey. This is for those needing a quieter week more like our past trips to Norfolk/ Walsingham and Nairn, Scotland with Pluscarden Abbey. It will also include days out in the Jumbulance. We had originally hoped to go to the Isle of Wight but were unable to get any suitable accessible accommodation. I have now found somewhere but it is fully booked for 2022 so I have booked ahead for 2024.

For further details about volunteering or as a person needing assistance who would like a holiday or day trip please contact

Chris Chisholm 0788 774 8224 or cookchrisr@aol.com

New Year, New Start & could you ‘give us the boot’?!

Having just come back from a sunny run around Braishfield, (the one day of sunshine during a very grey, rainy week!), I continue to be amazed about the peaceful, calm order and clean beauty of the village and its surroundings.

Much as we really enjoy the work we do in Uganda, it is sometimes so hard to find peace and solitude or even to walk/run any distance without a group of noisy spectators, accompanying, running children plus scary dogs - sometimes even a long-horned cow - following in Pied Piperish pursuit!

When we return to “our other village”, Lukomera, it will be the start of not only the new term, but also the new academic year at WTA, (Wobulenzi Town Academy), the secondary school where most of the ServeDirect work is based. There will be new teachers joining the staff, new books for the library, new Science & Art buildings & also two new dormitories for the growing number of students (800+) that have joined since lockdown. Thank you to everyone who donated to the ‘Big Give’ building fundraiser in December - we are very grateful for your generous help & encouragement.

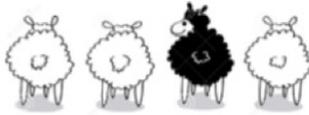
In addition, WTA also has a wonderful new large sports area, which will be in full use this year for athletics, football & netball. So, if you have any spare football/rugby boots at home, please can we take them off your hands? Second-hand boots, adult sized 8-15 (EU 42-50) & in reasonable condition, would be fantastic. Much as the secondary students usually play football barefoot, having boots especially for training & matches is a huge bonus!

If you can be a footie friend, please email elspeth@servedirect.org or drop them round to Colsons Barn, Church Lane any time. Thanks so much. The football teams will love & appreciate you very much too ☐

*Elspeth & Jerry (Dugdale) www.servedirect.org
FB: *ServeDirect**



Sheep Matter at Elm Grove



The rams were in with their ewes for six weeks, are now resting and will continue to do so for the next 10 months or so. In the next few weeks the scanning lady will come to scan the ewes to see who is pregnant and how many lambs they are carrying. Testing times for the new Lleyn ram who was put with the shearlings which were born two years ago. It seemed to take a while before understanding what he was there for, but was fine in the end. The hope is that this year there will be a good number of female Lleys produced as Kate is trying to increase her pedigree flock and to use her own would be good in many ways.

Meanwhile Kate has been caring for the lambs from last spring, keeping them in good fettle to take to market or to keep. The grass is not growing at the moment, hence supplementing their diet with beet which needs breaking up and transporting to where the lambs are. They certainly look well.

One or two 'Did you Know?'s:

- In 2001 an academic study found that sheep can recognise and remember at least 50 individual faces for more than two years.
- In the oddest academic experiment ever, sheep were taught to distinguish between photographs of celebrities. Even when the pictures were corrupted, 65 percent of sheep were able to recognise Fiona Bruce! Don't ask me how the researchers knew that this was so...
- Apparently, sheep possess emotional intelligence as well as 'intelligence' intelligence; ears are the key. If happy, for example being fed high quality sheep cake out of a sack, the ears are passive, floppy. If in a situation they don't like, such as being penned for shearing, the ears are erect, straining forward. Have a look next time you are near sheep!

•

Happy days...

Wendy Q

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Sat 7pm-1.30pm, Sun 12.00noon-4pm & 7pm-10pm
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Friday Nights - Quiz every fortnight
Saturday Nights - Meat Draw
Sunday Nights - Bingo

We also have Pigeon Club, Dart and Crib Teams,
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Regular Events

Quiz Nights - held fortnightly on Friday Nights
Bingo Every Sunday Evening

Future Events

80's Disco with DJ Macca Saturday 4th February 2023
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Please see Club Notices for more details

MORE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2023

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25th February 27th May
25th March 24th June
29th April 29th July

Romsey Town Hall Market
& Community Cafe
2nd & 4th Friday of a Month
10.30- 12.30

Romsey Market at
The Corn Exchange
1st Saturday of a Month
8.30 - 3.00

24th February
10th March
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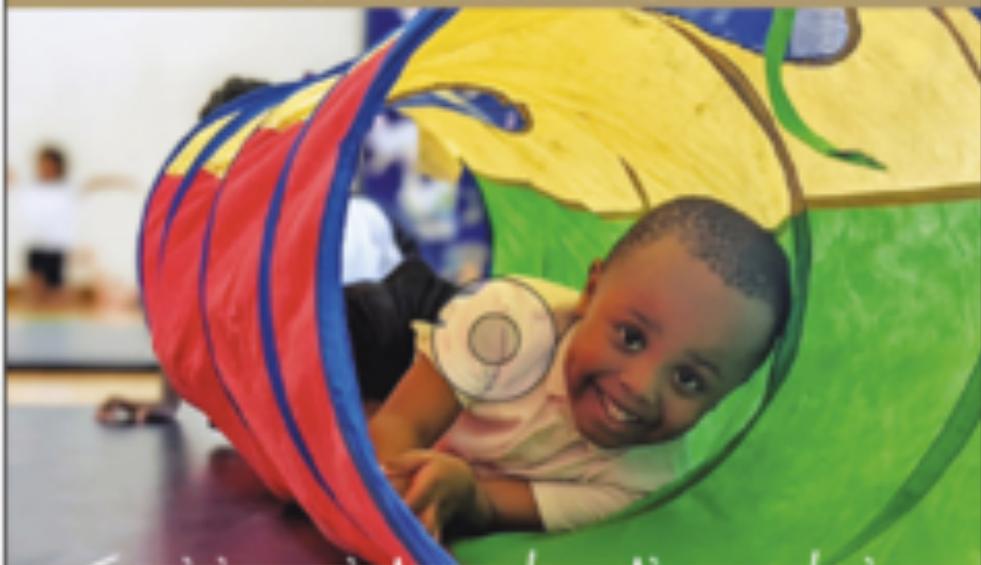
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RUBBISH NEWS

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



Recycle weeks beginning:
30th January and 13th and 27th February
13th and 27th March

Household waste weeks beginning:
6th and 20th February
6th and 20th March

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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