

Braishfield Village Diary

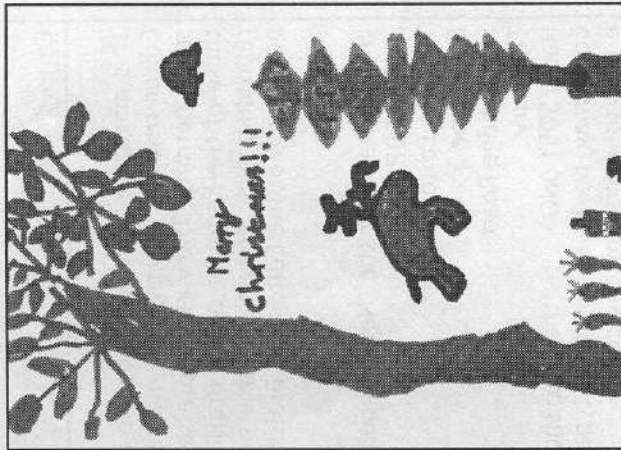
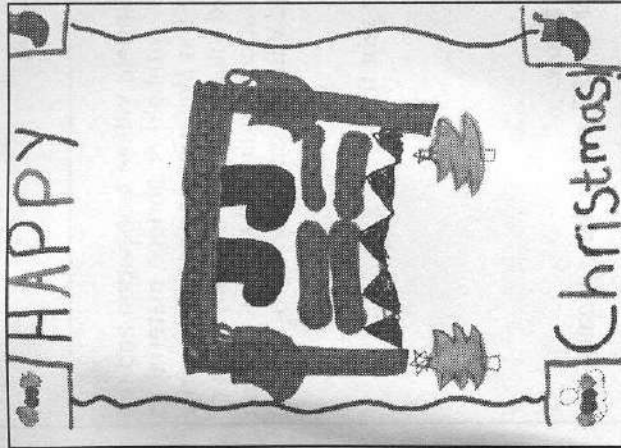
| | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| December | | |
| 4th Tues | 7.00 | Braishfield Parish council |
| 10th Mon | 12.00 | Lunch Club in the Church Rooms |
| 10th Mon | 7.00 | Flower Arrangement Society Xmas Workshop |
| 15th Sat | 4.30 | A Christmas drama All Saints See page 5 |
| 23rd Sun | 6.00 | Carol Service All saints see page 5 |
| 24th Mon | 4.00 | Christingle All Saints see page 5 |
| January | | |
| 15th Tues | 7.00 | Braishfield Parish council |
| 14th Mon | 12.00 | Lunch Club in the Church Rooms |
| 20th Sun | On in-vite | Senior Citizens New Year Lunch See page 6 |

| | | |
|--------|---------|---------------------------|
| Weekly | | |
| Weds | 10-12am | Braishfield Toddler Group |
| Thurs | 10-12am | Braishfield Art Group |

All functions take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.
Please send details to the Editor if you would like dates of forthcoming events published.

BRAISHFIELD Village Association NEWS

Issue 166 December 2007



Braishfield School children drew their own Christmas cards again this year. Sales last year raised over £200 for the school. Maya from Oaks (left) and Mathew from Saplings win the front page honours.

Distributed free of charge by the Braishfield Village Association to the residents of Braishfield and the surrounding hamlets

Braishfield Village Association

Committee 2004-2005

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| Chairman | - | George Elliott | 368306 |
| Secretary | - | Rosie Groves | 368178 |
| Treasurer | - | Sheila Still | 368384 |
| BVA News Editor | - | Mike Stevens | 367801 |
| News Distributor | - | Ros Chaplin | 368483 |
| Website | - | Chris Balchin | 368427 |
| Committee | - | David Protheroe | 367003 |
| | | Graham Bennett | 368109 |
| | | Rosalie Gurr | |

Editors Notes

This magazine is produced by the Braishfield Village Association and the Editor reserves the right to elaborate, withhold or abridge material as space permits. The views expressed in this Magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Braishfield Village Association. Any form of reproducing or copying of this publication requires the prior written permission of the Editor. © Braishfield Village Association 2006

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

NEW ADDRESS

The BVA Editor
GoodHope
Stockbridge Road
Timsbury

Hants SO51 ONG by the date shown below.

Copy may be hand written, typed or on PC media but, ideally, by e-mail to news@mikopy.com

All items for publication must show the name, address and telephone number of the originator. Letters to the Editor should be on topics relevant to the villagers of Braishfield. The BVA attempts to deliver a copy of the Braishfield Residents Guide and the Village Design Statement to all new residents. If you have not received these publications please contact the News Distributor, Ros Chaplin on 36848

Latest Copy date for the next issue is
15th January 2008

From the Chairman

Sadly, the days of autumn are behind us. There is something beguiling about the earth around us preparing to take its short rest. Some autumn sunsets have been breathtakingly beautiful, the owls have noisily established their territories, the patterns of fungi are extraordinary, the last flowers in the garden are treasured, and kicking through the fallen leaves on the footpaths brings out the child in us all. Even the cold chill of an autumn night brings its own delights, as we draw the curtains and light a fire for the first time. Whilst savouring the beauty we know that there are hard times ahead, but winter is really quite short, and by January, in a sheltered spot you will see new growth on the shrubs, trees and bushes. This is the time when venturing into our gardens and along the footpaths can be a joy.

We all appreciate the intriguing network of footpaths around the village. Dorothy Ross gave an encouraging report to the Parish Council in October on the maintenance work carried out and the plan for the future. We wish her success in her contact with the Probation Service to arrange a maintenance programme for the year. Those who 'walk' the footpaths should try to feed back helpful information to Dorothy so that they are kept clear for every ones enjoyment.

This year no mention has been made of our happy band of 'litter pickers', who have continued to do

sterling work around the roads, lanes and bye-ways. As an unofficial body they do remarkable work on behalf of us all and evidence of any litter about the village is hard to find. We all wish to give a big 'thank you' to the volunteers and assure them that the hours spent pounding their beat for the good of the village is admired and appreciated.

This year Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, the eleventh day in November, coincided, which remind us even more that it was a time for reflection. The first Poppy Day was held 85 years ago to help soldiers returning from World War 1, but events in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that the cost of conflict remains a human tragedy for many serving and ex-Service men and women and their families who have fallen on hard times. This year alone, 44 British soldiers have died as a result of our presence in Iraq. The Poppy Appeal is needed as much as ever. Last year it raised £26 million which accounted for a third of the £75 million required to fund the Royal British Legion's vital work each year. This year the target is set for £30 million.

The Armistice Service held at All Saints, which began at the War Memorial at 10.50 am, was well attended by over a hundred, and reflected our humility and heartfelt appreciation of those who have fought and died for our country, and are fighting for us today.

George Elliott Chairman

Web Site Update

Have you visited the Braishfield web-site recently? It has recently had a face-lift and new pages added. There is now a weather report page of Braishfield starting in Jan 2007 courtesy of Geoff Daniell - what you remember of the weather always seems to differ from reality - check out your memory of the Summer of 2007.

In addition the following pages are live:

Diary - Anything missing - you do not need to wait until the next News to insert a new diary entry
Residents Guide - currently not the easiest page to navigate - I am working on it
Parish Council - with links to the John Rhodes web-site for PC minutes, planning applications, conservation policy, listed buildings etc
Braishfield Village Association - the who, what and where of the BVA

Churches - the who and when of the churches
Braishfield School - links to the Braishfield school web-site - currently being updated
History - a potted history of the village history from the Braishfield Memories book - still available - look on web-site for details
Test Valley Tapestry - did you know about how the Test Valley and Braishfield tapestries came about - find out on this page
Footpaths - from the Residents Guide with updated map
Commercial Services - local services - any missing?

Supporting Advertisers - these are the companies that make the BVA financially viable without subscriptions - please support them
Braishfield Weather - as mentioned above

Future pages in the pipeline include - Then & Now - a photographic comparison of photographs from the Braishfield Memories and now. Photo Gallery - please submit your photographs - digital or celluloid (I will scan them in and return the original). Braishfield News on the web - would you prefer to read the News on-line and save paper? Your views - collect and share views on topics of interest to the Village e.g. 30 mph extension, Bunny Lane use, Abbotswood plans etc

What else would YOU like to see on the web-site? Please give me input by any communication method and I will see what I can do. I only maintain the web-site for you - during the last month the site had 44 visits with an average view time of 2:30 minutes - were you one of those visitors?

Chris Balchin,

webeditor@braishfield.org

Christmas at All Saints

On Saturday December 15th, 'Young Saints' are going to have a day's workshop followed by performance in church of 'A Christmas Drama' for primary school aged children. If your child would like to be involved could you please let Kate Marshall (367932) know by 1st December. All are welcome to come to the church to see the performance, which will be great fun, at 4.30pm.

The choir will not be hosting 'Carols round the fire' - maybe next year in the refurbished church room - and, as they have 3 days in a row singing with Christmas falling on a Tuesday, they will not be Carol singing round the village.

However, the choir are going to be leading the Carol Service on the evening of the 23rd December, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the back of the church then, of course, we have the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, Midnight Service and on Christmas Day the Family Service led by Lucy Kington.

All will be welcome to come to any or all of our Christmas Services.

'A CHRISTMAS DRAMA' performed by the children
4.30pm Saturday December 15th

CANDLE-LIT CAROL SERVICE
6pm Sunday December 23rd
followed by mince pies & mulled wine

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
4pm Christmas Eve

Senior Citizens New Year Lunch

This year's lunch will be on January 20th. We will be celebrating our 20th year.

The time will be on the invitation. Please could you let me know if you have qualified (65) in the last year or if I have missed you from other years and you would like to

be added to my list. Please ring me on 368164.

Invitations should be through the door before Christmas.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Sharon Fielding and Committee

Rubbish News

Please note the following from the recent Bin Collection Days calendar sent out by Test Valley which was not explicit before
Waste left in bags beside the black bin on household waste collection day will be accepted during the Christmas and New Year period only
Recyclable materials in cardboard boxes left beside the brown bin on recycling weeks will be collected throughout the year

Recycle weeks beginning 10th & 24th Dec. 7th & 14th Jan

Household weeks beginning 3rd, 17th & 31st Dec. 14th & 28th Jan

The committee of the Braishfield Village association would like to wish all of the Braishfield Residents

**A Very Happy Christmas
And**

A Prosperous New Year

A thank you from the treasurer.....
.....to all those residents who have contributed towards the cost of the Braishfield News. All three current means of donating have been used. They are cash, cheque or standing order. Money towards the village and it's community can also be left through legacies. Mighty oaks from little acorns grow and any small amount left to the Association would enhance the ability of the association to fulfil it's objectives. This is by no means a plea for money but just to highlight another way in which you can support the community in which we live. Advice on Legacies can be obtained from the Treasurer.

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Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service

The Air Ambulance, stationed at Thruxton is a major asset for those who live in the County of Hampshire.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of their risk management plan are working towards ensuring that every home in Hampshire has at least one working smoke alarm by 2010; the recommendation is for at least one smoke detector per floor.

Statistics Here are some national statistics to make you pause and think through your own precautions in the home:

Each year about 400 people die and 14,000 people are injured in fires at home. Every year there are more than 68,000 fires in homes.

Chip-pan fires cause about 3,000 injuries each year.

On average fires caused by electrical appliances will result in 732 injuries each year. Every three days someone is likely to die because of a fire started by a cigarette.

More people die in fires caused by smoking than in fires resulting from any other single cause.

On average 250 of the 400 people killed in fires each year did not have a smoke detector.

Plan Now is the time to think about safety in the home. Don't be someone who thinks 'it will never happen to me'.

Make a 999 call As soon as you know there is a fire, call 999. These calls are free. The more information you give to the Fire & Rescue Service, the quicker fire-fighters can get to you and do their job.

Information Speak slowly and clearly

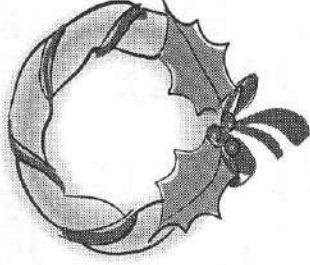
Give your full address of your home, including town.

Say what is on fire (for example, a bungalow or two-storey cottage/house).

Explain if anyone is trapped and if so, which room they are in. This information can be passed onto fire-fighters before they reach your home.

NEVER go back into the property to attempt rescue or recover personal belongings. Fire-fighters will be able to find the person more quickly and more safely than you.

To enable the Fire Service to easily locate your home wait outside to direct the appliance.



Seasons Greetings

To All The Residents of Braishfield

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And*

*A Peaceful New Year
From*

County Councillor Alan Dowden

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Braishfield Horticultural Society

The annual leaf gathering season is upon us, isn't it great. At this time of the year, whilst they remain attached to the trees they look wonderful with their changing colours. Now however, it is a different story, leaves become an unwelcome chore, they are everywhere. By whatever means you adopt, vacuum, brush or rake, you beaver away until you look back with pride as you discover that there is a lawn there after all. Time to pop indoors and be spoilt with a cup of coffee and maybe a biscuit if you are lucky. Perhaps there is time for a go at the crossword as well before venturing outdoors again to start on that other project that has been in the planning stage for so long. Ah! That's funny, the lawn has disappeared again.

Looking back to October, the visit to us by Marcus Dancer proved to be another good choice of Speaker. The talk he presented on Trees and Shrubs for Winter Interest was most enjoyable. By way of a change there was no projector and screen in support but rather a series of large photographs, which were passed around as the various specimens were discussed. A number of Members did express their appreciation of the change. Marcus owns a Nursery at Sandleheath, which unfortunately is not open to the public, mainly due to the fact that there is no car park.

However, anyone wishing to make a purchase from him can do so via the telephone and then collecting the order at a Farmers Market of ones choice. The markets are where Marcus carries out much of his business. So ended the last talk for 2007 and very good it was too.

The Autumn Show, which proved to be a little thin on the ground, was judged by Marcus Dancer. Great credit is due to those ladies who took part. On this occasion Jennie Wilkie was first with Sheila Still coming second followed by Jane Smith, third. Congratulations Girls.

On into November and the Annual General Meeting. Not quite so many Members in attendance this year with 41 bottoms on seats. As usual the proceedings ran smoothly, no complaints and everyone in full agreement with what was said. What a happy bunch of gardeners we have in Braishfield. Chairman, Jill Fahy, opened the Meeting by welcoming Members. She went on in her report to look back on the various activities of the Society during the past year, which, without doubt, had proved to be of the usual high standard. Jill also commented on the success of linking the Flower Show with the Village Fayre and thanked the Members for their support once again. Without doubt, the Show had been a great success having far more visitors than in recent years.

We then moved on into the election of Officers and Committee. Again this year, no new nominations had been submitted. The present members had already agreed to continue for a further term should such a situation arise and subject to the wishes of the Society Members. A proposal by Jean Lowe, that the present Committee be re-elected en bloc was seconded by Hazel Prince and passed unanimously by the Members Present.

Our Lady Chairman then continued with a brief outline of the Programme for 2008. Again we can look forward to more interesting talks by Speakers familiar to us and some that are new.

Finally, Jill in her closing remarks, thanked all concerned for their continuing help and support throughout the year. As she said, "it is Members that make a successful society".

The business side of the Meeting then closed after setting the date for the next A.G.M. which will be Tuesday, November 11th 2008.

We then moved on to the all important part of the evening when at last the buzz of many voices filled the air. It was time to tuck in to the tasty morsels awaiting our pleasure and enjoy a little lubrication from a goodly supply of wine, which was on offer. We have to say a big thank to all who brought along offerings to tickle our palates. Everyone appeared to enjoy the occasion. Let us hope that we can look forward

to many such gatherings in the future.

Our next Meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January 2008 when we will welcome to our midst, Roy Broughton, Head of Horticulture at Sparsholt College. His talk will be on Topical Tips and New Ideas. Be sure to come along.

The following month, on Tuesday 12th February, Wolfgang Bopp, Curator of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens will present, From the Past into the Future.

One more reminder, Annual Subs are now due and Tony Chant will be more than pleased to receive them, as will our Treasurer, Sue Ransom who will be only too pleased see the funds safely banked.

Finally, may I once again, on behalf of your Committee, wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

I am now going to sign off and quickly send this report off to our esteemed Editor before I have any more problems. Twenty four hours ago, having just reached this point in my warbling, I turned my head, having been distracted by something and when I looked back, the screen was blank. My work had disappeared and was nowhere to be found. Now, our Cat is interested in computing and was sat close beside me. I wonder? Had I upset him that day?

Bob Thomson
BHS Secretary & Scribe.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE REBATE

The Consumer Council for Water has asked Parish Councils to publicise the surface water drainage rebate issue.

Surface water is rainwater that falls onto a property or water that drains to the public sewer from activities such as car washing. The disposal of this water is charged on your Southern Water bill separately from water you receive from the mains and also from any foul water that might be returned to the sewer. A surface water charge is levied if any such water enters the public sewer.

However, a surface water charge might not apply to quite a number of properties in Braishfield. This is because many houses pre-date the introduction of mains drainage and their surface water probably goes into a soakaway in the garden with only foul water (which used to go to a septic tank or cesspit) now being connected to the sewer.

It is quite possible that you are being charged incorrectly because Southern Water claims that the records it inherited from the Southern Water Authority in 1989 were incomplete. If this is the case for your property, you may apply for the removal of the charge and a rebate back to the start of the current charging year. There is no legal requirement for a water company to backdate the rebate any further than this.

If you wish to make an application then you will need to contact Southern Water for a form to fill in on which you might be asked to show where your surface water drains to.

It is suggested that you check your water bill for this charge. It is not unknown for Southern Water to slip the charge back in when changes to billing names and addresses are made.

John Rhodes

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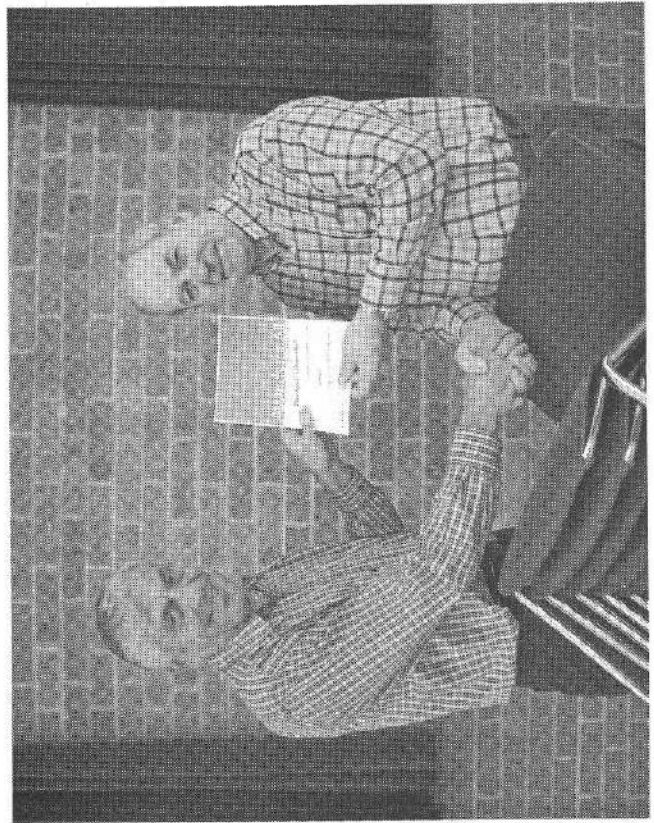
I'm sure that many of you have already seen the smart new blue chairs in the village hall - you may have sat on one already! This is the story behind us getting these new chairs.

Last year, the village hall committee decided to replace the old grey chairs, which date from the opening of the hall 25 years ago. They had become hard to stack and hard to move out of the hall, causing a

nuisance to people playing sports in the hall.

New chairs were selected which stack on trolleys and which easily roll in and out of storage in the bar area. The opening to the bar was widened to take the trolleys, and the worktop in the bar shortened to give space to take all the trolley stacks.

The challenge was to find the



money for the new chairs. The 144 chairs and 8 trolleys totalled some £5,170 and the carpentry to the bar area another £735 - a considerable sum!

An application was made to the "Awards for All" scheme run by the Big Lottery Fund and we were very fortunate to be awarded a grant of £5,223, early in 2007. We can definitely claim that Braishfield is a lottery winner!

The chairs and trolleys arrived between March and September this year and the adjustments to the bar area took place over the summer. The chairs are now in full use and had a good outing filling the hall for the BMADS production in November. Let us all hope that the

new chairs give good service for 25 years like the first set.

Graham Bennett, Village Hall Treasurer, receives the Lottery Award certificate from Mike Prince, Parish Council Chairman

And, if you wonder what happened to the old chairs - they moved on to a second life, having been sold via eBay by an enterprising member of the committee!

Finally, if you would like to help out with the running of the hall, the hall committee is always happy to welcome keen new members.

- Mike Edwards, Village Hall Committee member

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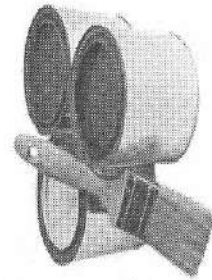
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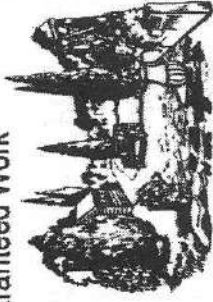
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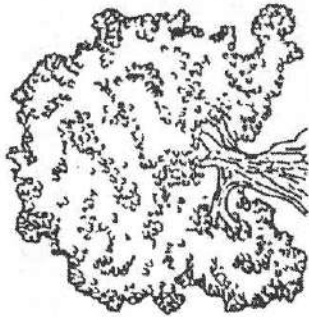
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Braishfield School



Bazaar day affords great reward and the visit of an old friend!

Santa brought smiles to the children of Braishfield and many from further a field when he paid his annual visit to the Braishfield School Association Christmas Bazaar in the village hall on Saturday 10th November.

Following splendid efforts by the BSA committee, his local area grotto was suitably created to replicate his Lapland home. Aided by his faithful little Elves he listened intently to over 90 children as they expressed their Christmas wishes and then he kindly posed for a photograph and gave them each a small parting gift.

Whilst the Children were enjoying a chat with Santa many of the Mum's and Dad's enjoyed the delights of a splendid bazaar offering many unique and personalised gifts not to be found on the high street. The School children had created some wonderful hand

crafted Christmas cards (kindly reproduced by MiCopy) a range of brightly coloured pencil cases and some equally attractive bird boxes.

To be found amongst some 24 stalls were a spread of Christmas cakes; jewellery; calendars; Beanie babies; books and a bottle tombola. A raffle draw with the chance to win a top class child car safety seat and numerous gifts completed the day's fun culminating with a 'free' turkey draw rewarding the lucky winner with a farm fresh turkey at Christmas.

A busy kitchen team provided suitable sustenance throughout the day with ample helpings of bacon butties, jacket potato's with a variety of fillings and tea, coffee or even mulled wine to wash it all down.

Overall it was a splendid day enjoyed by the young and old of the community all capped with a welcome Christmas Present to the Primary School of £2,000 in takings.

The BSA would like to thank all supporting visitors, stall holders and helpers for making the event such a success.

Look out for our next event in early March - the return of our most successful 'Race Night'. All the fun of horse racing but on screen - not to be missed!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all in the community,

From all the BSA team.



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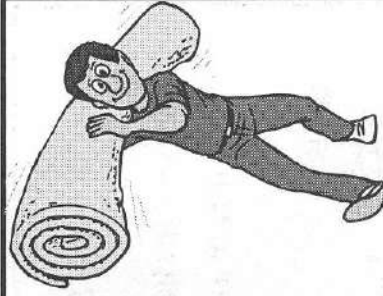
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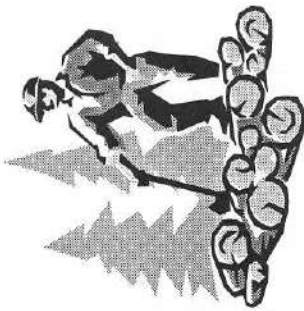


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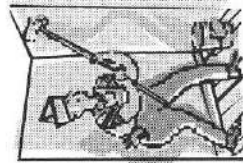
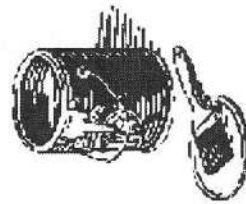
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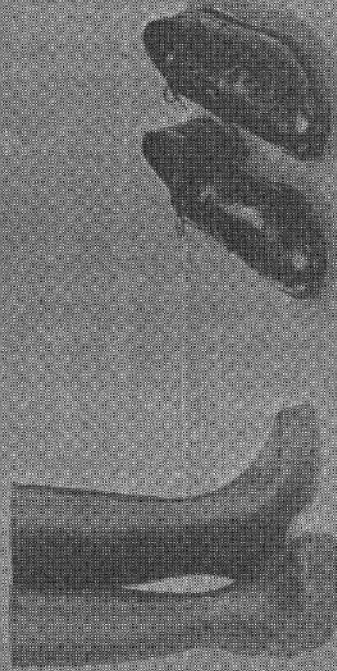
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Sheep Matters at Elm Grove

Since our last article in the News eighteen months ago things have moved on. Kate the Shepherd is now married and is living in Dairy Cottage at Elm Grove with her husband Ian Knight who is a tree surgeon; the problem 2 years ago with worm has been solved by resting the land here for the summer and Kate and Ian are proposing to sell the lamb meat direct to the customers to try to help make the enterprise more viable.

There are now 175 breeding ewes in the flock, which have come back from Kate's other grazing in Overton, to be prepared for the rams in December, to start the lambing cycle all over again. Foot and Mouth and Blue Tongue were a worry because sheep movements were not allowed; as the ewes were at Overton and the rams here it would have been impossible to get them together, but restrictions have been lifted now and they are all here. Last year's ewe lambs have been sold on for breeding and the little boys will be coming here in the next few days to be fattened up ready to be sold. Kate has never enjoyed sending her lambs directly to the abattoir, but she has found a 'nice' one that is calm and well managed, on Jody Scheckter's estate at Laverstoke; they are the people who package up the meat, ready to sell direct.

Kate has also purchased 100 ewe lambs, which she will put to the ram next year. Her current ewes are Mules (a cross breed), and the rams are Suffolks. She does not use the resultant lambs for breeding, which is why she has to buy more Mule lambs, both to increase the size of flock and to replace ones that are no longer fertile.

Kate and Ian are actively looking for more grazing locally for the sheep, as Overton is quite a distance; they are aware that there is competition for grazing with all the horses around, but if anybody knows of any land that would be available and suitable for sheep, do get in touch with her.

In a few week's time the boy lambs will be ready and Kate and Ian are going to have a go at selling directly to the customer i.e. you and me, they will be advertising locally nearer the time. There is very little money to be made with sheep; Kate loves her work and wants to succeed, so, by selling direct she hopes to have more income and by increasing the size of her flock her whole enterprise may be more workable. It will be quite costly to have the meat packaged by the people at Laverstoke, but even so they think it will be worth it financially; Elm Grove born and bred we will know where the meat has come from and it will be delicious!

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Thanks to the extravagant generosity of so many primary school pupils, church members, local businesses and individuals, a team of 23 teenagers and adults from Braishfield and Romsey ended up with thirty huge bags - about 300 kg - packed with pens, pencils, books and sports equipment to take to Uganda in the summer. Led by Phil and Michele Ball from Megana Way, the group travelled out to Busu village in the east of Uganda for two weeks.

The team was divided to work on different community projects:

- building an extension to the local clinic,
 - working with the existing medical team
- teaching in and upgrading the local primary school

Busu Primary School was delighted to receive the huge quantity of schools' and sports equipment kindly donated by Braishfield and Awbridge primary schools, local church members and individuals. Despite the children's love of sport, their sport equipment was non-existent, other than the odd homemade football and some French skipping ropes made out of grass or elastic bands. Consequently, the bats, balls, rackets, hurdles, hoops and balloons were a huge hit with the children.

The 650 pupils range in age from 3 to 18 years old and are taught in groups of roughly 120. Truly 'hungry

for learning', these children are so eager to absorb any education going and the lessons ranged from the usual - science, maths, English, PE - to some more extended studies in astronomy, economics and geology. Needless to say this was quite a stretching experience for all those involved on the teaching team.

At the request of the teachers extensive work was done on the school buildings at to lay concrete flooring and paint the classroom interiors to provide a more pleasant and stimulating learning environment.

The building team at the clinic were able to build the extension to the clinic for a much needed maternity ward, laboratory and kitchen. The improvement in maternity services will save local women the need to walk or be carried long distances to the town hospital when in labour. On the last day, the builders also concreted the floor of the village nursery school, to ensure that the children will no longer need to sit on the dusty mud floor, running the risk of jiggers laying eggs under their skin and causing infection. Further funds provided for the introduction of a bee-keeping project so that the community will receive training and practical support for a new micro-finance business.

At the end of the trip, everyone was sorry to leave as the welcome and inclusion into village life had been overwhelming in such a short time, but there are plans to return and hopefully continue the friendships made this summer.

It was a dark and stormy night... but eventually we made it into the Village Hall and took our seats for BMADS' latest dramatic offering, "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley (better known to many as Godfrey in Dad's Army), which dates from the 1920s.

The house lights dim. A steam train is heard slowing to a halt and then departing. The curtains open to reveal the decrepit waiting room of Fal Vale station in deepest Cornwall - complete with a horribly smoking fireplace and the sound of torrential rain. A dodderly station-master (Peter Quarendon) muddles around and then six passengers, two couples, one pair on the point of separation (Alan Gurr & Elizabeth Templeman), the other just married (Richard Groves and Charlotte Butterfield), a spinster (Dorothy Ross) with a canary of indeterminate gender and a dandy (Richard Clifton) enter. They have missed a connection because the dandy has lost his hat out of the train window and has pulled the communication cord. They are stranded. No more trains 'til morning. No taxis. No hotel. No telephones. No food. The scene is set for the spine-chilling events to come.

The stationmaster confides that the station is haunted. He tells the passengers the story of the death of his predecessor - who was found just outside the door the next

morning with his red warning lamp still burning - and of the consequent dreadful train crash. The (ghost) train can still be heard streaking through the station on certain nights. Tonight is the anniversary. Those who set eyes on it will die. He will not stay. He lights his red lamp and leaves. There is an awful thud - a real goose bump raising thud. The door opens, and there he lies. Dead!

In Act 2, the plot thickens with the arrival of a deranged woman (Kate Quarendon) pursued by two men in dinner jackets (Mike Allen & Malcolm Gale). She is convinced that the train will come this night and that she will die. The men try to persuade both her and the passengers to leave. All refuse. The train is heard thundering towards the station. She forces down the window. The noise of the train is deafening and with a crash, she falls, and the curtains close.

The third act finds her unconscious, but she comes to and recounts more of the spooky story. The ghostly red light of the dead stationmaster is seen through the window and suddenly the door opens to reveal a ghostly apparition... more goose bumps rise... and then... Well, the thing about a good thriller is that it should thrill. The appearance of a constable (Oliver Robinson) towards the end of the play shows that all was not as it seemed. However, in the interests of your future enjoyment, those of you unfortunate enough to have

missed this production I shall leave guessing.

To produce a thriller that really thrills is a most difficult theatrical task. To combine it with snatches of humour, such as the teetotal spinster downing a flask of brandy and getting sloshed, is even more difficult. Director, Maggie Hillier and Producer, Wendy Quarendon have achieved a truly outstanding result this year.

The casting was inspired with all the actors strutting the boards to perfection, helped by an excellent wardrobe (Nicky Ayres & Elizabeth Templeman), hair styles (Victoria Roberts & Sheila Gardiner) and makeup (Sandy Richards), all in perfect 1920s style. Prompt Sue

Colman must have felt very under-employed!

BMADS is renowned for its sets and this year did not disappoint. The set was beautifully designed and constructed by Peter Quarendon, Jonathon Young and Andy Hillier and reduced to just the right state of dilapidation by scene painters John Edwards and Jean Lowe. This was a very technical play which made greater than usual demands of the technical team, especially the amazing sound effects, which were created by Gren Richards, but also Malcolm Ayres (lighting) Chris Balchin & Tom Greenwood (stage crew / special effects) and Tessa Allen (props) who all did an excellent and very professional job.

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Fun Page—A Genuine Complaint

Dear Sir / Madam / Automated telephone answering service

Having spent the past twenty minutes waiting for someone at Leith police station to pick up a telephone I have decided to abandon the idea and try e-mailing you instead. Perhaps you would be so kind as to pass this message on to your colleagues in Leith by means of smoke signal, carrier pigeon or Ouija board.

As I'm writing this e-mail there are eleven failed medical experiments (I think you call them youths) in West Cromwell Street which is just off Commercial Street in Leith. Six of them seem happy enough to play a game which involves kicking a football against an iron gate with the force of a meteorite. This causes an earth shattering CLANG! which rings throughout the entire building. This game is now in it's third week and as I am unsure how the scoring system works, I have no idea if it will end any time soon.

The remaining five walking abortions are happily rummaging through several bags of rubbish and items of furniture that someone has so thoughtfully dumped beside the wheelie bins. One of them has found a saw and is setting about a discarded chair like a beaver on speed. I fear that it's only a matter of time before they turn their limited attention to the bottle of calor gas that is lying on its side between the two bins. If they could be relied on to only blow their own arms and legs off then I would happily leave them to it. I would even go so far as to lend them the matches. Unfortunately they are far more likely to blow up half the street with them and I've just finished decorating the kitchen.

What I suggest is this - after replying to this e-mail with worthless assurances that the matter is being looked into and will be dealt with, why not leave it until the one night of the year (probably bath night) when there are no mutants around then drive up the street in a panda car before doing a three point turn and disappearing again. This will of course serve no other purpose than to remind us what policemen actually look like.

I trust that when I take a claw hammer to the skull of one of these throwbacks you'll do me the same courtesy of giving me a four month head start before coming to arrest me.

I remain sir, your obedient servant ?????????

Mr ??????,

I have read your e-mail and understand your frustration at the problems caused by youths playing in the area, and the problems you have encountered in trying to contact the police.

As the Community Beat Officer for your street I would like to extend an offer of discussing the matter fully with you.

Should you wish to discuss the matter, please provide contact details (address / telephone number) and when may be suitable.

Regards PC ??? Community Beat Officer

...

Dear PC ?????

First of all I would like to thank you for the speedy response to my original e-mail. 16 hours and 38 minutes must be a personal record for Leith police station and rest assured that I will forward these details to Norris McWhirter for inclusion in his next book.

Secondly I was delighted to hear that our street has its own Community Beat Officer. May I be the first to congratulate you on your covert skills. In the five or so years I have lived in West Cromwell Street, I have never seen you. Do you hide up a tree or have you gone deep undercover and infiltrated the gang itself? Are you the one with the acne and the moustache on his forehead or the one with a chin like a wash hand basin? It's surely only a matter of time before you are headhunted by MI5.

Whilst I realise that there may be far more serious crimes taking place in Leith - such as smoking in a public place or being Muslim without due care and attention - is it too much to ask for a policeman to explain (using words of no more than two syllables at a time) to these twits that they might want to play their strange football game elsewhere? The pitch behind the Citadel or the one at DK's are both within spitting distance as is the bottom of the Albert Dock.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further you should feel free to contact me on ??? ???. If after 25 minutes I have still failed to answer, I'll buy you a large one in the Compass Bar.

Regards
???????

P.S if you think that this is sarcasm, think yourself lucky that you don't work for the cleansing department.

Have you got a funny story for the news fun page
Please e-mail it to me
news@mikopy.com

Braishfield Parish Council Notes

This report on the Parish Council covers the Council's meetings held on 16th October and 6th November 2007. The October meeting had been delayed for two weeks owing to the unavailability of the Clerk on the normal date.

The November Meeting heard that Andrew Lalonde has resigned as Chairman of the Parish Council but he intends to remain on the Council. In his place Mike Prince was elected Chairman for the remainder of the Council year, being 'promoted' from Vice Chairman. Mike Edwards volunteered to take on the role of Vice-Chairman and he was also elected.

The Parish Council would like to thank Andrew very much for his time and valuable contribution as Chairman over quite a few years now. In fact he was elected Chairman in May 1995 after being co-opted onto the Council in December 1992. His connection with the Council did not start there and older villagers might recall that he was Clerk to the Parish Council from 1970 to 1978. The Council is sure everyone in the village wishes him well and looks forward to his continuing presence on the Council.

Following the public meeting on 18th September about the proposed 30mph speed limit, there was agreement at the October Meeting to write to Hampshire

County Council in support of the proposal. However there was discussion in the public open period during which some members of the public voiced objections to the proposal. The Council has also received copies of Hampshire County Council letters sent in response to objections.

Regardless of speed limit proposals, the Council is taking the matter of excessive speed seriously and has agreed to purchase a mobile warning sign to be shared with Ampfield, which alerts drivers to the speed limit if it spots them speeding. The intention is that it would be moved around different locations throughout the two Parishes. Test Valley Borough Council currently has two of these signs and speedsters through Braishfield will have noticed it by the School some months ago. Test Valley's machine also records the speed of traffic and the average speed recorded past the School was 32mph (in a 30mph area) and 15% of vehicles exceeded 38mph.

The Parish Council heard that a number of Parishioners did not agree with the response of the Council in the last Village News to the concern about the height of the rail on the dipping platform at the pond. The Council is giving the matter further consideration.

You might know that the Parish Council is responsible for the War

Memorial, having taken over responsibility from the Winchester Diocese a few years ago. An insurance valuation has been done which gave a replacement figure of £32,000 and the Clerk was asked to increase insurance cover to this value from the current £20,000. The Clerk was also asked to obtain quotations for the cleaning of the column on which the 1914-18 names are inscribed. The 1939-45 tablet was cleaned only a few years ago.

Investigations continue into what can be done to update the playground, but in the meantime further work is required to maintain the existing facility in order. Repair work is due to be done on the gate and also a bench outside the playground. Two new seats for the swings are on order and should be fitted shortly.

On planning matters, the Council heard that the biomass-fueled generator proposal at Upper Slackstead Farm has been withdrawn. Although the site has a Braishfield address, it is in Hursley Parish and not Braishfield. The view has been expressed that proposing a combined heat and power plant in a remote location where the heat cannot be used is somewhat illogical. The Council raised no objection.

tion to the application at the Church Rooms. It was informed that this was not a new application as such, because it received approval five years but approval has now expired.

The Council was asked for its comments on the change of use of agricultural land at Spinney Corner, Church Lane. The Council decided to make no comment on this matter as it dated back many years during which there has been a change of ownership.

The Council received a report on the Abbotswood planning application publicity session. This is the one which has attracted some attention in the Romsey Advertiser recently. It was reported that the area of the site dedicated to the conservation of the newts is very substantial. A community or communal area is envisaged with supermarket, playground and a village hall, but no school. Apparently there are plenty of spaces in schools in the area. The thought of yet another village hall in the locality could be the source of concern, bearing in mind that in addition to Braishfield there are also the Woodley Village Hall and Scout hut nearby.

For information on planning applications in Braishfield and for copies of Parish Council Minutes etc, you can find these on
johnbrhodes.supanet.com/braishfield

The TVBC Planning Authority dealt with a number of applications as follows:

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 07/1782 /F | Hunters Lodge, Dores Lane | Replacement dwelling | Refused |
| 07/2417 /F | Meade Hill, Church Lane | Extension for utility room | Permission |

The Council received a number of planning applications and responded to TVBC as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 07/2766 /T | Braishfield House, Braishfield Road | Tree work | Objection |
| 07/2699 /CLES | Spinney Corner, Church Lane | Change of use of agricultural land | No comment |
| 07/2853 /F | 2 The Square, Braishfield Road | Garage + Study | No objection |
| 07/2866 /T | Cuilbeg, Braishfield Road | Tree work | No objection |
| 07/2973 /F | Church Rooms, Church Lane | Single storey extension | No objection |
| 07/2602 /F | Little Grange, Braishfield Road | Extension | No objection |

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