

## Braishfield Village Diary

October			
4th	Sat	10-30	Book Launch until 12-30
7th	Tues	7.00	Braishfield Parish council
10th	Fri	7-30	Fun Quiz (see page 7)
13th	Mon	12.00	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
14th	Tues	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society
28th	Thur	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society 'From the Beginning' - Demonstration by Denise Bright
31st	Fri	7.30	Football Club Sports Quiz (see page 20)
November			
4th	Tues	7.00	Braishfield Parish council
11th	Tues	7.30	Braishfield Horticultural Society
10th	Mon	12.00	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
21st & 22nd	Fri/Sat	7-30	B Mads Production The Government inspector see page 14
25th	Thur	7.30	Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society OPEN EVENING - 'Christmas comes but once a year' Demonstration by Mary Keily

### Weekly

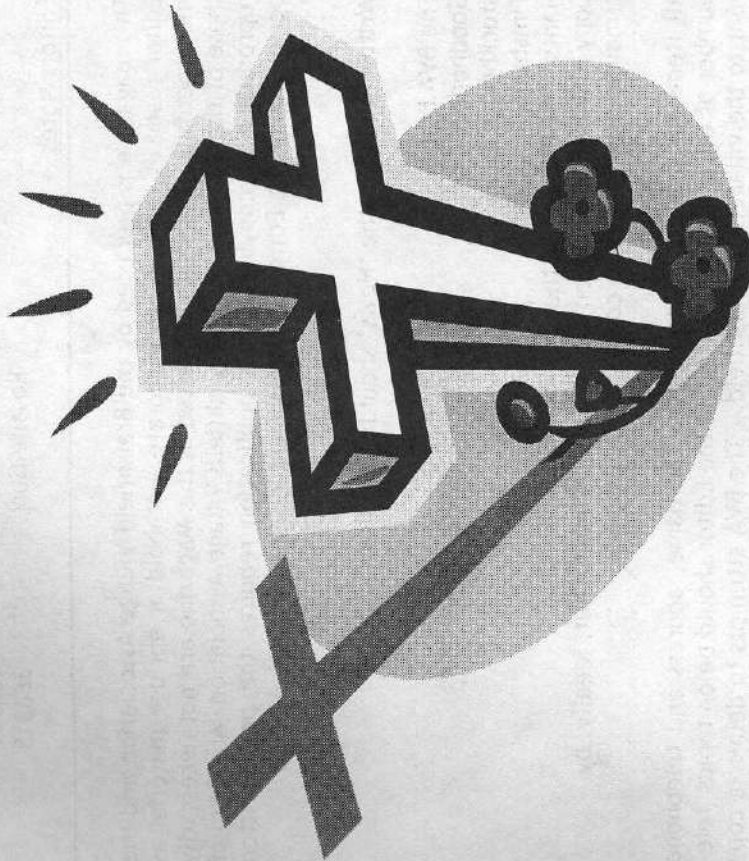
Weds	10-12	Braishfield Toddler Group
Thurs	10-12	Braishfield Art Group

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 171 October 2008



Armistice Day Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial  
Tuesday 11th November 10.50 am

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

## Braishfield Village Association

### Committee 2008-2009

Chairman	-	George Elliott	368306
Secretary	-	Rosie Groves	368178
Treasurer	-	Sheila Still	368384
BVA News Editor	-	Mike Stevens	367801
News Distributor	-	Ann Edwards	368193
Website	-	Chris Balchin	368427
Committee	-	David Protheroe	367003
		Graham Bennett	368109
		Rosalie Gurr	368315

### Editors Notes

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

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](mailto: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, Ann Edwards on 368193

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

## From the Chairman

What have we missed most this summer over and above the elusive sun? For me it's the sky at night when all is peaceful and one has time to wonder. There have been so few nights without cloud that it is as if we have been cheated. Our own Milky Way is fascinating criss-crossed with trails and streams of stars that are probably the remnants of other satellite galaxies, torn apart by our own. Apparently, we can now join in the hunt for new galaxies through the online project Galaxy Zoo. However most of us are quite content just to gaze and appreciate the fascinating miracle which lies above us.

Good news. The 2008 Farley Walk through the Borders in May raised £9,642.18 when Gift Aid has been included. Of this £1,957.50 will go to charities of the walker's own choice and as a result St John's will receive £7,684.68. A tremendous sum and a reflection of the miles walked by all those in Iain's Chisholm's intrepid band who - dare I say it - invaded Scotland and overcame the Reiver outpost and its piper so successfully.

The summer has ended when traditionally it is the time of year when we may be troubled with the possibility of traveller encampments. We came through unscathed. PC John Viney has been reviewing

police response in such an event and has canvassed residents. It is a sensitive issue to many people and you may wish to express your view to John. We appear to have been lucky too, with fly tipping in the lanes. This can occur any time of year but is often linked to an economic down turn, just like local crime and break-ins. We can play an important role by keeping a watchful eye - one among many - as we go about our daily lives.

You may have watched the TV programme the 'Great British Clean Up' by Bill Bryson, the author and President of the campaign to protect rural England. We in this country really do face a most dreadful litter problem which was clearly highlighted in the programme. Let us see whether there is any noticeable improvement in our towns, cities and countryside as we pass through, as a result of the publicity. We need to 'stop the drop'. Meanwhile, our magnificent team of volunteers in the village do make a huge difference in cleaning up our lanes by 'picking' quietly away almost unnoticed. To you all thank you.

'Keep us posted on potholes' was the heading of a letter in the Romsey Advertiser

from Roy Perry, Deputy Leader HCC and County Councillor for Romsey Extra. He was pleased to emphasise that the budget had received a sizable increase to solve the pothole problem in our lanes. He encouraged any member of the public who is concerned by a specific pothole in their area to let him know ([Roy.perry@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Roy.perry@hants.gov.uk)) or advise county highways direct. We should not hesitate to do this. Meanwhile, Roy Perry's letter is posted on the village website.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day approaches. The Village Diary on the back cover of the news will remind you of the Remembrance Day Sunday Service

on 9 November and the gathering at the War Memorial for the act of remembrance on Tuesday 11 November. Thanks to the Parish Council the Memorial shines out having been spring cleaned. Those who wish to attend the gathering at the Memorial should assemble at 1050 am. Both events are a timely reminder how lucky we are to be able to enjoy life in peace while others are serving overseas facing constant danger for us all.

Let us enjoy the closing days of summer while we can.

George Elliot  
Chairman

## Your Letters

### BRAISHFIELD WAR MEMORIAL

I have done a little research into the names of those commemorated on the War Memorial and have put an early version of the results on the Parish Council's website:

<http://www.johnbrhodes.supanet.com/braishfield/warmemorial.pdf>

Time marches on and this year is the ninetyeth anniversary of the end of the First World War. It would be useful for future generations to have information about the people on the Memorial, rather than having just a list of names.

I would be grateful if villagers could add to, or correct, the information about those on the Memorial, such as their relations and where they lived, and let me know please.

John Rhodes  
368253

### Millie Dunford 1927 - 2008

Gordon and Eileen Parsons and their family, together with Sheila and John Prince, Barbara and Nicola and their families, would like to thank Millie's many friends and neighbours for all their kindness to her in recent years. The funeral service was a fitting tribute to Millie; special thanks to the Rector of All Saints', Bruce Kington; to all those who helped with the beautiful floral decorations and to the Choir for leading the singing.

The families greatly appreciate the many cards and letters of sympathy and the donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care given in memory of Millie.

A tribute to Millie will appear in the next edition of the News.

### Lunch Club Update

Please note that the Christmas meeting of Braishfield Church Lunch Club will be held on December 1st (not December 8th) in the Committee room of the Village Hall. All other meetings take place as usual on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall until the Church Room alterations are completed.

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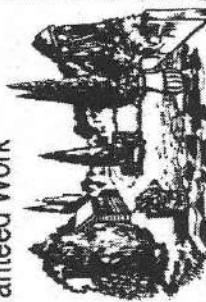
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## Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society

Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society celebrated their 25th Anniversary in fine style at the home of one of their committee members, Hazel Prince. The party was held on one of the warmest and dry evenings of the summer which meant both past and present members could mingle together, celebrating with champagne & canapes whilst enjoying Hazel & Mike Princes lovely garden by candle-light. Our Chairman, Maggie Batchelor, welcomed Jan Meloy, the vice-chairman of the Wessex & Jersey Area of NAFAS who congratulated Braishfield on their 25th birthday and conveyed congratulatory messages from both the Area Chairman and the National Association.

During the evening our Chairman cut the celebration cake which had been made by Betty Horton and decorated by Hazel Prince.

## Senior Citizens New Year Lunch 2009

The annual Senior Citizens lunch has been arranged for Sunday 25th January. If you are a villager and have qualified (65 or over) in the last year and would like to be added to my invitation list please ring me on 368164. I would like to thank all those who have given donations to myself and committee members towards this great event. A big thank you must go to Julie Garrett who due to her

Whilst we are a small society we are extremely friendly and would welcome any new members to our monthly meetings which are held in the Village Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month. For further details please phone Maggie Batchelor on 368125

### Open Evening

We are holding our major charity fund raising event on November 27th and hope you will join us where you can sit back, relax and enjoy an evening entitled 'Christmas comes but once a year', demonstrated by the popular Mary Keily. Admission charge for this event is £6 and our nominated charity this year is Pancreatic Cancer.

We look forward to you joining us on the 27th.

Disco/get together evenings has donated all profits made. Her next Disco is booked for 15th Nov at Braishfield Social Club, anyone interested in tickets please ring Julie on 07919488366.

Last years party was our 20th year and we feel a great success, so we are now about to come of age, who knows what's in store! Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Sharon Fielding and committee.

## Village Fun Quiz

Friday 10 Oct 2008  
7.30pm

### Braishfield Village Hall

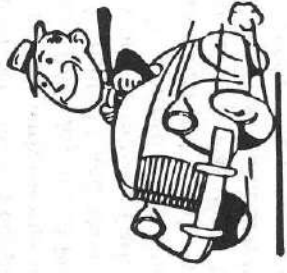
Tables of four - please contact us if you need additional people or transport OR just turn up on the night

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## JOYCE ALFORD 6.5.1923 – 29.5.2008

**O**n the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008, Braishfield lost one of the longest living residents of the village with the passing of Joyce Alford.

Joyce was born at the "old" hospital in Romsey on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1923 from where she went to live at the family home, 4 Fairbourne Place, at the corner of Kiln Lane and which was where she spent all of her childhood.

After leaving school, she went to work for Admiral and Lady Bacon at Braishfield Lodge; this working relationship with the Bacon family was to last until the death of Dorothy Bacon, whom Joyce worked for as a loyal friend and companion for the duration of Dorothy's life.

Joyce married George on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1943 here at All Saints church Braishfield and shortly afterwards they went to live in Manningtree, Essex, with George's cousins Margaret and Paul Musselwhite's mother and aunt. Joyce and, her now sister-in-law, Peggy (Woodley), who had also moved to Manningtree, went to work in the BX Plastics factory which was manufacturing munitions for the war effort. After a couple of happy years, but with George now serving in the RAF, Joyce and Peg returned to Braishfield and they both went to work at Hursley Park where the RAF's Spitfire parts were being manufactured and assembled. George, who was under training for RAF Aircrew, had been injured and was recovering in hospital in Babb-

combe so Joyce and Peg travelled down by bus to visit him there during this time.

After the war, in about 1947, Joyce and George moved into 3 Fairbourne Place next door to where Joyce had spent her childhood and it was here that Joyce lived until her passing on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008; around 61 years of residence there, and a total of 83 years a resident of Braishfield.

Joyce always involved herself in village life, where she knew everyone. The Women's Institute, Mother's Union, the Wives Group and other village activity such as whist drives around and within the village. Joyce's forte was organising the teas and cakes stalls, whether it be at the Church, or WI Fetes, the annual WI Summer garden party (held on Dorothy Bacon's lawn) or, the Horticultural Society where Joyce and her lifelong friend, Millie, used to always prepare the teas and drinks. This community activity, which she loved doing, finally came to an end last April when she was first taken ill.

Joyce also loved her garden and gardening. When George was alive, the garden was full of vegetables and it was only after he was unable to keep his garden up together that it was all put down to grass. Right up until the time she was taken ill, Joyce could be seen pottering in the garden or mowing the lawns even though it sometimes took her a week to complete as she insisted

on doing it herself and had no problem with starting the motor mower.

George's hobby was racing pigeons which were housed in 3 Lofts at the top of the garden. Along with keeping the garden in order, while George was out at work, she used to have to release the birds for their daily flight training as well as feed and water them. If for any reason a race was delayed, she would have to catch the returning birds and "clock them in" (the expression for putting the thimble into the clock used to register the exact time the bird returned to the loft).

After a lovely ceremony, Joyce was finally laid to rest with her beloved Mother, Emma and alongside the resting places of George, and their

relatives, in the churchyard at All Saints Braishfield on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008. She would have been very surprised, and probably overcome with emotion, at the large attendance at her funeral of family and, perhaps more importantly, her many friends in the village. Their attendance in such large numbers, in particular, was a huge tribute to the life of a very kind and lovely lady.

Angela, John, David and Gareth would like to thank all relatives and friends who came to pay their last respects and, also, to thank them for their donations to the Marie Curie Cancer care Trust. Joyce would have been very touched by the generosity and depth of feeling shown by every-

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## Braishfield Horticultural Society

Autumn is upon us, the leaves on the trees are already turning to the familiar reds and browns, what ever happened to the long hot summer we were assured to be our "lot" this year? September has not yet produced the Indian Summer to which we have become accustomed, so keep your fingers crossed for a late bout of sunshine in October. Surely there can be no hint of a hosepipe ban in the near future.

Again, within a very short space of time, we have lost yet another much loved member of our community, Millie Dunford. Millie was not only a member of our Society, but someone who took an active part in everything that went on in the Village. She had always lived in Braishfield, in fact, she was born here. Life had not been too kind to her at times, but for all that, her outlook was always very positive, putting her troubles to one side and always coming up with a bright smile. Now, surely re-united with her loved ones and possibly discussing with her great friend, Joyce Alford, the number of teas to be poured. Millie will always be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, Jim

Love came along to present his talk on the Flowers of Yunnan Province, in China. Jim had recently spent three weeks touring the area and his talk was well supported by the many photographs taken during his travels, in fact it was not just the flowers that were portrayed on screen that he spoke of, but the people of the area and the way they lived. Some parts were surprisingly modern in contrast to the quite primitive background where many of the people survive. One item that was very noticeable where tourism is concerned was the constant need to obtain permission to move around some parts. The mixture of flowers, people and places went well together creating an interesting evening, which I believe, was enjoyed by everyone.

The next and last meeting before the Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October when Peter Barwick will talk on the growing and marketing of apples. That same evening, the Autumn Show is also due. Please to your best to find something to enter and support the occasion. For those who may have mislaid their programmes, the schedule is as follows:-

- 1) A Basket of Garden Produce.
- 2) An Arrangement of Garden Flowers.
- 3) 3 Sprays of Shrub for

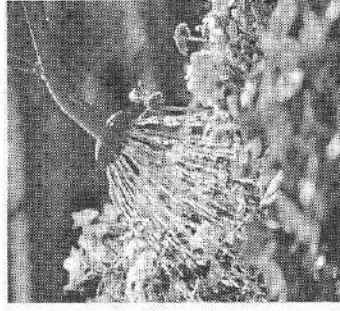
Foliage, Flower and Berry. One of each kind.

Finally, one last reminder about the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, always an enjoyable evening. Business matters are always dealt with in a civilised manner and usually very quickly. The wines and tempting plates of goodies on offer are always an incentive to move on to the social part of the evening as quickly as possible. Be sure to come along and have something to say, we are always looking for new ideas.

Any nominations for the Committee should be delivered to me

prior to the meeting. Until then, keep a tight hold on your "wellies" and "brollies", they have now become an essential part of summer fashion.

Bob Thomson,  
BHS Secretary & Scribe.



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## Fun Page: Real Call Centre Recordings

Customer: 'I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help  
Operator: 'Where did you get that number from, sir?'  
Customer: 'It was on the door to the Travel Centre.'  
Operator: 'Sir, they are our opening hours.'

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'  
Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.'  
Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'  
Operator: 'I think you mean the telephone point on the wall.'

RAC Motoring Services  
Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?'  
Operator: 'Doesn't the product name give you a clue?'

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.'  
Customer: 'O K'.  
Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'.  
Customer: 'No'.  
Tech Support: 'O K. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'  
Customer: 'No'.  
Tech Support: 'O K, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this

point?'.  
Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.  
Tech Support: 'O K. In the bottom left hand side of the screen, can you see the 'O K' button displayed?'  
Customer: 'Wow. How can you see my screen from there?'  
Caller: 'I deleted a file from my PC last week and I have just realised that I need it. If I turn my system clock back two weeks will I have my file back again?'

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'  
Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.'  
Operator: 'What sort of trouble?'  
Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'  
Caller: 'They disappeared.'  
Operator: 'Hmm So what does your screen look like now?'  
Caller: 'Nothing.'  
Operator: 'Nothing?'  
Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'  
Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'  
Caller: 'How do I tell?'  
Operator: 'Can you see the C: prompt on the screen?'  
Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'  
Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'  
Caller: 'There isn't any cursor: I told

you, it won't accept anything I type.'  
Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator?'  
Caller: 'What's a monitor?'  
Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'  
Caller: 'I don't know.'  
Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?'

Caller: 'Yes, I think so.'  
Operator: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall.'  
Caller: 'Yes, it is.'  
Operator: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?'  
Caller: 'No'.  
Operator: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Caller: 'Okay, here it is.'  
Operator: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer.'  
Caller: 'I can't reach.'  
Operator: 'Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is?'  
Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?'  
Caller: 'Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark.'  
Operator: 'Dark?'  
Caller: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'  
Operator: 'Well, turn on the office light then.'  
Caller: 'I can't.'  
Operator: 'No? Why not?'  
Caller: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Operator: 'A power... A power failure? Aha, Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?'  
Caller: 'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet.'  
Operator: 'Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'

Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'  
Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'  
Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?'  
Operator: 'Tell them you're too flipping stupid to own a computer!!!!'

## Rubbish News

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

Recycle weeks beginning 13th & 27th Oct. 1st 3rd & 17th Nov

Household weeks beginning 6th & 20th Oct. 10th & 24th Nov

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**21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

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## Social Contact Group

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On one of the wettest days of July, our members went by mini-bus to 'The Augustus John' Public House, Fordingbridge for lunch. The Landlady was concerned that the weather would prevent our arrival but our members were determined that the weather was not going to deter them and they really appreciated the very warm welcome they received, to say nothing of the splendid lunch.

Our next event at the beginning of September was an enjoyable return

visit to Bashley to see The Old Tyme Players present their show entitled 'Old Tyme Music Hall'. The Players are a professional theatre company whose repertoire included famous characters from the golden age of entertainment.

Various future events are currently being planned and if you feel that you would like to join us then please contact Gill Allison on 522965

Hazel Prince

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## Remember Their Sacrifice

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In 1918, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the guns fell silent on the Western Front. The Armistice signed only six hours earlier took effect. On 28 June 1919, the First World War was formally concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

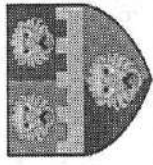
The war that so many optimistically hoped would be the war to end all wars was over. The signing of the peace treaty was followed by nationwide Peace Day celebrations on Saturday, 19 July 1919, with a wooden catafalque erected where the marching troops could salute the dead.

Four months later, the anniversary of Armistice Day was marked by the introduction of a two minutes' silence, in the words of King George V, 'to perpetuate the memory of the Great Deliverance, and of those who have laid down their lives to achieve it'.

On Armistice Day 1920, the body of an Unknown Warrior was buried at Westminster Abbey, and at 11 am the King unveiled the Cenotaph in Whitehall in place of the earlier, wooden structure. In November 1921, the first of the annual Services of Remembrance in the form that we now know them was held at the Cenotaph. Ever since, the month of November has been associated with Remembrance as people across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth remember those who have given their lives for their country since 1914...

The victories of mind  
Are won for all mankind;  
But war wastes what it wins,  
Ends worse than it begins,  
And is a game of woes -

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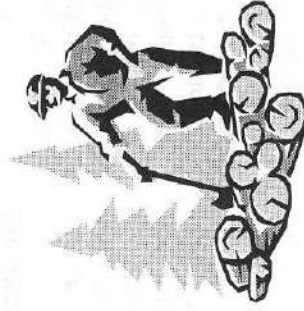
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## Choose30

### What is it?

**Choose 30** is a campaign aimed at persuading people that reducing their speed in a rural village can have a big impact on the local community living there. **Choose 30** has been created to compliment the County Council's Village 30 Project, an ongoing scheme to reduce speed limits in villages to 30mph where the community requests it and the location fits a set criteria.

### Why?

Rural speed limits are a concern to many, particularly in villages where local communities want to reduce traffic dominance and improve the quality of life. Parishes have asked the County Council for reduced speed limits partly because faster roads go through the village.

Revised Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on setting speed limits (Setting Local Speed Limits DfT Circular 01/2006) makes it clear that 'villages should have comparable speed limits to similar roads in urban areas' meaning that a 30mph limit should be the norm in villages. As such it has become a County Council Cabinet priority to ensure that rural villages which meet criteria have 30mph speed limits where they desire them.

The definition of a village is set as 20 or more houses within 600 me-

tres, which should give an adequate message to drivers to reduce their speed or to **Choose 30**.

Community evidence was required to see which schemes may be more urgent than others and considered a priority. Many village residents outlined reasons including the strength of feeling expressed for reduced limits, particular dangers that exist for the village due to the nature of the road, their fears and concerns as a community.

By the end of 2008 the first tranche will be completed in 39 parishes across the County, with tranche 2 and 3 being completed in 2009 which will include a further 60 locations to be included in the Village 30 programme and a high profile publicity campaign has been created to support it - **Choose 30**.

### Key messages

**Choose 30** aims to give better compliance to Village 30 and to get the important message to drivers that villages and towns should be treated the same.

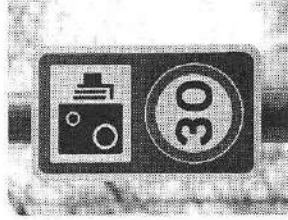
Just because people support lower speed limits, it does not necessarily mean that they will respect them. Research has shown that inevitably a lower limit would not be respected without the need for awareness and enforcement - **Choose 30** can help raise this awareness.

**Choose 30** is about emphasising to drivers that all communities deserve the same respect whether they live in villages or urbanised areas. A reduced speed limit in rural villages can have a big impact on the quality of life for those living in that community.

The **Choose 30** message is getting people to recognise why a 30mph will be enforced and draw upon the village as a community to persuade them to reduce their speed. The intention is with these reduced limits, introduced with appropriate signing, enforcement and education, we will achieve a significant reduction in the speed of traffic through villages.

### How will Choose 30 work?

**Choose 30** is a countywide campaign to support the County Council's Village 30 project. By using bus back advertising, radio airtime, posters, pub beer mats and other local advertising through press releases. Parishes are encouraged to publicise their own roads more specifically within their own area.



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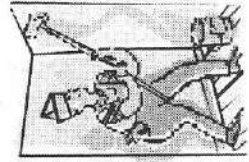
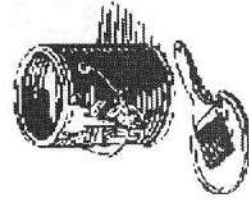
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The Football Club is holding a Sports Quiz evening at the village hall on Friday 31st October, 7.30pm start.

Teams of 4 people.

£10 entry per team.

Questions on all sports (not just football!)

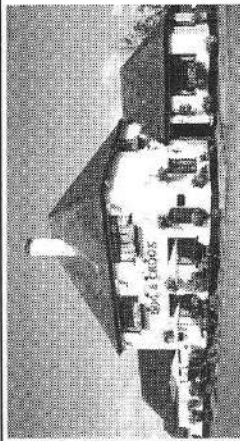
There will also be a bar

If you would like to enter a team, please let me know, Adrian Moore, either by e-mail [Adrian.meze@virgin.net](mailto:Adrian.meze@virgin.net) or on 368858.

Also, if you think you know anyone else who would like to take part, please feel free to pass this information on to them.

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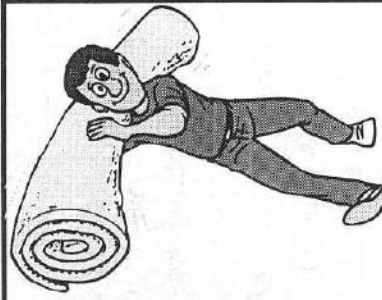
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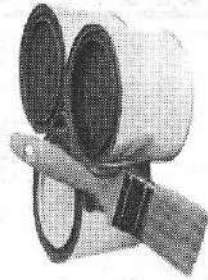
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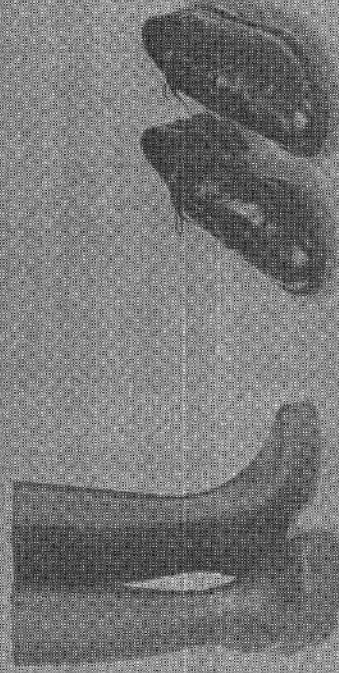
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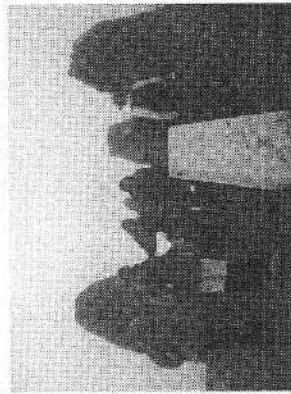
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## The 2008 Farley Walk from Lindisfarne to Glasgow

And then we got to Wednesday. The weather forecast was for heavy rain all day so some of the smarter walkers (~20) decided to opt out and visit Melrose (very attractive town), its Abbey (fascinating particularly the gargyle of a pig playing the bagpipes!) and then Abbotsford (nr Galashiels), the home of Sir Walter Scott, which was a real treat, both the house and the gardens. Our guide there was extremely theatrical which gave his talk a certain reality.

In the meantime, the rain was not heavy but turned into Scottish mist! So the walkers' (~30) first experience of the Southern Upland Way was slightly out of body as they could not tell when they had reached the top or the bottom of a hill and so they trudged on from Galashiels to Traquair (think brewery!). The writers of this article split up on this day, hence a true account of both events!! The walker noted: "The first hour was a steady climb up to 1550 feet and the Three Brethren cairns which appeared like ghosts out the low cloud mist that had accompanied us for most of the climb. These rounded cairns are significant piles of stones about 10 feet high laid by professionals - unlike normal cairns made up by walkers adding rocks at random. The three cairns represent the meeting point of the Yair and Philliphaugh districts and Selkirk Burgh. This point is ridden to each year by the Selkirk Standard Bearer and his followers as they ride the town boundaries as part of the Common Riding tradition.



Traquair House is the oldest inhabited house in Scotland. Its brewery dates back to at least the 1500s, the house to approx 1100. An interesting visit, particularly the ale tasting but frustration that the sections we were interested in (dolls' houses, toys, etc..) we were not allowed to look at as our guide was in such a rush to show us round. We think she wanted to go home! And so we arrived in Innerleithen to find our overnight accommodation. Our

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hotel was very organised, despite the numbers, and we all had a good meal within a short time.

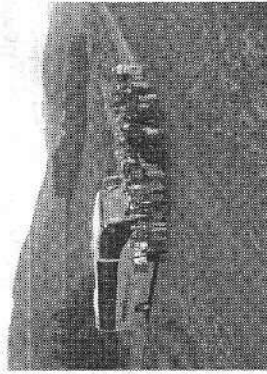
Thursday promised a later start with the prospect of a shorter day's walking on the Southern Upland Way - 11 miles - and a fair weather forecast. A short coach journey and we were off up the hills by 10.30 a.m. with superb views appearing on both sides. An upside down sheep was sighted by one of our villagers. Jimmy was a welcome sight for lunch at Blackhouse after a climb up and down of 1500 ft amid rumours that we still had another 3 miles to go! The boot repair was holding up well with the addition of some flame retardant insulating tape. We reached the ruins of Dryhope Tower, a 16th century stone tower house of three storeys, with the basement and first floor hall vaulted. Plenty of us just had to climb the tower which was accompanied by the strong smell of pigeons and other birds' droppings at the base. Some went off to visit the Printing Works in Innerleithen (a National Trust property) which have been in use since 1866, while the walkers continued along the shores of St Mary's Loch, spotting various interesting sculptures by Matt Baker along the way, until we reached Tibbie Shiel's Inn. Despite it only being 4 p.m., the landlady, who had had prior warning of our arrival, opened up! We all basked in the sunshine and enjoyed the moment. Several of us walked down the road to inspect a statue to James Hogg - a Scottish poet who was encouraged by Sir Walter Scott to write verse and poetry and became famous as a result. And so back to our hotel in Innerlei-

then for another talk, this time on the Borders, poetry, Flodden. A delightful man gave the talk but it was more of a book launch (his) and he was extremely difficult to hear/understand even for those sitting close to him. The same renegades were nodding, as ever! One did escape the room beforehand! We just need a big hearing aid and a course on dialects before we undertake the next one!

We had reached our last full day of walking - Friday. We set off from Tibbie Shiel's Inn on the Captain's Path (Southern Upland Way) with yet another day of good weather. This was a fabulous walk with superb views as we strode up Scabcleuch Hill to be greeted by our gourmet chef, Jimmy. We thought we were walking well but then, as we headed downhill, we were informed by 'the management' that they had somehow lost an hour and we would have to 'fast forward' to catch up time. This information was greeted with much approval as it would mean that the walk would be 16.5 miles instead of 19 miles! A group photo was taken showing that Malcolm and his Avenis bus could reach parts that other buses could not! Our last walking lunch was at Phawhope and we were off on an 8 mile hike through National Forest scenery and over the top where the scenery and paths were more reminiscent of the Lake District. The path at this point was the steepest and trickiest of the whole week and the views down to the valleys below were wonderful. Our walk ended at Craigbeck where Malcolm awaited us. Nearby we discovered a clever off-road roundabout that enabled

large vehicles to join at a t-junction. We were then bussed into Moffat for two nights.

We awoke on Saturday to brilliant sunshine and blue skies. Once everyone was on board the coach we set off for the River Clyde to walk in, via the Clyde Falls, to the New Lanark World Heritage cotton mill and village. It was built by Robert Owen in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and his vision ensured that the workers were extremely well looked after. The children attended school, took music lessons, everyone had free healthcare, food was provided at reasonable prices, the houses were well maintained and had good sanitation for that period. Many workers lived their entire life on the same site. Shops provided fresh food. It was an interesting tour seeing a spinning mule in operation, a worker's house, shop and school. The water going over the Clyde Falls was greatly reduced, partly because they have not had much rain recently but also because some water is diverted to a hydro-electric power station.

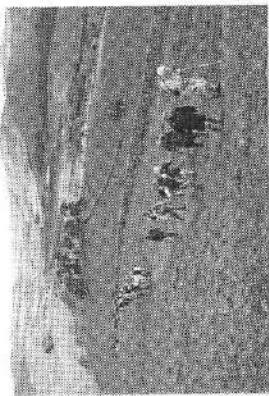


After lunch we walked down the valley for a couple of miles to Kirkfield to meet the coach and drove to Glasgow Green. At Glasgow Green we had some tea (our last cake and drink stop provided by Jimmy) and

then visited The People's Palace and Winter Gardens which were built in 1898 for the benefit of the industrial working people in the east end of Glasgow. Then on to the last stage of the walk, along the Clyde River, past where the ocean-going liners used to moor, to the Exhibition Centre where our coach awaited us. 6.8 miles covered today.

We drove to the Burrell Collection, just 3 miles south of Glasgow, where we changed into our finery (earlier loaded and stored on the coach!) - the women used a lecture theatre and the men a childrens' art centre! We all self-toured round the Collection which was an eclectic mix of everything. You would have thought the Duke of Norfolk would have wanted back his coat of arms for Arundel Castle! There were some wonderful tapestries from the 1450s, together with exquisite embroidery and beadwork. Our Leader had arranged a dinner at the Burrell Collection - a very fitting end to a week of exceptional walks. A song was sung by those who still had voices after a week of non-stop chatting, on the theme of "I'll take the high road and ye'll take the low road" with Flybe and Virgin train inserted. Timothy Hornsby (walker) was the guest speaker and kept us all riveted (and awake!). His talk summarised the cultural events of the week. And so we headed back to Moffat and our heads hit the pillows sometime after midnight. Unfortunately, some local jobs decided to kick in a door (they failed) opposite our hotel, starting at 1.45 a.m. (apparently they had caused problems the previous night further down the street where the rest of

our party were staying). So I suppose it was our turn. The police were on the scene very quickly. It was obviously (and sadly) a frequent occurrence.



Sunday was a much cooler and cloudier day. A large walking contingent attended Holy Communion at St John's in Moffat. We far outweighed their congregation, some of whom were escapees from England. We were given a very warm reception. Canon Michael Bands, a very avuncular, rotund, friendly rector, appeared before us with trousers held up by braces (more Billy Bunter than priest). We were all highly relieved when he put on his green vestments as up to that point, we were quite concerned how to reduce our levity! He gave us a very warm welcome and invited Iain Chisholm (our Leader) to give the congregation a brief resume of our activities and we were clapped! Our singing was on top form as the hymns were well known by everyone. We could not turn down their kind invitation to coffee and food afterwards, so well trained had we become during the week. It just meant our departure was slightly delayed! The return journey took nearly 9 hours (including meals) and was uneventful, dropping off walkers on the way.

Our very grateful thanks, as ever, go to Iain Chisholm, ably supported by Chris Chisholm, for the tremendous amount of work they put in. To show our appreciation and enjoyment of the Farley Walks we all sign up year after year. Iain is ably supported by the Reccy Group who join Iain and Chris and walk the route. It is at that point, that Iain finds the accommodation and plots any surprises! It is a huge undertaking and responsibility. It is a great team. It could also not happen without Jimmy Chestnutt providing our catering in the right location and our coach driver, Malcolm, ensuring that he is at the right place at the right time and prepared to heave our bags in and out of the coach. By the end of the walk, he was extremely well trained (!) and used to joining us for all our evening meals/socials etc... Our driver is always expected to be one of the group. Thank you to everyone who helped to ensure that the walkers had such a brilliant time. And our last words have to go to the backmarkers, the most dire job of all, particularly if your feet normally go quite quickly! They spend the walk rounding up leaf peepers, bird watchers, camera buffs and waiting beside rucksacks left on the side of the path. This is a sign that the owner is in the bushes, probably fighting back the nettles and hoping for privacy. Backmarkers, we salute you for all your patience. The lack of stiles on this year's walk meant that we normally got to our destination on time and sometimes earlier than planned. We are looking forward to next year: Glasgow to Iona.

Meryl & Chris Balchin

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## Braishfield Parish Council Notes

This report on the Parish Council covers only the Council's meeting held on 2nd of September, there being no meeting in August. The Council is anxious to keep the War Memorial well maintained and agreed to spend approx £1000 on the replacement of one of the stones and re-pointing. It appears that there has been some settling over the years causing cracking and opening up of joints. The work is to be done by Blackwell & Moody. It was noted that some land is for sale in Common Hill Road and the Council talked about how some of this might be used. The Clerk was asked to obtain details from the agents.

Following the granting of planning permission by Hampshire County Council for the generator at Slackstead, the Council complained, amongst other things, about the lack of public representation at the meeting. After extended correspondence on the matter it appears that there is a rule which forbids Parish Councils from making representations to Hampshire County Council, but the meeting chairman might allow one. Confused? (Test Valley Borough Council allows Parish Councils to make representations).

The 30mph speed limit has now been implemented, though the Braishfield twinning sign seems to have disappeared in the process. Also the signs approaching the Sandy Lane crossroads now appear to advise you to slow down from

30mph to 40mph.

Discussions have been taking place with the Probationary Service about footpath maintenance at various times of the year. Important matters like the location of 'comfort breaks' have to be sorted out before a scheme can go ahead. In the event that it does go ahead the Council would make a donation towards the cost of tools.

The location of seats around the pond is being reviewed. Unfortunately the placing of seats under the trees has not been ideal and they have deteriorated badly over the years. The Council agreed to remove them with the intention of buying a replacement.

The specification for a new playground has yet to be finalised but this should be done shortly. The Council has asked Test Valley Borough Council to ' earmark' funds from the Playbuilders Capital Fund but there has been no confirmation that these will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, maintenance of the existing playground continues and the gates are being repaired (again).

Test Valley Borough Council has written to the Council about the possibility of having some bottlenecks on the Recreation Ground car park. The Clerk was asked to obtain further details from TVBC.

John Rhodes

## The TVBC and HCC Planning Authorities dealt with applications as follows:

08/00939/ FULLS	Replacement sunroom	7, Newport Lane	Permission
08/01235/ FULLS	Conversion to dwellings and construction of garages and agricultural buildings	Fairbournes Farm, Kiln Lane	Permission
08/01206/ FULLS	Conservatory	Hall Place Cottage, Eldon Lane	Permission
08/01126/ FULLS	Retrospective conservatories	12, Hill View	Permission
08/01511/ TPOS	Fell oak tree	1, Newport Lane	Permission
08/01483/ TREES	Prune trees	Leith Howe, Braishfield Road	Permission
08/01463/ CMAS	Removal of link between permission to continue recycling and filling of Hunts Farm sandpit	RFS Farms, Bunny Lane	Permission
08/01588/ FULLS	Extension	Thatched Barn, Paynes Hay Road	Withdrawn

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

08/475/OUTS	Significant amendments to 800 houses etc	Abbotswood	The Clerk is to ask for extra time on such a large application
08/01684/CMAS	Extension of time	BKP, Bunny Lane	Proposed time limit excessive
08/02039/FULLS	Extension	Heigham, Braishfield Road	No objection

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