



# BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 270  
February 2025



Winter in the village

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Distributed free of charge by the Braishfield Village Association  
to the residents of Braishfield and the surrounding hamlets.  
Available in colour on the BVA website: [www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)

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# Braishfield Village Association

## COMMITTEE 2025

CHAIR Vice Chair	JULIE KEMP Wendy Dolby-Stevens	368894 368119
Treasurer	Kate Marshall	07775 886152
Secretary	Jill Briggs	367874
BVN Editor	Wendy Dolby-Stevens	368119
Distributor	Julie Kemp	368894
Website	Carolyn Ward	368852
Welfare		
Committee members	Ian Jeffery Chris Wyers	367282 07901 677160

## COMMUNICATIONS and BOOKINGS

Website	www.braishfield.org 368852	Carolyn Ward
Parish Council	www.braishfield.org.uk 07902 297004	Jane Ray
Church Room	BraishfieldChurchRoom@ gmail.com 368015	Wendy Quarendon
Email Network	braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com	Wendy Dolby-Stevens
Residents Forum	Facebook	Ben Holdaway
Village Hall	braishfieldvillagehall@gmail.com	Kate Knight

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

Latest copy date for the next issue is: **Friday 21 March**

Front cover: Natasha Weyers-Gehring

## From the Chair

A rather belated Happy New Year to you all !

I hope you will see the advert on the back page advertising the Village Clubs and Volunteers Fayre to be held on the 9th February. If you are a newcomer to the village, or not so new, this is the ideal time to come and see what goes on in this lovely village of ours. There's probably a lot more than you imagined and there may be something that interests you.

The BVA Committee will be having a stand so do come along and say hello.

### SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO ?

We all have a passionate interest in village life and Community spirit. Our editor, Wendy, spends a lot of time putting together the very interesting and informative Village News. We organise a couple of events throughout the year to cater for all ages and tastes .

Without further Committee members, the BVA are struggling to put on their annual main event, and for those of you that were lucky enough to get tickets for the Murder mystery evening, you will know what a shame it will be if we can no longer do this .....

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED ?

Due to a couple of long standing Committee members leaving recently , we have several vacancies for keen and enthusiastic villagers to come and join us .

The Committee meets roughly 6 times a year during the evening and we meet at each others houses. Meetings last no longer than 2 hours, usually they are much shorter and we discuss village news and plan events over a glass or two .....

There may be an extra meeting or two required when we have a big event looming but that's the exception not the norm.

So , can you spare an evening once every couple of months? Are you willing to host a meeting once a year? Do you have some ideas for a event? Would you be willing to get stuck in and get involved with planning and organising as part of a team?

Have you worked out how to erect those annoying tables at the Village hall? or how to stack those chairs properly on their bases?

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, WE NEED YOU !!

Do please get in touch, either at the Fayre when we can answer any further questions you may have or by contacting any of the Committee members listed in the inside cover. We really are a friendly bunch and we work well as a team, don't expect to get 'dumped on ' and left to it, we don't work like that.

Bye for now,  
Julie.

We would like to thank all those who donate toward the cost of Braishfield Village News. We welcome any support you can give us to keep the magazine viable in 2025 and onwards. This can be a ONE OFF PAYMENT or a MONTHLY STANDING ORDER. If you wish to make a donation please complete the slip below.

BVA Committee

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

Name (please print) .....

Address. ....

..... Postcode. ....

Tel: ..... EMAIL: .....

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

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

Account name: Braishfield Village Association.

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

## Notices

### EDITORS NOTE:

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



Keep up to date

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

Facebook: Test Valley Cops

Twitter: @TestVlyRuralPol

Hampshire Alerts is a free messaging service keeping you up to date with events and incidents via [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)

**DEADLINE DATES FOR BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS 2025**

Mar 21 for APR  
May 23 for JUN  
Jul 25 for AUG  
Sep 19 for OCT  
Nov 14 for DEC

### In Case of Emergency

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

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

If you require special assistance call SSE on 0800 072 7282294 3259 to register for Priority Services

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Water supply or wastewater emergencies, blocked drains or possible pollution - Phone Southern Water on 0330 303 0368

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Police - Phone 101 or 999 if people are injured or there is a threat to life

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

## Braishfield Village Voices.....

More than 10 years ago, there was a suggestion of starting an informal singing group, open to everyone in the community and sharing all sorts of 'old' songs.



January 2025, and the group continues to thrive, our singing 'library' contains 150+ songs of all sorts – from musicals old and new, folk music, hymns, rounds and many popular requests, combined with less familiar introductions.

Meeting in the Church Room usually on the 4th Monday each month from 2 - 4pm, with an all-important break for chat over refreshments partway through the afternoon, new voices are always welcome.

**Forthcoming dates** - 24 February / 24 March / 28 April  
we look forward to seeing you. Singing really can be for everyone!

**Please contact Meri 368516 / Wendy 368015 for further details**



## BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB in 2024

In 2024 we raised £3560 during the year. This meant we could donate 60% of it to charities and good causes, to the sum of £2124, and each month also could give a cash prize to one of our subscribers, totalling during the year to £1416, an average of £118. Our only admin expense was £20 paid to TVBC to renew our licence to act as a lottery.

The organisations we have supported during the year have been our two churches, our Social Contact Group, The ServeDirect charity founded by the Dugdales in Africa, the Romsey Food Bank, the Countess Mountbatten Hospice, the Jane Scarth Cancer care charity in Romsey, the Jumbulance Trust, the Braishfield Guides, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Trust (two of these received two donations). These are hard times for many such organisations, and although our donations are small, (averaging £177) they are always gratefully received.

The 200 Club was established by Andrew Lalonde about twenty years ago to raise funds for the restoration of the Church Room. After his death I took over as the 'promoter' in 2009, and we broadened out its scope when the Church Room project was completed.

**Since then we have raised about £54000**, giving 60% each year to good causes (something over £30000), thanks to the generosity of our members – especially, perhaps, those who have never received a month's prize! The winners are picked at random each month by myself and our two 'certifiers', Tom Greenwood and Graham Bennett, using a form of random choice involving three bags of numbered golf balls. Sophisticated? No. Effective? Yes. Fair? Absolutely!

Prize winners in December and January were Andy Brooks and Vicky Dunn. We made our donations to the Romsey Food Bank and the Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity.

Members pay a minimum of £5 per month, or some multiple of that, usually by Standing Order from their banks. Barely two cups of Coffee. If you haven't, why not join us?

**David Robinson 01794 368774**  
**david.robinson1571@gmail.com**

## Village Clubs and Volunteers Fayre Sunday 9th February 2025

Please see the poster on the back cover for the Village Clubs and Volunteers Fayre, being organised by the Parish Council and the BVA on Sunday 9th February 2.00 – 4.30 in the Village Hall.

We are delighted to have around 30 village clubs and organisations signed up, so please do make it worthwhile and come along and see what opportunities there are to get involved with, either as a volunteer or a participant!

We have tried hard to contact all the groups and organisations in the village, but please – if you run a group or organisation and would like to have a table to encourage new members or volunteers and we haven't been in touch, contact **Richard Brazier on [rdbrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:rdbrazier@hotmail.com)**.

We also intend to have a suggestions board, so if there are any activities that aren't currently happening that you would like to see and would support, please come and let us know and we'll do our best to help take it forward.

Who would have thought there was so much to do in our little village!

Please send in your photographs of our beautiful village – I'm always looking for new ones to use on the front cover. They should be clearly identifiable as being of Braishfield and featuring scenes and wildlife, not people!

– The Editor

# Sing Along

All welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday\* of each month during 2025 at All Saints Church Room, Braishfield.SO51 0QH. Starting at 2.30pm until 4.00pm we will be singing some of your favourite songs and providing song sheets should you wish to sing along with us.

We would welcome anyone including those with disabilities, carers, friends. We will serve Coffee, Tea and Biscuits at the end and our wish is that you enjoy the time together.

*\*April 2025 2nd Monday. No session in July and August.*

Hosted by Braishfield  
Ukulele Musical Society.



This is a free event.

If you would like more information or perhaps book us for an event contact:  
[jhldalton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhldalton@hotmail.co.uk)

## Report from Cllr Sally Yalden, Borough Councillor

I hope this message finds you well. Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

In this edition, I wanted to focus on what will be a major shake-up in local government: devolution. Your thoughts on this matter are very important, so I encourage you to reach out and share your insights. I understand there is a current lack of awareness due to the limited communication from Hampshire County Council and the government's rushed announcements just before Christmas.

A week or so before Christmas, the government released a White Paper on devolution. The proposal includes granting additional powers and funding to regional mayors. You can find the full document on the government website.

On January 9th, Hampshire County Council held an Extraordinary Meeting where the leader and a majority of county councillors voted to request that county elections scheduled for this May be postponed for at least a year. They could also choose to defer for another year in May 2026. By the end of January, the County will know whether their request to join the 'fast-track' devolution programme has been accepted. It's important to note that postponing elections was not mandated by the government; it was a request from the leader of Hampshire County Council and the majority of county councillors.

What does it mean for us in Braishfield? Unfortunately, there are many uncertainties at the moment, and the process feels very hurried and unprepared. It is also happening in the middle of other major changes such as local planning reform. Essentially, all district and borough councils will be consolidated into a larger Strategic Authority, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of local representatives, but with a mayor at the top.

I have concerns that some of these proposals may weaken rather than enhance local democracy. For instance, mayors could have the authority to override local planning committee decisions, potentially disregarding the unique needs of rural communities like ours. It's crucial that our leaders are attuned to the specific requirements of their constituents, and we must consider who will hold these powerful mayors accountable. True devolution should amplify community voices and prioritise local governance from the grassroots up, rather than impose decisions from above. Real devolution means respecting the voices of communities and ensuring that local government is shaped from the bottom up – not the top down.

What about those councils who have already gone through local government reorganisation and become larger authorities? In respect of the financial year 2024-25 the government agreed to provide 19 councils with support to manage financial pressures and of those listed, 15 of those are unitary (larger) authorities and continue to struggle even after local government reorganisation.


Finally, if you have any issues relating to Test Valley Borough Council, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Cllr Sally Yalden**

**Email: [CllrSYalden@TestValley.gov.uk](mailto:CllrSYalden@TestValley.gov.uk)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cllrsyalden](https://www.facebook.com/cllrsyalden)**

**07783 821561**



**BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY**  
PROGRAMME – 2025

23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Annual General Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>'As if by magic'</b> Demonstration by Carole Stables
27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>'Reason to be cheerful'</b> Demonstration by Allison Finch
24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Workshop</b> Mala Williams
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>'Fashion Trends'</b> Demonstration by Irene Hickson
26 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>'It's a Wonderful Life'</b> Demonstration by Julie Richardson
24 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Summer Party</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>'Autumn is coming'</b> Demonstration by Carole Norman
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>'Homes and Gardens 1920 – 1930'</b> Speaker – Gillian Pelton
27 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Open Evening – 'The Colours of Christmas'</b> Demonstration by Lucy Ellis

**Meetings take place 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month at 7.30pm All Saints Church Rooms, Braishfield. Visitors and new members always welcome. Check out our website for further details: [www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)**

## Braishfield Parish Council

Applications are warmly invited to fill a vacant councillor position that has arisen on the Parish Council.

Are you interested in being actively involved in local Climate issues, Planning matters, the Natural Environment, Communications, Roads and Transport?

Basically, everything that impacts our local community!

We understand how busy life can be so want to make your time commitment clearer. It will vary depending on the issues at hand, and your level of involvement. On average, a parish councillor might expect to work around **1 to 2 hours per week**, but this can fluctuate. Here's a breakdown:

### 1. Regular Meetings

We have a monthly meeting starting at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month and the occasional extra planning meeting, which can last from **1 to 3 hours**. Councillors need time to prepare by reading reports or agendas in advance. You are allowed a holiday so will not be expected to attend every month!

### 2. Community Engagement

Many councillors engage with residents, attend local events, or follow up on community issues, which could add **1 hour** per week.

### 3. Training and Development

New councillors may need to attend induction training sessions or workshops, which can take up several hours, especially early in the role.

### 4. Special Projects

Working on specific parish projects, campaigns, or significant local issues that interest you, may require more time temporarily.

In general, the time commitment can be flexible. Some weeks may require minimal involvement, while others may need more hands-on work depending on the parish's needs and any pressing matters.

Please email me on [clerk@braishfield.org.uk](mailto:clerk@braishfield.org.uk) if you have any questions

or would like to apply

Jane Ray Clerk to Braishfield Parish Council

## Braishfield Pantry

Christmas all seems quite a long time ago now, but just wanted to say thank you to everyone who supported the Pantry over Christmas. It was really lovely to see all our groups getting together and enjoying our festive treats as well as shopping for gifts and interesting local produce. The Carols on the Rec had to make a swift move inside due to the weather but was a great turn out with many coming in for a browse.



The New Year brings a new look to the shop. We've had a bit of change around to accommodate a few more customers inside as well as rearranging the shelves - hopefully to make things easier to find, but if you can't find what you're looking for, our wonderful volunteers are always there to assist. We have also introduced a lunchtime 'Homemade Soup of the Day' which is served with a savoury scone or roll which can be eaten in or taken away. In



addition, we have a selection of sausage rolls, pies and vegetarian pastries available, so why not pop in for a spot of lunch?

There are a few new products in store such as trout pate from Butler County Estates in Winchester, also duck and quails eggs from Claytons in Wellow. We always strive to find local producers with quality products. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram to see what's new and our current offers.

As you probably know, the Pantry is a community shop which is a wonderful asset to our village.

*Steady and Strong group enjoying a cuppa*

Without the amazing volunteers we wouldn't be able to open so if you are able to help, new volunteers are always welcome. It can be as much or little time as you are able to offer. It's a great way to meet people and you can tick off that good deed!!

If you're interested in joining us, we will be open during the **Volunteers Fair on Sunday 9th February 2-4.30pm** where you can talk to some of our volunteers about what's involved. If you're unable to make the fair, just pop in or drop an email to [braishfieldpantry@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldpantry@gmail.com)



Affiliated to the Jumbulance Trust: registered charity No. 1090731

We do not usually do holidays in the winter months because there is no demand but will have a spring meeting to discuss our 2025 holidays and day trips followed by lunch when we can find a new venue – we very much miss Poppies at Choice Plants who hosted us.

The Jumbulance Trust nationally has a holiday this month to Norfolk led by Dr Joe O'Dwyer, a trustee. If anyone is interested or you know anyone/or a couple who are disabled - [www.jumbulance.org.uk](http://www.jumbulance.org.uk)

Our 2 holidays this year are to the accessible Marsham Court hotel, Bournemouth (new to us) with an indoor heated pool and hoist from Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – Mon 14<sup>th</sup> July, and to Windemere Manor Hotel, Cumbria with an accessible heated indoor pool from Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Both trips have 5 fully accessible twin or double rooms with wet rooms and other twin and single rooms with one step in the showers. Days out whilst on both holidays in our Jumbulance and one to one care by a volunteer nurse and carers.

Currently busy giving talks to Various Community Groups in Hants and W. Berks and raising much needed funds to subsidise these holidays. Thank you for the continued support of the Pantry and Community Shop and the Dog and Crook (it has accessible rooms) where we have Collection boxes. We really appreciate this support.

For more information contact me Chris Chisholm 01794 368120 or 0788 774 8224 Email [cookchriss@aol.com](mailto:cookchriss@aol.com) or the Jumbulance Trust for nationally run holidays [www.jumbulance.org.uk](http://www.jumbulance.org.uk)

## Braishfield Guides and Brownies



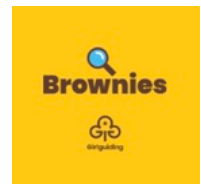
1st Braishfield Guides had great fun just before Christmas, Hoola hooping and some 'bounce fitness' for the evening.



We have been very fortunate to secure some funding from Test Valley Borough Council through the Councillor Community Grant Scheme and our thanks go to Cllr Sally Yalden for the award. It has enabled us to fund an activity for all the girls and we are very excited to be going "donutting" at Southampton's Alpine Ski Centre in March. We are having a film night in January with popcorn and drinks and in February, we are meeting for a pizza evening in Romsey. We are in the process of finishing our 'Social Action' challenge badge and looking forward to starting some engineering and science activities put together by engineers from The James Dyson Foundation in conjunction with Girlguiding South West England.

*We are a very friendly bunch and have lots of exciting activities and opportunities to meet up with other local guide groups for camps etc. If you are aged between 10-14 yrs and would like to come and join us, please email [guides.braishfield@gmail.com](mailto:guides.braishfield@gmail.com). Alternatively, if you would be interested in becoming a Young Leader (14-17 yrs) within our unit, then please email us for further information. Duke of Edinburgh volunteer placements can also be completed in our unit.*

Working in partnership with  
**Girlguiding** South West England | **THE JAMES DYSON FOUNDATION**  
**Girlguiding South West England**  
**and The James Dyson Foundation**  
40 engineering and science challenges from the engineers at Dyson



Join Braishfield Brownies, Where Girls have nonstop fun, learning and adventures. We're currently partnered with the James Dyson Foundation bringing Science and Engineering challenges to Brownies and Guides.

Come for a taster evening just contact us at [brownies.braishfield@gmail.com](mailto:brownies.braishfield@gmail.com) For all girls ages 7 to 10



## Braishfield Primary School

Greetings from Braishfield Primary School!

A belated Happy New year to everyone. The children thoroughly enjoyed the build up to Christmas last half term and taking part in the Nativity, Christmas Service at the church and our school Christmas Fayre. All of which were a great success and time for celebration.

Already this half term, the children have enjoyed opportunities to take part in their gymnastics lessons at the village hall as part of their PE. Saplings (our Y3/4 class) went on a trip to The Living Rainforest as part of their topic linked to the rainforest and enjoyed spotting the elusive sloth named Cinammon as well as many other creatures. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life.



Our youngest learners, (the Little Acorns) enjoyed learning about Diwali and receiving visitors to share their experiences of the celebration with them. Their art work was particularly enjoyable and very colourful!



Over the coming half term, our Y5/6 class are focusing on a topic linked to WWII and have been finding out about how and why it started, alongside reading a range of books and stories. They have demonstrated great respect for the topic whilst also asking insightful questions to help further their knowledge and understanding of it.

Please do look out for further information on any upcoming events or celebrations on our school website and in our newsletters.

Natalie Alldred, Acting Headteacher

## Sheep Matter at Elm Grove



So, here we are in January and the question asked every other month - what to write for the News?

Kate is busy every day and she knows intimately what is happening with the sheep. All we see is someone who is a very good shepherd doing what has to be done in order to keep the ewes in good condition and fit enough to cope with lambs when they arrive. The rams, well, they are now having their winter rest, in the hay barn, being fed goodies. They are in the barn as, unfortunately, they do not get on and if put out in a field they get at each other. Kate is hoping they will grow out of it!

The main item of interest is that The Scanning Lady has come today and Kate reports that she is very pleased with the number of lambs that are forecast. The result is 182% which means that nearly every ewe will have 2 lambs, averaged out; of course there will be singles and there will be triplets.

Kate will be separating the ewes into groups so that those carrying a lot of lambs will be fed more than those carrying just one, exciting times, leading up to lambing.

A couple of years ago, Kate and the girls went to Romsey Show to exhibit some lambs. The judges were impressed and advised Kate to plan for a few lambs to be born earlier in the year in order to better compete with the other lambs that were being shown which were more mature. So, this time, a few ewes were put to the ram before the others in order to have some lambs born in February; due on about the 15th, let's hope the weather isn't too dire!

Wendy Q

## Braishfield United Reformed Church

It seems late to wish everyone a Happy New Year but we will do so anyway though it is lovely to see early signs of spring on the way, especially since Easter is later this year.

We are pleased to say Braishfield United Reformed Church now has three elders. We were pleased to induct Sharon Whitfield (our treasurer as our third elder) during our December Holy Communion service. Many churches have elders meetings – elders help to ensure the churches are run as they should be – and Braishfield will hold its own such meetings regularly throughout the year.



The Toy Service went well. Many thanks to all who generously donated toys, which were collected by Southampton Social Services during our service on 8th December.

It was good to hear everyone in fine voice for the Carols by Candlelight afternoon. We have fine singers in Braishfield! We would like to thank all who decorated and undecorated the church for Christmas (the church always looks especially lovely for Advent and the festive season).



Our charity project for 2024 was the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. We were pleased to present our cheque to Rosemary Walker, their representative, during our service on Sunday, 19th January 2025. It was also lovely Chris Balchin joined us for this as he takes part in the Ride and Stride on our behalf.

Our Annual General Meeting will follow a short service on Sunday, 16th March 2025. We have found this format works well for church meetings.

For more details please contact:-

**The Ministers:**

The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA - 01794 512163

The Reverend Doctor Sarah Hall - 02380 768004

**Church Secretary/Elder:**

Shirley Smith - 01794 368447

**Elders:**

Allison Symes – 02380 262803

Sharon Whitfield – 01794 521937

## All Saints' Church

Thank you to everyone who came along to "Carols on the Rec" before Christmas.

The weather was unsettled but this did not deter a lot of people attending to hear the Chandlers' Ford BB Brass Band, and sing Carols in the Village Hall.

From Donations and the Sale of Mulled Wine, All Saints' Church will be sending £306.74 to Action for Children.



More information: [www.asbchurch.org](http://www.asbchurch.org) or contact

**Jane Bennett on 01794 368109**

## From Rev Tom...

Dear friends,

Life is full of the unexpected you know. Try this exercise and see if you can be surprised...

Find a piece of paper and pen, think of a number between 1 and 10 and write it down.

Multiply your answer by 9.

If you have a number with two digits, add them together.

Subtract 5.

Pick the letter of the alphabet that corresponds to your number (A is 1, B is 2 etc).

Think of a country that begins with that letter.

Take the next letter in the alphabet and think of an animal that begins with that letter.

Now I think that I can guess what most of you will have picked. The answer should be at the bottom of the page. Try it out on other people and see if you get the same response.

We are at the beginning of a new year and that is a time that naturally lends itself to thinking about fresh starts and renewal. It is the season for resolutions, some of which might even last until February! However, the grey skies quickly seem to say that life is 'business as usual' despite our initial enthusiasm. Now, I have been very struck by how much good news there is to celebrate, and it seems that despite the media's best efforts, there are things to be joyful about in life. So instead of thinking about losing weight, or taking up jogging, what about making a new resolution? What about resolving to find something joyful, something surprising in every day?

It seems to me that we often forget that God created a wonderful world for us, and He does not want us to live in it in a state of anxiety or pessimism. For sure, there are bad times as well as good, but each day holds its own surprise and we can only see, hear, or feel it when it comes if we are looking out for it. So let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, because it will open a new place in our hearts, where we can welcome new friends and begin to change our world..... one day at a time.

God bless,

Tom

PS – is your animal an elephant by any chance?

## Braishfield Garden Club



Our first meeting of the year was with Ray Broughton, who was formerly Director of Horticulture at Sparsholt College. His talk was on New and little known Vegetables and Herbs. Roy is always so enthusiastic, with new, unknown, and interesting facts to keep us up to date with vegetable growing. His talk started with advice on various fertilizers, the use of Nutripots and smart seed. He also impressed on us the importance of knowing your soil type and when to apply fertilizer. Techniques for limiting pest damage included horticultural, planting *Tropaeolum* or *Tagetes*, biological, introducing two spot ladybirds against whitefly, and mechanical, covering tomatoes with fleece to protect from blight. He also showed us some novel ways to grow potatoes, onions and carrots. He finished his talk with a review of the latest varieties of various herbs which were not only useful culinarily but also decorative.

### Future meetings

**FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup> – Guy Deakins - 'How to commit the perfect murder' -**

A talk about feeding the garden.

Guy is head gardener for the Duke of Wellington at Stratfield Saye and his amusing talk covers ways to get the best from your soil.

**MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> Fran Clifton – 'A day in the life of a Head Gardener' –**

Fran will talk about her years of planning, planting and managing the gardens and Arboretum at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

**BRAISHFIELD GARDEN CLUB – SUMMER SHOW – SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**

It's not too early to start thinking and planning of your exhibits

All meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7.30.

## Social Contact Group

Once again we visited Steff's Kitchen at Fairweathers Garden Centre, Beaulieu for our delicious Christmas lunch. After a lovely drive through winter sunshine we were welcomed very warmly by the staff into a very happy atmosphere. The tables were decorated with crackers & we were all given Father Christmas Hats to wear, however, they were all removed before this photo was taken!



Whilst our trip to Fairweather's was a return visit, we have new ideas planned for 2025 with the first one in January and if you would like to join our very friendly group, please don't feel lonely. just give me a call on 368339.

Hazel Prince

**POP-UP MARKET 2025**  
ROMSEY COUNTRY MARKET

**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

LAST SATURDAY	10.30 AM TO 12.30 PM	BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE HALL
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romseycountrymarkets@gmail.com

You can't get more local than Romsey Country Market. A local co-operative community market where everything is GENUINELY HOME PRODUCED

### 2025 Market Dates

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

14th & 28th February	11th & 25th July
14th & 28th March	12th & 26th September
11th & 25th April	10 & 24th October
9th & 23rd May	14th & 28th November
13th & 27th June	5th, 12th, 19th December

**Braishfield Village Hall, Braishfield, SO51 0PN**  
Last Saturday of a Month 10.30- 12.30

22nd February	26th July
29th March	30th August
26th April	27th September
31st May	25th October
28th June	29th November

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

1st March	2nd August
5th April	6th September
3rd May	4th October
7th June	1st November
5th July	6th December





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- *They can set any existing stains.*

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## RUBBISH NEWS

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



**Recycle** rubbish on:

**FRIDAY** 14th, 28th February & 14th, 28th March

**Household waste** rubbish on:

**FRIDAY** 7th, 21st February & 7th, 21st March

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

Recycling Is Easy!

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

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

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

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

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

[www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling](http://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling)

**Brown Bin Recycling Tips**

« Ensure your recyclable items are clean and dry.  
« Don't bag your items – keep them loose or they won't be recycled!  
« Don't put other plastics (pots, tubs, trays) in your bin – we can only recycle plastic bottles.

« If in doubt, have a look at the recycling guide:

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

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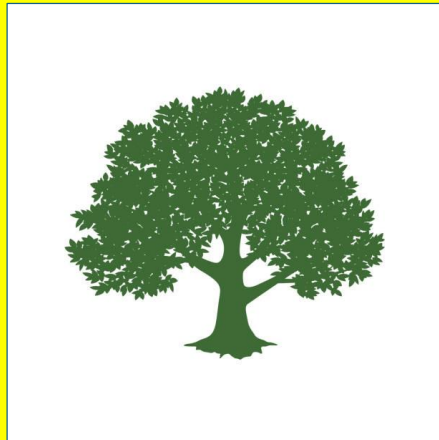
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Braishfield Village Hall**

**2.00 – 4.30 p.m.**

**The Pantry will be open!**

**Come along and find out what there is for YOU in  
YOUR village!**



**Get Involved in 2025!**