



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 263
December
2023



The new Junior Road Safety Officers. See p.21

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

Braishfield Village Association

COMMITTEE 2023

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BVA & Parish Council website: www.braishfield.org

Website	As above	Carolyn Ward
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Church Room	BraishfieldChurchRoom@ googlemail.com or 368015	Wendy Quarendon
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Village Hall	katel.knight@googlemail.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 19th January 2024**

Front cover: Braishfield Primary School

From the Chair

What a long but busy day !

Just back from the Artisan market which was well supported with lots of new faces, so the advertising did its job !!

It was a shame that there wasn't more support from the Village but thanks to those who did pop in .

If you haven't been before, do give it a go next time. Don't think Fete, Fayre or Jumble Sale. It's full of good quality items that would make ideal Christmas gifts.

Our next event is our New Years day walk (see the details on page 10). I note Ian, our committee member, has 'gone large' this year and is incorporating a treasure hunt into the potter around the village. Sounds like a great one for the children, so bring the whole family along to get some fresh air, work off those mince pies and get those brains back in gear after all of those Christmas repeats.

Looking further ahead, put the 18th May in your diaries as we team up with BMADS to put on a murder mystery evening. Planning is in the early stages, but there are lots of ideas being thrashed out and it sounds as though it's going to be an entertaining evening.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

Bye for now , Julie

p.s. Don't forget the BVA AGM is on 23rd January 2024 - all welcome!

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.

Notices

Braishfield Parish Council

Next meeting will be on the
5th December at 7pm in the
Village Hall

Braishfield Village Association

will hold its AGM on
TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY
Village Hall
7.00pm
All welcome

Braishfield Village Hall

2022-2023 AGM

Thursday 7th December @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Your opportunity to share a review of the year and financial accounts
All very welcome



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

DEADLINE DATES FOR BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS 2024

Jan 19 for FEB
Mar 22 for APR
May 24 for JUN
July 19 for AUG
Sep 20 for OCT
Nov 22 for DEC

Braishfield Village Voices.....



All welcome – please join us for a Christmas sing – all sorts of
seasonal music with plenty of good humour and the all-important
refreshment break and time for chat, partway through the
afternoon.

Monday December 11th 2 – 4pm in the Church Room
Dates for 2024 – same time and place
Mondays...January 22nd /February 26th /March 25th

Please contact Meri 368516 / Wendy 368015 for further details

**MURDER
MYSTERY**



Who dunnit?

The Braishfield Village Association (BVA) together
with Braishfield Music and Drama Society (BMADS) are jointly putting on
a Murder Mystery evening on Saturday 18th May 2024 in the village hall.

Plans are still in the early stages, but this is a call for any budding actors
or actresses who might like to join BMADS in the acting side. No
previous experience is needed – just the willingness to get in character
and have a laugh! Please get in touch with me below if you'd like more
information.

It not, then please put the date in your diary now for what should be a
fun village evening! More details to follow in due course when we know
what they are!

Kate Marshall

kate.marshall@quarendon.net

Braishfield Ukulele Musical Society

Christmas Events

Christmas Songs and Carols to sing along to. Everyone invited to come and join us at 7.00pm on Monday 11th December. Bring your own drinks, we will provide light refreshments.



Dementia Sing Along, Christmas Special, come and sing some favourite Christmas Songs and Carols. All invited to join us at 2.30pm on Monday 18th December. Tea, Coffee and biscuits.

Both events at All Saints' Church Rooms, Braishfield. SO51 0QH. Parking, Disabled Access, Toilets, warm and comfortable venue.



Both are free events. If you would like to make a donation to cover expenses and donate to our chosen charity, "Alfie's Wish" this would be appreciated.

All Saints Church invite you to ...

Get in the mood for Christmas!
Come and sing Carols on the
Recreation Ground
with Chandlers Ford BB Band

Friday 22nd December 6.30pm - 7.15pm

[Bring light to read your carol sheet!]

Hot Diggerty Dogs - Hot Dogs, Burgers,
Chips etc 5.00 - 7.30pm

Pantry open for shopping, and refreshments from 5.30pm
Donations in Aid of Action for Children

Donations



We would like to thank all those who donate toward the cost of Braishfield Village News. We welcome any support you can give us to keep the magazine viable in 2023. This can be a ONE OFF PAYMENT or a MONTHLY STANDING ORDER. If you wish to make a donation please complete the slip below and send with your donation to:-

BVA Treasurer
Kate Marshall

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

Name (please print)

Address.

.....

Postcode.

Tel: EMAIL:

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

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

Account name: Braishfield Village Association.

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



THANK YOU

All Saints' Church
 Parish Giving Scheme / Charities Aid Foundation **£30209**
 Sunday Services/ Online/ Visitors box **£6570**
 Legacy **£7500**
 200 Club **£363**
 Other donors **£974**
 HIHCT **£133**

...for all your donations in 2022 to All Saints' Church and to good causes.

Charities and good causes
 Jumbulance **£118**
 Mission to Seafarers **£152**
 BUSG **£1720**
 Cruse **£165**
 Poppy Appeal **£230**
 Action for Children **£307**
 Children's Society **£164**

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Come and join us for carol singing on 17th December at 3 pm. Would love to see you there.




CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
Sunday 17th December – Saturday 30th December

We are delighted that with Christmas being such a special time for children, the Children's Christmas Tree Festival will again take place at All Saints Church, Braishfield between Sunday 17th December and Saturday 30th December. The festival is yet again another opportunity to give All Saints Church a Christmassy feel and bring much needed joy to the festive period.

Children of any age are invited to enter a tree and previous festivals have shown how imaginative children can be! Trees can be of any medium but not taller than 4ft and any lights must only be battery operated. Trees should be brought and placed in the Church on Saturday 16th December between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm. There is no charge for entering a tree. We are only able to accommodate 10 trees so please help us to make this event a success by encouraging your children to enter.

Any donations raised from viewing will this year go towards funding Sparks Club at Braishfield School and Messy Church.

For further information and to obtain an entry form, please contact
 Carole Renvoize on stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com
 Or pick up an entry form from All Saints Church

Organisers: Stephen Treglown (01794 502150) and Carole Renvoize (01794 368766)

The
 BVA are looking for sponsors for the forthcoming Residents Guide - due to be published in 2024. If anyone would like to donate towards the printing costs of this and have their business or personal contribution recognised within, please contact a member of the BVA at the latest by **31ST JANUARY 2024.**

BVA - New Year's day Walk AND

TREASURE HUNT

MONDAY 1ST Jan 2024

Meet at 10:15AM – OUTSIDE THE CHURCH ROOMS

For 2024, we've decided to mix it up a bit!! Not just a walk, but a family themed 'fun treasure hunt' aimed at all ages.

You'll need to have your wits about you and spot various things around the village....and maybe find some items en route.

It will take place on the roads around our beautiful village and all are welcome. More details will be available on the day but please join us for this fun event.

Please stay on afterwards for a warming drink, nibbles and a chat at the Church Rooms.



*Christmas Greetings to All residents
And A Happy New Year
From
HCC Cllr Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division*

The Braishfield 200 Club

News of two more winners in our monthly draw: Mark Sands and Chris Wyers are just a little bit richer! We made donations to All Saints Church and the Romsey Food Bank. We thought that the Food Bank was particularly appropriate, given that Christmas is approaching, and it seems we were right! When I took them the cheque (for £189) the young lady whom I spoke to was quite delighted. It seems that they have a good supply of foodstuffs coming through, but a cash donation would be spent on little things like kids' toys to add a bit extra to their Christmas hampers. Nice to think that we have contributed that. (Even if the toys are broken just after breakfast!)

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



Results of the village survey on the future of Braishfield

Thank you to those who contributed to the village survey for the Neighbourhood plan. There were 125 respondents. Your opinions will form the basis of a statutory addition to the planning rules for the village.

A meeting will be held on **Monday December 4th at 7.30pm** in the Community Room of the Village Hall to present the results of the survey and what happens next.

All are welcome.

Report from Cllr Sally Yalden, Borough Councillor

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous festive season.

It was good to see many residents at the rural crime meeting. For those who were unable to attend, notes from the meeting are available from the Parish Council's website. Sergeant Ross spoke well at the meeting and to quote him, "please do continue to report or share any intelligence with the Police, however trivial". One of the helpful contributions which I took away were details of the initiative Secured By Design (SBD) www.securedbydesign.com. It is the official police security initiative that works to improve the security and safety of buildings and their immediate surroundings.

Unfortunately, dog fouling in the village is an ongoing concern for many residents who have contacted me about it. Having involved TVBC's Animal Welfare Officer for help (Rod Mason), he reminded us of our responsibility as dog owners to clean up and ensure we are always aware of what our dog(s) is/are doing. Rod also reminded us that if a person in charge of a dog allows it to foul and does not clean up after, that person may receive a fixed penalty spot fine, or be summoned to appear in court. Rod is also concerned about the 'stick and flick' campaign of the Forestry Commission as it "flies in the face" of what TVBC is trying to achieve with some members of the public trying it in areas where it is not applied.

On a positive note, thanks to our residents Nikki and Leigh, Braishfield Primary School has taken the initiative to talk about the issue with pupils and for them to design a poster with a suggestion that one of the designs is erected as a reminder for people to ensure where we live, work or visit is a clean and safe place.

I attended the public consultation of the proposed redevelopment of Hillier Brentry Nursery. For those who were unable to make the event, details are available online by visiting www.highwoodgroup.co.uk/hillier-brentry/

My views are clear: there is an existing Local Plan process for allocating housing sites. Test Valley Borough Council already has a 5-year housing land

supply. The proposal is outside of the agreed Local Plan and it is in an area designated as countryside. The proper time to debate this is when TVBC is developing the next version of the Local Plan when all the potential new housing sites across Test Valley can be assessed against each other. For further clarity, the site is not Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, but a collaboration between Hillier Nurseries which is a commercial business and a housing developer.

Best wishes for the New Year!
Sally

Cllr Sally Yalden
cllrsyalden@testvalley.gov.uk

Braishfield Parish Council

In Case of Emergency

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

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

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

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

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

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

BMADS REVIEW

Triolet musicians warm up October evening at All Saints'

The latest in an occasional series of concerts organised by BMADS took place on Saturday 28th October. Despite driving rain, a capacity audience turned out to fill All Saints' Church to see and listen to the remarkable 'Triolet' - Gabi Maas, violin and nyckelharpa (of which more below), Paul Hutchinson, accordion, and Braishfield regular favourite, viola player Sophie Renshaw.

Together they played an engaging sequence of folk and folk-inspired pieces - some upbeat, others soulful, many rhythmically lively and foot tapping. All were entertainingly introduced by the musicians, whose backgrounds embrace classical and folk traditions. Their combination of instruments worked particularly well in the warm acoustic of the church.

The music they played came from both home and abroad, including Sweden from where originates the nyckelharpa, a kind of 'keyed fiddle' much used in Swedish folk music typically played at dances, parties and weddings. As explained by Gabi, some of the notes on the instrument are inclined to stick in damp weather. But her skilful playing and on-the-spot improvised transposition allowed her to avoid the diciest notes!

At the beginning, the audience on arrival was greeted with a glass of something to take to their pews and the musicians then played their set in a continuous sequence, lifting the collective mood on a dark, damp October evening, with plenty of enlivened conversation at the end.

As ever, thanks are due to our wonderful musicians, the church for providing such an atmospheric venue, and Wendy Quarendon who planned and organised the event as she has with all these BMADS-sponsored concerts over the years.

Richard Groves

Farley Chamberlayne First World War Deaths.

From John Rawson-Smith's book of Farley Chamberlayne I learned that in July 1921 a new porch and wooden memorial at St. John's Church were dedicated to the 8 men of Farley who gave their lives for us in this dreadful conflict. A year later the Armistice was commemorated by planting the lime trees that now form the avenue approaching the church.

As I stop and read the names of those who died I wonder about the circumstances of these men. Who were they, what of their lives before they left to fight? Who were left to grieve their deaths? After more than 100 years it can be difficult to trace this information with confidence but I have been able to determine that:

Frederick Brown (No. G/492) was only 24 years old and single when he was killed in action in March 1916. He had enlisted at Chichester in August 1914 and joined the 7th Bn. of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Frederick had been born in Braishfield, the son of Frederick and Elizabeth Brown. In 1911 he had been living at Taunton Vale with his father, brother and 3 sisters, the eldest of whom looked after the house as their mother had died in 1904. He was working as a woodman, similar to his father. He is also remembered at the Lievin Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

William Henry Noble (No. 6876) would have been 32 years old and single when he was killed in action in October 1916. He had enlisted at Winchester and joined the 23rd Bn. of the London Regiment. William had been born at Woodgreen near Fordingbridge, the son of William, a farm carter, and Sarah Noble. In 1911 he was living at the family home at Ganger Farm with his parents and 5 brothers and was working as a domestic gardener. He is also remembered at the Thiepval Memorial for the missing of the Somme in France.

Thomas Rodbourne (No. 25811) would have been just 20 when he was killed in action in September 1916. He had enlisted in Croydon at the home of his uncle having earlier tried locally but failed due to being under age, he joined the 8th Bn. of the Royal Fusiliers. William Thomas Rodbourne had been born at Faringdon Berkshire, the son of William, a cowman, and Sarah Rodbourne. In 1911 he was living at home with his parents and brother in Ratlake and was working as a farm labourer. He is also remembered at the Arras Memorial in France.

John Simpson (No. 10313) was 27 years old and single when he died of wounds suffered in the Balkans in December 1915 where he had been reported as a

prisoner of war. He had enlisted at Winchester and joined the 10th Bn. of the Hampshire Regiment. John Wade Simpson had been born at Harrogate, Yorkshire and in 1911 was living at home at Ripley with his parents, Tom and Elizabeth Simpson, a brother and 2 sisters. It is unclear why he was living in the Farley area when he joined up; he possibly had relatives here and moved to find employment as a gamekeeper, like his father. He is also remembered at the Sofia War Cemetery in Bulgaria.

Arthur William Viney (No. 14958) was 28 years old and married when he was killed in action in March 1918. He had enlisted at Romsey and joined the 2nd Bn. of the Hampshire Regiment. Arthur had been born in Durnford Wiltshire, the son of Arthur, a farm stockman, and Elizabeth Viney. In 1911 he was living at Gorely, near Fordingbridge while his parents, brother and 2 sisters were living at Upper Slackstead. Arthur was a cowman and in 1912 had married Hilda Burbage at Ringwood; his death very sadly left a 24 year old war widow and 3 small children. Arthur is also remembered at the Oxford Road Cemetery, Leper in Belgium.

Alfred Stephen Wells (Nos. 2559 & 5523). When Alfred was killed in action in August 1916 he was only 21 years old and single. He had enlisted at Southampton and initially joined the 5th Hampshire Regiment but subsequently joined the 2/8th Bn. of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Alfred had been born at Farley and was one of two sons lost by his parents, James who was a gardener, and Mary Wells. Of six sons and a daughter Alfred had been the youngest. In 1911 he was living at home in Cupernham with his parents and a brother and working as a grocery errand boy. Alfred is also remembered at the Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery at La Gorgue in France.

William Thomas Wells (No. 267064) would have been 28 years old and still single when he was killed in action in September 1918, just 2 months before the Armistice. He had enlisted at Romsey and joined the 18th Bn. of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Thomas had also been born at Farley and was the second son to be lost by James and Mary Wells. In 1911 Thomas was a shepherd and living as a boarder at Hursley Park. Thomas is also remembered at the Sailly-Labourse Communal Cemetery Extension at Pas de Calais, France.

James Wells, father of Alfred Stephen and William Thomas, did not live to suffer the loss of two of his sons, he died in 1915. Their poor Mother saw the loss of 3 men in her family in the space of just 3 years.

Frederick Fletcher (No. 21254) was just 21 years old and single when he died in

April 1917 as a result of wounds suffered in Flanders the year before. Frederick had enlisted at Salisbury and joined the 2nd Bn. of the Wiltshire Regiment. He had been born in East Knoyle Wiltshire, the son of Henry, a farm worker, and Amy Fletcher and in 1911 was living at East Knoyle with his parents and extended family where he was working as a shepherd. He was living in the Romsey area when he enlisted. Frederick is also remembered at the Bucqvoy Road Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France.

These are not simply names on a memorial, they were men from the village who were loved but gave their lives for us. They had parents and maybe siblings, wives or girlfriends and close friends who were heartbroken, who missed them and grieved dreadfully for them. Each time we walk down the avenue of lime trees we should remember these men because we owe them.



MW 6/23

Social Contact Group

Recently, our group has been incredibly fortunate in receiving two very generous donations.

A chance meeting with a Member of The Rotary Club of Romsey Test expressed interest in our Group. Fortuitously and completely out of the blue, we have received a generous donation from them for which we are greatly appreciative.

At the beginning of August I attended a meeting on our Group's behalf at Crosfield Hall which was organised by T.V.B.C. Their aim is to assist local projects and groups such as ours in the community. With help from T.V.B.C the application process was straightforward. We are indebted to Cllr. Sally Yalden for her help and endorsement in our application which has led to a very generous donation to our funds. Once again, we are extremely appreciative.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Lunch in December and

plans are underway for next year.

Please do not feel lonely, just give me a call on **368339** about joining our very friendly group, you would be warmly welcomed.

Hazel Prince

*All the Members of our Social Contact Group
wish everyone a Happy & Peaceful Christmas
and a Happy & Healthy New Year.*



Braishfield Pantry

Christmas News

Christmas is nearly with us and here at the Pantry we have worked really hard to provide the right stock for those carefully considered items and those last-minute gifts we all need. To provide some unique items we have managed to obtain some "Braishfield Sloe Gin, alongside "Peach and Damson" and Blood Orange Liquors. We are also re introducing the super popular "Lemon and Lime Drizzle" gin, again branded from the Braishfield Pantry which makes it an ideal gift for grown-ups!



If that doesn't tempt you then our award winning Braishfield Bangers, would make an ideal centerpiece for that all important Boxing day breakfast.

Our Christmas draw is making a spectacular return, spend £20 in one transaction to get a free entry ticket. The draw will take place in early December, and the winner will receive some festive goodies, very useful at this time of year.

Our in house "Sharons cakes" production is swerving towards Christmas with some lovely tasty seasonal offerings. Christmas slices, un-iced Christmas cake, and a quiche with a Christmas twist will all be along over the coming few weeks, why not pop in and give them a try.

This year's Christmas order form is available now and we would be very grateful if you could return them by 2nd December. Its all top quality and locally produced, and includes Turkeys at last year's prices!!

The Pantry will be open in the mornings in the period between Christmas and the new year. We will be having our own little sale during this time so please come and enjoy a well deserved coffee and cake and take a look !.

And finally, thank you to all our customers, and our fantastic group of volunteers who help make the Pantry the success it is. On

behalf of the team we hope you have a great Christmas and an even better 2024.

The Pantry team.



Christmas at the Pantry



Christmas Opening at the Pantry 2023

Monday 18 th	0900-1630
Tuesday 19 th	0900-1630
Wednesday 20 th	0900-1630
Thursday 21 st	0900-1630
Friday 22 nd	0900-1630
Saturday 23 rd	0900-1300
Christmas Eve until Wednesday 27 th	Closed
Thursday 28 th	0900-1300
Friday 29 th	0900-1300
Saturday 30 th	0900-1300
New Year's Eve until Tuesday 2 January	Closed

Don't forget to collect your pre-ordered Turkeys and Hams on Saturday 23rd December **before midday**.

Christmas Hampers

Take the stress out of Christmas and create a hamper with all the delights that take your fancy and let Sharon, Gemma or Alison perform their magic and produce a beautiful gift for a loved one, or for yourself.

Other goodies include:

- Local seasonal jams, sauces & chutneys
- Stocking fillers
- Chocolates, sweets and biscuits
- Festive cheeses and crackers
- Olives and other savoury temptations

Local Tipples & Produce

We are stocking new Christmas drink ideas this year: Pantry Lemon and Lime Drizzle Gin and Test Valley gins; Wiltshire Liqueur Co. Christmas Liqueur and Braishfield Pantry flavoured gins; wines; and local beers, as well as plenty of soft drink alternatives. We will also have New Forest Smokery Trout Pate in the freezer, along with our Braishfield Bangers.



Free Range Turkeys and Gammon Joints

You can pre-order your Free-Range turkey breast roast supplied by Noah's Ark Farm, as well as your (uncooked) gammon joints, and award-winning chipolata sausages supplied by Greenfield Pork. Also order your cheeses, mince pies and Pantry Gin.



Braishfield Primary School

Greetings from Braishfield Primary School!

September

This month, our new Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) received their training. They are now equipped to provide support and safety guidance to others. Here they are, pointing out the



parking restrictions outside the school - we ask all our parents and carers to adhere to these! Children in Key Stage 1 also received training - on hand hygiene. They know how important it is to wash their hands and how to do this effectively. The safety of our learners is so important.

October

Our values are not just a 'nice idea', they are woven inextricably into all aspects of school life at Braishfield. Every day, every lesson, I could easily point out examples on show. From Winter, hanging up others' coats - unprompted, to Willow, caring for younger pupils in the playground - Kindness is on display everywhere. From Oliver & Alex D, working every day on their handwriting to swimmers in Oaks, overcoming their fears of the



water and (by the end of the lesson) jumping in and swimming strokes- we have Resilience in bucketloads! From Oscar, passing me someone's lost Poppy Appeal slap band to Sammy, reminding a friend who struggled in assembly to make good choices and listen to his advice- Honesty is a core value here.

When I show prospective parents around the school, like I did this Thursday, I do not have to ask my teaching staff to "put on a show" or the pupils to "make sure you make a good impression on our visitors"- they just do: because our Values are at the core of all we do.

Jim Cascarini, Headteacher

Braishfield Horticultural Society

GARDEN CLUB



Four club members entertained us for our 'Members Evening' in October. Fran gave an update on the new Glasshouse to be erected at the Sir Harold Hillier Garden. The new glasshouse will be positioned on the right side of the road heading into Braishfield where currently poly tunnels are positioned. The glasshouse has now received planning permission with work planned to commence in the New Year. It is hoped the modular building will be complete in April. It will have a new water tank and pump house along with integrated heating controls, all the green credentials required. The glasshouse will be rectangular, 4m high covering with a total footprint of 460 sq.m. The building will be divided between two, one side for growing plants and the other used as a storage and workshop.

What's in a name – Strelitzia commonly known as the Bird of Paradise Plant or crane flower by Steve. The plant originates from South Africa and was first introduced to Europe by Joseph Banks in the 18th century. Joseph Banks was known to Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz wife of King George III, Charlotte was very interested in gardening. Strelitzia reginae was named

in her honour. The specific epithet reginae means 'of the queen'.

Box / Buxus - many of us have been affected by the box caterpillar and box blight this year. Darren told how good garden hygiene can help by keeping the ground beneath the plant clear and to use a good mulch. The box moth caterpillar was first spotted in the UK in 2007. The caterpillars hide during the winter appearing in March / April, it then eats the leaves and produces webbing over their feeding area, leading to leaf defoliation. If seen, pick the caterpillars off, alternatively use a biological insecticide, nematodes or a moth trap. More information can be found on the European Boxwood Society website.

How many petals on a Sunflower and Fibonacci numbers with Geoff. Fibonacci also known as Leonardo of Pisa was an Italian mathematician of the middle ages. The Fibonacci sequence is the series of numbers where each number is the sum of the two preceding numbers, 0, 1, 1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 The golden ratio of 1,618 comes from this sequence. Many flowers have the Fibonacci numbers including the sunflower with its spiralling seed pattern. These spirals go clockwise and anti-clockwise.

Annual Apple competition – this year the award went to Sarah Boothman, well done Sarah.



The Society held its AGM in November when member were encouraged to attend and discuss the future of the society. Following the Chair and Treasurers report the Chair opened the meeting to members for discussion. An increase in subscriptions to the number of meetings held over the year along with the number of speakers. Following the AGM members took part in a short quiz followed by and a glass of wine and nibbles.

January 9th 2024 meeting – **The speaker in January will be Alan Baxter who will be talking about**

'Beekeeping and bees in the garden'.

The 2024 Programme of events will be available shortly on

www.braishfield.org/horticulturalsociety

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT OF READING

Greetings Braishfield friends from Uganda, where a few sparkly lights are starting to appear. As a rule, Christmas decorations and festive music don't officially take off till mid-December, which I find quite appealing in some ways!



Ever since childhood I've associated books with Christmas - exciting annuals, new fiction, stocking fillers and of course the magic of book tokens - the



absolute gift of reading. Back in the days of Volumes Bookshop, I really loved our run-up to Christmas with all the tables heaving with new stock & recommendations, desperately hoping I'd get some for Christmas too!

I'm writing this article from Gulu, northern Uganda, (near South Sudan), and on the very day of the BVN deadline! Jerry & I are here to visit the ServeDirect* Connect Centre where the team are working hard on an innovative and brilliant Mobile Library project. This takes mini Mobile Libraries (small 'library cupboards' on wheels), into local

primary schools where there are no reading books, no picture books - let alone a school library. Can you imagine being a primary teacher trying to develop your pupils' reading with no books?

ServeDirect loans mobile libraries to local schools, where the children are learning to read well - but cannot practise this vital skill. Each library holds 400 books. In 2024 we aim to roll out 30 more mobile libraries to local schools, who desperately want to join the scheme.

The real unique feature is that schools & teachers are trained, supported and mentored through the literacy process - it's no 'hit and run' approach - this has lasting impact on a whole school community.

Can you help us to support reading in local schools? If you'd like to be a part of this exciting literacy adventure, could you:

- Donate directly to ServeDirect via the website www.servedirect.org? Any amount, small or large will be spent 100% on children's books. (We have no overheads).
- Donate any unwanted board books, phonics books or softcover picture books (for 3-7 year olds) for us to bring out to Uganda. Gently used, clean condition please! Email elspeth@servedirect.org for drop-off info.

And last but not least, huge thanks to Braishfield Primary School for donating so many boxes of books earlier this year - an incredible gift!

Thank you in advance - wishing you all a very Happy, Book- Filled Christmas & Many Peaceful Reading Moments!

Elspeth & Jerry (Dugdale)

*ServeDirect is a small, Braishfield-based UK charity, supporting education & health projects in Gulu, Northern Uganda & Luwero District. More info on the website, on Facebook & Instagram: ServeDirect



Braishfield United Reformed Church

News From Braishfield URC

It was moving, as always, to be at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Many thanks to David Webster for laying the wreath and to Sharon Whitfield for reading on behalf of the church.

Many of you will know we usually have a Carols by Candlelight event on the Tuesday evening closest to Christmas. This year this will be on **Sunday 17th December at 3.00 pm**. There will be refreshments after this. The idea is to "trial" if an afternoon event works better than the old evening one. Please support us. We would love to see as many as possible.

In the run-up to this, Margaret Batchelor and Joan Glister will be running a raffle for a prize hamper. Please bring in contributions to the hamper – one per person please as that will soon fill up the hamper. (Donations can be brought into the church on a Sunday). Thanks in advance! Money raised from the raffle tickets will go to our charity for this year, *Mercy Ships*. The draw for the hamper will be made at the Carols by Candlelight event.

Also, there will be no service on Christmas Eve which falls on a Sunday. There **will** be the usual short service lasting for about half an hour on Christmas Day itself at 9.30 and this will be led by the Minister.

All of us at Braishfield URC wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't believe where the time has gone either!

For more details please contact:-

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

Church Secretary/Elder: Shirley Smith - 01794 368447

Elder: Allison Symes – 02380 262803



All Saints' Church

Dates for your diary

Sunday 3rd December 11am Thanksgiving, dedication and celebration for the Clock Tower followed by refreshments in the Church Room

16th December - 30th December Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 17th December 5.30pm Carol Service

Friday 22nd December Carols on the Rec 6.30-7.15pm with the Chandlers Ford BB Band (Hot Dogs from 5pm)

Sunday 24th December 4pm Christingle Service

Monday 25th December 10am Christmas Day Service

We do hope you can join us!

More information: www.asbchurch.org or contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109

* * * * *

From Rev Tom.....

Hello everyone,

Well, December has come around once more and by now the decorations are up (maybe), the presents are all sorted (probably not) and everything is all ready to go (definitely not). So looking back over 2023 we see plenty of change where we have welcomed people into our communities, said a farewell to others and we have got on with everyday life in that way that makes this community such a great place to be.

In the wider world, the war in Ukraine and the unfolding tragedy of the war in Gaza/Israel shock us daily, the rising cost of living has continued to be an issue for many people. Climate change protests and rail strikes featured regularly in the news. Here are some other events from 2023:

1st of January – A visit by Thor the Walrus to Scarborough harbour, North



Yorkshire overnight on New Year's Eve results in the town's New Year fireworks celebrations being cancelled to let the walrus rest for his journey to the Arctic. He was previously spotted at Pagham Harbour, Calshot, Hampshire in December 2022.

1st of May - Wind power is reported as the main source of electricity generation in the UK for the first three months of the year, overtaking gas.

6th of May - King Charles III was crowned.

2nd of June - Following a period of hot weather, thunderstorms and torrential rain bring flash flooding to parts of the UK.

16th of June - A hosepipe and sprinkler ban is announced for Kent and Sussex, after water demand hits record levels.

5th August - The 18th century Crooked House, once known as "Britain's wonkiest pub", is gutted by a fire. The pub is demolished two days later.

1st November - The 2024 British Soap Awards are cancelled for an undisclosed reason.

I am sure that once Father Christmas has visited, the presents are unwrapped and the Turkey has been eaten, 2024 will present its own challenges joys and concerns. Some we can predict (election year anyone?), and some will seem to come from nowhere. So wherever we are I would like us all to just..... pause.....take a breath. Take time to look around us, reflect and give thanks.

Look for glimpses of light rather than feel overwhelmed by the darkness.

At this time of year in our churches we talk about Jesus coming into the world as a light into the darkness. They are very familiar readings to many of us and there is a great comfort in them. Because in the nativity, God entered the world in the person of Jesus Christ. So, take time to enjoy the time of preparation in Advent, the mystery of the events of Christmas Eve, the joy of Christmas Day and the marking of a new year with all of its joys and challenges. Enjoy it all but let's find time and space in our hearts to commune with God, to be kind to each other and to ourselves.

So do have a very Happy Christmas and let's look forward to a new year together. God Bless, Reverend Tom Benson

Sheep Matter at Elm Grove



The main activity with the sheep, has been getting them ready for the Rams to go in with the ewes, making sure they are fit and well and organising the ewes into groups so that the right ram is with the right ewes, to achieve the best results possible.

You may have noticed the different colour markings on the rear end of some of the ewes. This is from the raddle paint painted onto their brisket, which gets transferred onto the back of the ewe when the Ram mounts her. This way Kate can see which of the ewes is potentially pregnant. The ewes you may have noticed because of their yellow markings are Lleyns in the allotment field, in with Hank, Kate's first Lleyne ram, none of these ewes being related to him.

These are the ewes that Kate is hoping will be pivotal to building up her pedigree flock. Hank's daughters are in the top field with the newer Ram who goes by the name of Kaiser Chief. There is a third group in the field over the road.

This is all a bit earlier than last year, so let's hope the weather is not too ghastly at the end of March when the lambs will be due.

Meanwhile life goes on and all the animals seem happy enough despite the copious amounts of rain!

Wendy Quarendon



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Last Saturday of a Month 10.30- 12.30

24th February

30th March

27th April

25th May

29th June

Romsey Town Hall Market
& Community Cafe

2nd & 4th Friday of a Month
10.30- 12.30

16th & 23rd February

8th & 22nd March

12th & 26th April

10th & 24th May

14th & 28th June

12th & 26th July

13th & 27th September

11th & 25th October

8th & 22nd November

6th, 13th & 20th December

27th July

31st August

28th September

26th October

30th November

Romsey Market at
The Corn Exchange

1st Saturday of a Month
8.30 - 3.00

2nd March

6th April

4th May

1st June

6th July (*)

3rd August

7th September (*)

5th October

2nd November

7th December (*)

(*) On These dates we will be by the statue
and not in our usual spot behind Barclays

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RUBBISH NEWS

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



Recycle weeks beginning MONDAY:

4th and 18th December

January TBA

Household waste weeks beginning MONDAY:

27th Nov & 11th and 25th December

January TBA

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

Recycling Is Easy!

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

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

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

«Glass bottles and jars «Textiles «Aluminium foil

«Cartons «Books and media

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

www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling

Brown Bin Recycling Tips

« Ensure your recyclable items are clean and dry.

« Don't bag your items – keep them loose or they won't be recycled!

« Don't put other plastics (pots, tubs, trays) in your bin – we can only recycle plastic bottles.

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

www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide



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