



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 264
February 2024



Waxwing visitors spotted in and around Braishfield this January

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

Braishfield Village Association

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

Latest copy date for the next issue is: **Friday 22nd March 2024**

Front cover: *Ian Wells*

From the Chair

Firstly , let me wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you have come through this very wet and windy start to 2024 unscathed.

Thank you to those of you that joined us on 23rd January for our AGM. Unfortunately it is a formality that has to be undertaken, but in usual BVA style, we managed to rattle through it in a short space of time leaving the rest of the evening for drinking, eating and socialising (yes, free wine and snacks, do come and say hello next year!).

Unfortunately for us, after many years on the Committee, Sheila Still has decided to call it a day and step down. With 23 years as Treasurer and 5 years as Vice Chair under her belt, the Village has benefitted greatly from her longstanding service and she has brought great knowledge, hard work, fun and enthusiasm to all that the BVA do. She will be sadly missed, but we thank Sheila and wish her well for the future .

On a more serious note, please have a read of the letter from Chris Balchin on p.4 regarding Bunny Lane recycling centre. It is so useful to have a recycling centre on our doorstep. I use it regularly and would find it a real inconvenience to have to travel to Eastleigh or Winchester. Please don't just assume that someone else will object and all will be well. If you want it to remain open then please, have your say.....

Bye for now , Julie.

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

Letters

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

Dear Editor

Every Tuesday the ladies from The Steady and Strong group amble into our lovely Pantry for a welcome cuppa and a chat.

One lady was heard to say what an asset the shop is, how well we are all served and the variety of amazing festive merchandise.

We all agreed and I have been reflecting on just how fortunate we all are to have this invaluable resource in our village. The shop is stocked with essentials and local goodies and the fabulous bakery items made by Sharon who works so hard to keep us happy.

Thank you too to the dedicated volunteers who are always ready to cheer us.

Judy Thorpe
Rivendell
Common Hill Road

BUNNY LANE CLOSURE

Dear Villagers,

You may have noticed that HCC are planning reductions to the cost of running their recycling centres. Under threat is our site at Casbrook, Bunny Lane.

The site is a Tier 3 which are smaller sites, operationally challenging, investment required.

If the Bunny Lane site is closed we will have to travel to either Eastleigh or Winchester as our nearest sites. The council are running a consultation period until 31 March asking for the public’s comments.

Please read the council’s proposal via:
<http://tinyurl.com/33j5b4yb>

Voice your concerns if you value the Bunny Lane site in the surveys link.:
<http://tinyurl.com/4fw3bv3p>

Chris Balchin [see also p.9]

Notices



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

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



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 Village Voices.....



A welcome to 2024 from Braishfield Village Voices!!

We're celebrating ten years of Village Voices this year – from a little idea, a great group of singers has grown!

Our next sessions are Monday February 26/ March 25/April 22
and as always, in the Church Room 2 – 4 pm.

There's lots of songs of many varieties, plenty of good humour with absolutely no musical /singing training needed – we sing together for fun, with the all-important break for refreshments and chat, partway through the afternoon.

Please contact Meri 368516 / Wendy 368015 for further details

BVA UPDATE ON FINANCES

Those of you who attended the Braishfield Village Association (BVA) AGM at the end of January will have heard me talk about the finances of the BVA. I mentioned that each edition of the Village News costs around £410 to produce, which equates to around £6.50 per household per year. Whilst we are fortunate to have a steady income from advertising revenue, this does not cover the cost of producing the News. In fact, the shortfall between advertising revenue and the cost of producing the News was around £1,500 in 2022 and 2023 combined. Similarly, for 2024 we are currently looking at a shortfall of around £720 for the year.

We currently have around £5,700 in the bank. This sounds like a lot, but could fairly quickly be eroded by the cost of producing the News. The BVA also likes to be able to sponsor village events and causes – for example, most of the free of charge village celebrations for the royal occasions of recent years were partly funded by the BVA. We also made a substantial donation towards the cost of replacing the village notice boards in 2022.

Our coffers are kept topped up by our fund-raising events and the donations

people make to the BVA. A HUGE thank you to everyone who donates. It really does make a difference and helps to keep the show on the road. There is a form printed in each BVN which explains how you can donate. Additionally, if you know of a local business who would like to advertise in the News, do contact me or the editor, Wendy Dolby-Stevens at bvneditor@gmail.com. Please also look out for our fund-raising events and support them if you can. The next one is a Murder Mystery evening in conjunction with BMADS in the Village Hall on Saturday 18 th May. More details to follow but why not get a group together, dust off your deer-stalkers and spend the evening playing sleuth!

Thankyou!

Kate Marshall
BVA Treasurer
braishfieldva@gmail.com

Donations towards the cost of the Braishfield Village Association can be made:

By cheque to Braishfield Village Association and dropped into Worsley Lodge, Common Hill Road (opposite the school)

Or by bank transfer to:

Account name: Braishfield Village Association

Sort code: 30-97-14

Account number: 31483060

**YOUR
VILLAGE NEWS
NEEDS
YOU!**



CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

All Saints Church Braishfield again looked especially nice for Christmas this year with the Flower Group and the Children combining their talents to decorate the church prior to the candlelit carol service and festive period. The children's festival is now firmly entrenched and as younger souls regularly arrive, it is an opportunity for them to connect with the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Our thanks go to the following who bought their trees together with a theme...

Ben Russell Connecting at Christmas
Messy Church Nativity
Sparks Club Nativity Animals
Lucy Rocques Christmas Tree
The Morey's & Coughlin's A Woodland Christmas
Braishfield Primary School Christmas Book Club

Yet again, I am especially indebted to Carole Renvoize for all her efforts in arranging the advertising around the village and overseeing the entry forms etc. All of us look forward and hope that there will continue to be the interest shown from children bringing their trees ...and ideas.....next December.

*Stephen
Treglown*



NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK AND TREASURE HUNT

Having rained early in the morning (and a lot during the previous weeks), we were blessed with good weather the whole time people were walking.

Thank you to the 39 adults and children who took part in the treasure hunt. I'm pleased to say, **nearly** all managed to complete it (I won't name and shame) and there were some excellent examples of round or smooth objects that needed to be found en-route. I was amazed to be handed berries, a conker and even part of a car, so well done! Equally, it was lovely to see several non-villagers coming along.

There will be another hunt/quiz next year, so if you enjoyed it, please tell your friends – we'd love to see more of you, especially children joining in.

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.

Proposals for Casbrooke Recycling Centre, Bunny Lane

This link on the Parish Council website details the proposed changes by Hampshire County Council:

<https://www.braishfield.org.uk/proposals-relating-to-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>

It will be an Agenda item at the meeting on 6th February when we welcome parishioners to attend and share their views.

Results of the village survey for the Neighbourhood Plan

The feature of Braishfield that people completing the survey most liked is its sense of community. Respondents also like the rural feel and the peace and quiet. They liked it being separated from Romsey, but with the town conveniently close.

The main complaints were about traffic: its speed, its volume and its size. People also complained about lack of buses and say they would use them more if they were more frequent and convenient. Similarly, they would also like to cycle more if the roads were in a better state and not so dangerous (and in more than one case if they were not so lazy).

On the subject of housing development, about a quarter of respondents' households have someone who would like to find a small house or bungalow in the village. On the other hand, people felt that significant development would lower residents' quality of life by impacting countryside and increasing traffic. Over 90% want housing to be kept to an average of less than 1 or 2 per year and any development should either be individual or in groups of 5 houses or less. Any new houses should be relatively small and three quarters of respondents would like some of them to be 'affordable'. Any building should be in the existing settlement area or perhaps in a controlled extension to it.

Because of its origins as a series of small hamlets, often centred on old farms, there are a lot of green spaces in the village. People responding to the survey want this character to be preserved and the existing open fields, for example those down the Braishfield Road to be preserved. Importantly they want the gap between us and the urban spread of Romsey to remain.

On the business side, a significant proportion of people responding (about 30%) worked from home, at least partly.

In summary, people want Braishfield to continue largely the way it is: friendly, rural and quiet. Development is to be discouraged. However, there is a need for more small houses, some, ideally, affordable. The main improvement would be to have less traffic, also a better bus service and mobile phone coverage. The full results can be viewed on the Braishfield Neighbourhood Plan website "BraishfieldNP.org".

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will attempt to incorporate those opinions which are relevant to planning in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the village. Unfortunately, it cannot directly address non-planning matters such as traffic calming and the bus service. Also, our village plan has to be compatible with the new Test Valley Local Plan, whose preliminary draft was published in January. After the group has written the Neighbourhood Plan, it will have to be approved both by the TVBC appointed inspector and by the village in an official referendum. The resulting document will then become a statutory part of the planning process for the village. In other words, it will have to be adhered to, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The Braishfield 200 Club in 2023

We've had a record year! (If you don't take inflation into account!) Our total income was £3735, up £60 on 2022, our expenditure was £20 for our licence to practice as a lottery, we paid out £1494 in monthly prizes and gave £2241 to charities and worthy causes. These included our two village churches, the village Social Contact Group, the Romsey Food Bank, ServeDirect, the Countess Mountbatten Hospice, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance service, the Hampshire Search and Rescue service and the Jumbulance Trust. Some received more than one donation. We had eleven winners of the monthly prize (latterly £126). Eleven because one person won twice! Pretty galling for those of us who never seem to win at all, but that's 'random numbers' for you.

We have been doing the monthly draw in The Pantry, with me as Promoter being overseen by Tom Greenwood and Graham Bennett, who act as Trustees/Certifiers. Many thanks to them for giving their time, and mostly buying the coffees.

Finally, for the record, the December and January winners were Sally Dickens (formerly of this parish) and Jane Bennett. Donations were given to ServeDirect and the Countess Mounbatten Hospice.

If you would like to join the Club, it's really easy and costs as little as £5 a month. Just give me a call or e mail.

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



Report from Cllr Sally Yalden, Borough Councillor

Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year!

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the Braishfield Village Newsletter (BVN) and the Braishfield Village Association (BVA) committee for their tremendous work in our community. As a borough councillor, I have the privilege of seeing what's happening in other areas and we are fortunate in Braishfield to have this newsletter and also the BVA who organise some great events for us in the community. The New Year's Day Walk was one of my favourites so far with the addition of a 'treasure hunt'.

At the time of reading this message, the TVBC Councillors will have made a decision regarding the approval (or not) of the Local Plan 2040 (Regulation 18, Stage 2), which will then proceed to public consultation. It is crucial for all residents to review the Local Plan as it will impact everyone. From sustainable housing to housing allocation sites in Test Valley, as well as infrastructure requirements, I believe that it's important that everyone has a voice in this matter. It is equally important for the Council to genuinely listen to and incorporate public input. A statutory public consultation is scheduled to begin in February and will last for eight weeks. The Parish Council will provide additional information about the Plan and how residents can actively engage. Kindly note that local communications will be through the usual channels of the Residents' Forum (Facebook), email network, and village noticeboards.

I recently reached out to the Minister for Roads and Local Transport regarding the condition of the County's roads and the maintenance of drainage, particularly in areas experiencing localised flooding, such as the crossroads of Paynes Hay Road, Farley Lane, and Braishfield Road. While I am still awaiting a response at writing, it was announced that Hampshire County Council must address a £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025. I have observed that there is an ongoing consultation on where further cuts can be made, and one concerning suggestion is further reduction of highways maintenance, which is worrisome. I know many of us have learned from bitter experience of having to repair our cars after hitting

potholes submerged by standing water or the ones not swiftly or properly repaired, and this is before any further cuts to the council's budgets.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I have assisted numerous residents with various issues in the past few months, even if some matters pertain to the County Council rather than the Borough Council.

Warm wishes.

Cllr Sally Yalden

CllrSYalden@testvalley.gov.uk

Braishfield Parish Council

Braishfield Parish Council wishes all Parishioners a very Prosperous and Happy New Year.

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm and all parishioners are most welcome to attend. If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvements in the village we would love to hear from you. Please email the clerk at: ***clerk@braishfield.org.uk***

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

The interesting article below was kindly submitted by John Rhodes. However, the Editor cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of the contents.

Braishfield Home Guard

Here is a photograph which is believed to have been taken in 1945 when the Home Guard was stood down. It was taken in front of the old pavilion on the Timsbury Recreation Ground and was hung in the Newport for many years.

My thanks go to Shirley Smith who produced the information on the troops, but I



must apologise to her for sitting on this for far too long. As a result of my tardiness, it does mean that some of the descriptions are somewhat historical, but still interesting.

With no fewer than four people named Parsons and several references in the descriptions to Millie Dunford (nee Parsons), this is beginning to look like a Parsons family tree.

Millie's grandfather Thomas Parsons was a builder who bought Malthouse Farm and married Amelia in 1893. After the breakup of the Timsbury Manor Estate in the 1920s, he bought Sharpes Farm in 1936 (then in the Parish of Timsbury) which included the large field north of Upper Lower Street - the one which contains the trig point.

Thomas Parsons built five bungalows in this field for his children, which is why they were known as Parsons Town. One of the sons, Fred Parsons, took over No 4, also known as Hillside but which has recently been replaced by a larger dwelling. Fred "looked after the cows" at Sharpes Farm, according to his daughter Millie (Amelia), who was born in 1927 and married Cyril Dunford in 1952. Millie worked in the shop in Hill View when we first came to Braishfield in 1981. As it happened, Millie's maternal grandparents (Savage) lived in what is now our cottage at Sharpes Farm. Thomas Parsons sold Sharpes Farm and Cottage, but not with the Parsons Town field, to the Cattons in 1939.

Sadly, tragedy struck the Parsons and Savage families in the First World War. Millie's uncles William Parsons and Ernest Savage were killed and both are commemorated on the Braishfield War Memorial. Millie's son Peter died of asthma in 1977 aged 21.

Front Row - Left to Right

John Hoddinot

Son-in-Law of Mr W (Billy) Owen owned and lived at Elm Grove Farm. He ran Elm Grove with his wife and had one son Michael who ran it when his parents died until he sold it to the Quarendons.

George Dummer

Lived in a bungalow on the corner of Newport Lane where Leith Howe is now. He ran the Village Post Office from there with his wife.

Tom Ross

Lived at Windmill Cottages and worked for Strong & Co of Romsey.

Fred Chapman

Lived at Windmill Cottages and also worked for Strong & Co of Romsey. His wife played the organ for many years at All Saints Church.

W Saunders

He used to come to instruct the Braishfield Home Guard but it is not known from where he came.

Fred Gosden

He was the Huntsman for the Hursley Foxhound Kennels which were at the bottom of Common Hill Road on the north side of its junction with Dummers Road and Dores Lane - Hunters Farm where Tim Howkins now lives. Fred Gosden had been a Huntsman at several places in the country.

R Pitts

He farmed at Fairbourne Farm but died suddenly in 1946.

Fred Jordan

He lived at 3 Newport Lane and had two children, Sylvia and Colin. Believed to

have been a driver.

Fred Parsons

He lived at Malthouse Farm before moving to 4 Hillside Lower Street. Son-in-Law of the Savages who lived at Sharpes Farm. He was Millie Dunford's father.

W Mills

No details known.

Second Row - Left to Right

Jim Fielder

He lived at Ampfield Cottage in Pucknall, where the Braziers now live, and worked at Hawkes Farm for Mr Blackman. He was married to Ellen but had no children.

Frank Dunning

He lived at 1 Common Hill Road with his parents and sisters, moving to farm in North Baddesley where Dunnings Lane is named after his father. He married Hazel White from Upper Slackstead - Roy White's sister. Roy lives at 10 Hill View Road.

Archie Tanswell

He lived at Orchard Lodge opposite the Rectory. He was brother of Mollie Russell who lives at 3 Chapel Close.

Bert Cawte

He lived at 10 Hill View Road with his wife, son and two daughters. His daughter Peggy Vear recently lived at 9 Hill View Road.

W Minns

No details known

Guy (Boxer) Old

He lived with his wife and daughter at 12 Hill View Road. He was a steam engine man who had a thrashing business at what is now known as the Old Forge in Paynes Hay Road where Alan and Jan Olden now live.

Stan Parsons

He used to live at Malthouse Farm and was a cousin of Millie Dunford. He now lives in Mottisfont Court flats in Alma Road, Romsey. He has a daughter Suzanne who lives in Swanage.

George Fielder

He used to live in Middle Cottage, Broomshill (Lower Street) where the family ran the bakery which is still standing at the rear of the cottages. He had a large family who still live in the Romsey area but are no relation to Norman and Bill Fielder in the village.

Bernard Cook

He used to live in Ampfield but moved to Braishfield when young. He lived at East View, The Square, before marrying Janet Cottle and becoming Landlord of the Newport in the late 1970s.

Third Row - Left to Right

Charlie Parsons

He lived at 2, now known as Sunnymead Lower Street with his wife Dolcie and son Gordon. His daughter-in-law Eileen Parsons lives at 25 Hill View Road. He was Millie Dunford's uncle.

Micky Chapman

He lived in Deal Cottage, Newport Lane with his parents and family. His niece Mary Bryant lives at 12 Hill View Road.

Arthur Rose

He lived at Fairbourne Cottage in Bunny Lane (not to be confused with the cottages on Braishfield Road) before moving to 7 Hill View Road. He now lives in Alma Road, Romsey with his wife Sylvia. His sister Eileen lives in Romsey.

John Mason

He now lives in Salisbury but previously in Ampfield. One of his sons Ivor Mason lives in Manor Lane Timsbury and his daughter Valerie lives at Fawley.

Frank Matthews

He lived at No 3 Cottage, Broomshill (Lower Street). He was brother-in-law to Charlie Parsons above.

Bill Parsons

He lived at bungalow 5 Lower Street. His daughter Kathy still lives there.

Harry Beeson

He lived at Little Haven, Kiln Lane, with his wife and son Colin who now lives in Hythe.

Otto (Johnny) Goulding

He lived in one of the semi-detached houses just north of the Dog & Crook PH with his family. The house was replaced by a bungalow. He was the brother-in-law of Arthur Smith (on the back row). He used to work at Elm Grove Farm.

Back Row - Left to Right

Arthur Burdon

He lived in Common Hill Road with his parents.

Stuart Irish

Brother to Eric next to him in the photograph. He used to live in Kiln Lane next to the farm.

Eric Irish

He lived with his brother Stuart and now lives with his wife Jean at 1 Hill View Road.

George Randall

He used to live in Common Hill Road in the second bungalow past the houses. He

worked at Elm Grove Farm.

Geoff White

He used to live in Newport Lane and is now believed to live in the Woodley area.

Reg Randall

He used to live in the bungalow at Elm Grove Farm by the village pond, and worked at the Farm. His son Bill Randall still lives in Newport Lane and another son lives in Australia.

Arthur Smith

He used to live at Pucknall Lodge in Dore Lane where Rodney Robson now lives, and worked on Pucknall Farm. His daughter Ann lives in Knyghts Close, Romsey.

John Rhodes

Social Contact Group

A New Year is the appropriate time to look forward and also an opportunity to look back on the previous year with happy memories of our time spent together.

Our last outing for 2023 was to one of our favourite venues, Steff's Kitchen Beaulieu for our Christmas Lunch. Once again we were greeted warmly and looked after amazingly well, nothing was too much trouble and the meal was delicious!

Most of our plans are already in place for this year and if you would like to join our very friendly group just give me a ring on 368339. Please don't be at home feeling lonely!

Hazel Prince



Braishfield Pantry

2024 will mark an important milestone for the Pantry as we will be celebrating our 10 th Anniversary of being your community hub, café, and shop, serving Braishfield residents and visitors alike. Who would have thought that the Pantry would appear on major estate agents blurb when they describe the benefits of living in such a lovely village.



Back to the 10 th Anniversary – if you have any input or ideas for the event pop into the shop and let us know what you think – The shop would not exist without your help and support and we'd like to make sure “celebrations” reflect what you would like to see !

The Jan/Feb timeframe is often a quiet time for the Pantry so we would like to announce some small initiatives which hopefully you will enjoy:

- **Toasted Teacakes/Butter/Jam** will come back on the menu in February.

Scrumptious warm snacks to go along with your favorite hot beverage.

- Price “Feb” Only will be £3.99

- **Toast**, 2 Slices, Brown, White, or Multi Seeded on offer again with a hot beverage of your choice.

- Price “Feb “ Only £2.99

- **Microwave Goods on site** – We are in the process of procuring a microwave for the shop, which will be customer use only. This means you will be able to warm your savories on site at the Pantry so you can enjoy a warm pie or sausage roll

- Price – It's a free facility, however please use responsibly.

And finally, we will continue through 2024 to make some operational improvements to the Pantry. The first of which is the introduction of a new credit card payment system, it will save us hundreds of pounds in running costs and more importantly make the transaction experience quicker and easier for you.

Thank you again for all your support – we are essentially volunteer run, so if you'd like to help out just pop in and ask – 2024 looks like being a tough trading year, but as ever all profits made will go back to the village hall funds and ultimately projects which support you and the community.

Best Wishes
The Pantry Team.

Brownies

We have spaces at Braishfield Brownies!

Is your daughter aged 7 – 10 Come and join us, have fun, make friends, challenge yourself, and build confidence.

We meet every
Wednesday from 5.45 until
7.15
at Braishfield Village Hall



Braishfield Primary School

Greetings from Braishfield Primary School!



November

Learning about democracy and fundamental British values is an important part of the curriculum and our aim at Braishfield is that all our pupils are nurtured and grown to be ready to play their part as citizens of the world. Every year, Oaks class take part in UK Parliament Week, learning about debating, voting, listening to points of view and expressing their opinions.

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of taking Year 6 to Westminster to look in on the House Commons' business and to meet our local MP, Caroline Nokes. The children sat in on Jeremy Hunt's Autumn Statement, listening to the questions in response.



This month, some of our children also took part in an event organised across Hampshire schools- as Equalities and Rights Ambassadors. These children will help us as a school to become increasingly inclusive, aware of how well we support the understanding of rights, diversity and to continue to create a school community which allows all children to thrive.

December

The brilliant BSA (Braishfield School Association) ran a most amazing Christmas Fayre this month. There were stalls and experiences a-plenty,

some of which were run by the children. Thank you for turning up in your droves, supporting the school - and buying your children's home-made Christmas crafts! The BDA have been planning this for weeks. Every parent is automatically a part of the BSA and it showed- as many parents/carers turned up during the afternoon to help set up the school. You should have heard the excitement in the children's voices, when they saw how their classrooms had been transformed!



Our Nativity play this year was one of those 'proud Headteacher moments' for me. I had the joy of watching our youngest learners singing their hearts out and playing characters from the Christmas story. Parents and carers were treated to a wonderful production. Children could be themselves, whilst collaborating to produce a high-quality performance. It definitely got us all in the Christmas mood! A big thanks to all the adults involved - especially Mrs Doherty, who worked tirelessly and patiently to allow all children to shine.

Great job, everyone!
Jim Cascarini, Headteacher

A visit from Father
 Christmas



Braishfield Garden Club

BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY / BRAISHFIELD GARDEN CLUB



The Braishfield Horticultural Society has changed its name to Braishfield Garden Club. The reason for this is to bring it more into the modern age of informality. We are also endeavouring to make the meetings more focussed on the practical aspects of gardening. We will still organise visits in the summer to nearby private gardens of interest and we will still organise the annual village Flower Show.

The second Tuesday of January saw a number of members along with non-members gather for our first meeting of the year. Our speaker, Alan Baxter gave a very interesting and fascinating talk on Bees.

Alan has been keeping bees for years, first in France, where he lived for 20 years. Now he has returned to Hampshire he has 20 colonies in an area covering three acres. His aim is to breed a social and solid honey bee queen. There are as many as 250 bee types in Britain the most well-known being the bumble bees of which there are 24 types, the tree bumble bee and the red and white tail bumble bees.

There can be as many as 20,000 bees in a colony with just the one queen. The queen is easily distinguished from other members of the colony as her body is normally much longer than either the drone's or worker's especially during egg laying period. The honey bee colony typically consists of three kinds of adult bees, workers, drones and a queen. The queen can lay 1500- 2,000 eggs a day. Several thousand's worker bees cooperate in nest building, food collection, and brood rearing. Each member has their own task. It takes 21 days from egg to bee.

We must remember that Wasps also do a good work in the garden.

Romsey and District Beekeepers Association if interested in Bee Keeping

Asian Hornet – if you see it report it

The Asian Hornet should not be confused with the European Hornet. The Asian Hornet was introduced into France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK, especially along the south

coast. The Asian Hornet is an aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to the honey bee and other pollinators.
 Key ID Features – Entirely dark brown or back velvety body. Legs brown with characteristic yellow ends. The abdomen is black / brown with the fourth segment a yellow / orange colour. The Queen is up to 30mm whilst the workers up to 25mm long. The sting from the Asian Hornet is very painful and could be dangerous. They are also very bad for crops as lack of pollinators.

Download app with iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch.

Online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet

Email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Tel No: 0300 303 0094

Take photo and report. Be aware.

Coming Meetings – Tuesday 13th February – Hardy Geraniums –
 How to grow for Beauty and Reliability
 Tuesday 12th March Questions and Answers –
 Put your question to an experienced gardener



PLANTS AND GARDENS

Braishfield Garden Club

PROGRAMME 2024

January 8th	Bees in the garden Their importance and behaviour
February 13th	Hardy Geraniums How to grow for beauty and reliability
March 12th	Questions & Answers Put questions to an experienced gardener
April 9th	Roses Where to buy and how to grow and care for them
May 14th	Flowers of the roadsides Photographs of wild flowers on verges
June	Visits to interesting local gardens
July 20th	Flower Show
September 10th	Holme – the making of a public garden From site plans to planting and managing
October 8th	All year round colour Plant something of interest for every month

Talks are in BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE HALL 7.30 pm

Come and join us

Non-members welcome

Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society



BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY PROGRAMME FOR 2024



25 th January	Annual General Meeting with American Buffet Supper and Hamper Raffle
22 nd February	Melanie Smith – 'Pretty as a Picture' – demonstration
28 th March	Jennifer Thompson – 'A Good Read' – demonstration
25 th April	Michael Bowyer – 'Three Remarkable Women' – talk
23 rd May	Workshop Evening with the Committee
27 th June	Denise Bright – 'Back to the Future' – demonstration
25 th July	Party Evening
26 th September	Sue Wall – 'Re-use and Re-cycle' – demonstration
24 th October	Carolyn Vanstone – 'Lurking in the Garage' – demonstration
28 th November	CHRISTMAS OPEN EVENING

We are a friendly bunch who meet on Thursday evenings in the Braishfield Church Rooms at 7.30pm except for the Open Evening which is held in the Village Hall

Membership is open to everyone whether or not you live in Braishfield and we love to have visitors come and find us for flowers, fun and friendship
 Annual Membership is £35 and Visitors £7 per meeting, except the Christmas Open Evening which is a ticketed event

GET IN TOUCH

Fran Henderson on 01794 524147 & Eileen Norman on 07812 641221

Email: braishfieldflowerclub@gmail.com

Find our webpage on the Braishfield Village Community Website www.braishfield.org and on the home page, click on Flower Arrangement Society under the Quick Links on the left-hand side



Braishfield United Reformed Church

News From Braishfield URC

Hope 2024 is going well for you all so far. We were pleased the church looked so lovely at Christmas and would like to say thank you for all who contributed to this as there is always plenty going on behind the scenes. We were delighted to have a full church for the Carols by Candlelight service. We moved the date for this to a Sunday afternoon and think it proved to be a good move. We may well do this again. All were in good voice, we are pleased to say.

It was a pleasure to present the cheque for £921.78 for Mercy Ships to their representative, Ruth Croome, who joined us at our service on 21st January. Mercy Ships has been our first charity project since the pandemic and it is good to get things like this going again.



It was good to hear something more about their work during that service thanks to Ruth sharing a fascinating presentation via PowerPoint called The Work of Mercy Ships. Many thanks to the Minister for bringing the projector screen along!

Braishfield will have its first church meeting of the year (and its Annual General Meeting) after a short Sunday service on 17th March. This is the first time we have held an AGM after the service.

Again, we are trying this idea to see if it makes it easier for people to come to the AGM. We hope that will prove to be the case.

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

Wednesday 7th February 7.30pm Service of prayer and lament for the areas of the world which are in conflict

Wednesday 14th February 7.30pm

Ash Wednesday Communion at Michelmersh

Sunday 10th March 9.30am Mothering Sunday service and giving of flowers

Friday 29th March 7.30pm Good Friday - A Service of Hymns and Anthems with Readings

Sunday 31st March 9.30am Easter Sunday Holy Communion



We do hope you can join us!

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

* * * * *

From Rev Tom.....

Dear Friends,

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

Giving and receiving kindness helps to maintain our hope.

New Year 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 January skies quickly seem to say that life is 'business as usual' despite our initial enthusiasm. Now, it seems to me that despite everything, 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?

Next month sees the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 14th of February. Christians use the six weeks before Easter to prepare themselves for Holy Week and the great joy of Easter Sunday itself, - the most important in the Christian calendar when we celebrate that Jesus rose again. It is in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus that we can see what kindness, love and hope look like.

God Bless,
Tom Benson

GARDENING - JOBS FOR THIS MONTH

WINTER GARDENS

Let's enhance the beauty and discover what works best to create your winter garden.

First question to ask yourself is whether you want to improve a border with winter interest plants or whether you are going bold and want to redesign a part of the garden that is perhaps uninspiring or overgrown or that lacks the winter magic.

Structure plants are the essential ingredients. They can have vertical interest, visual content and often colour and scent. They can be evergreen or deciduous and can include plants from each of the layers. In addition to plants there are the hard-landscaped areas in the garden, like paths or structures like arbours or pergolas and there is also garden statuary – a bench, a tall pot, stone statues and even a rusted gate leaning against a tree will all add significantly to our winter landscape.

Look out from your principal windows and check what you can see. Most of the time in winter we are looking out from inside where it's much warmer and drier



and so these views are essential. If you have a modest garden, then every plant must count and be working hard to earn its place.

The top storey planting is all about trees. Every garden is big enough to support one and trees are the foundation of our winter gardens. Amelanchier multi-stemmed trees will add graceful elegance as too many of the crab apples some of which hold their apples all through the winter, feeding our birds along the way. My favourites are Malus Transitoria for shape and Malus Red Sentinel for fruit.

Evergreen shrubs are also really important because they create a foil for our other plants including the emerging spring bulbs. One of my favourites is Viburnum Eve Price which flowers white and pink through January and February and has rich dark green foliage. I often use this as an informal hedge.

The flowers on Camelia's are about to flower; these shrubs are evergreen and over time can get to quite a size; they prefer shade or dappled shade but avoid an easterly situation because morning frosts can sometimes destroy the young buds.

Ornamental grasses make for a different layer in a winter garden, the colour of them drained through so that they look like they are standing still in time. They create movement and softness and compliment the solid structure of evergreens. When sprinkled with frost they become ethereal and in the winter light create a light contrast against evergreen shrubs. My favourites are Pennisetums and Miscanthus or Stipa Gigantea. Below is Carex Prairie Fire an evergreen low growing grass with tones of orange.

We all love colour, and every garden needs some especially in winter. There are so many plants that provide just this in their foliage or in their coloured stems. The coloured dogwoods are so vibrant and dazzling. Set them in front of something evergreen and the colours will really stand out.

Happy gardening! If you need help just give me a call.

Susanne Boswell Garden Design Limited (see advert on p.42)
Thyme in the Garden



Romsey Jumbulance Group

Our Jumbulance travelling year ended well with our Christmas Lunch at the Ampfield Golf Club in December. We had as guests our national Chairman Caroline Southgate and another Trustee and past Chairman, Dr Joe Dwyer (who has accompanied us on some of our Lourdes pilgrimages) This was a great opportunity for them to meet our group and a chance for everyone to get any questions answered.

We also hope to offer Day trips for the Romsey Cheshire Home and Southampton MND association in July. Sadly, some of our regular travellers have died or are too ill to travel, so we took several new people last year and they loved it. We also had new volunteers but always need more and younger nurses. Many volunteers are recently retired and also pay for their accommodation etc We can get grants for our VIPs (sick or disabled travellers) but we can't get support for nurses or volunteers so we have to subsidise them. The hotel and Jumbulance hire costs have all gone up despite the Jumbulance Trust subsidising the hire costs by a 1/3rd. **We are always looking for sponsorship of volunteers from local organisations, companies or individuals.** Most VIPs live alone and have no one to accompany them and any caring relative often needs a break themselves so will not come with us. **Would you be interested in helping us as a volunteer or helping by sponsoring a volunteer or nurse?**

We have two 8-day holidays planned this year. The first to the **Bond Hotel, Blackpool in July. It's the best fully accessible UK hotel with all the equipment we need and entertainment each evening.** Blackpool is a very wheelchair friendly town. The Golden mile has fully accessible trams for wheelchair users and many options for great day trips further afield. We will have Afternoon tea in the Tower Ballroom providing a chance to watch or dance with the professionals Strictly style.

Our 2nd 8-day trip is to a new destination for our Pilgrimage group, the Atherfield Green Farm Cottages, Isle of Wight in September. My niece, a caterer, has volunteered to do the catering. A Retreat Day at Quarr Abbey and several days out are planned.

Chris Chisholm mobile 0788 774 8224 email cookchrisr@aol.com

Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

What to write? Kate is busy tending her flock, keeping them in a good state for lambing in spring or for putting with the ram in the autumn. Some of last year's lambs will be sold as store lambs or finished.



In the last article I mentioned the ewes in the allotment field, with yellow markings on their backs, indicating that the ram had made most of them pregnant. A few days later Kate noticed that Hank the ram wasn't well; not eating and suffering diarrhoea, known as scouring in sheep. She brought him here, gave him medicine and hoped all would be well. Unfortunately, it wasn't and he died next morning. The vet didn't really know what had caused the problem, none of the ewes seemed to have suffered. It could have been from eating something he really shouldn't have, or perhaps he had an underlying disease. Very sad. Kate moved the ewes out of that field and put them with the other Lleyms where they settled down well.

When you take the rams out from the ewes, before reintroducing them to each other it is necessary to pen them up tight for 24 hours. The reason for this is if you put them straight out into the field, they would fight which could result in one or both of them being killed. By putting them in a tight pen they cannot back up and charge at each other. After 24 hours of pushing each other around, they should be friends again! Years ago, I heard what sounded like someone banging in fence posts. On investigation, it was two rams charging and head butting each other. They survived to tell the tale.

Next thing will be scanning the ewes to see how many lambs they are carrying in order make sure that those carrying triplets get more food than those expecting just one.

And so it goes on.....

WQ

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27th April	28th September
25th May	26th October
29th June	30th November
Romsey Town Hall Market	Romsey Market at
8 Community Cafe	The Corn Exchange
2nd & 4th Friday of a Month	1st Saturday of a Month
10.30- 12.30	8.30 - 3.00
16th & 23rd February	2nd March
8th & 22nd March	6th April
12th & 26th April	4th May
10th & 24th May	1st June
14th & 28th June	6th July (*)
12th & 26th July	3rd August
13th & 27th September	7th September (*)
11th & 25th October	5th October
8th & 22nd November	2nd November
6th, 13th & 20th December	7th December (*)

(*) On These dates we will be by the statue
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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:
 29 January, 12 & 26 February, 11 & 25 March
 Household waste weeks beginning MONDAY:
 5 & 19 February, 4 & 18 March

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

Recycling Is Easy!

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

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

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

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

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

www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling

Brown Bin Recycling Tips

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

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

www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide

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