



BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 275
December 2025



Sunset over Fairbourne Farmhouse

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 01794 368894.

Latest copy date for the next issue is: 23 January 2026

Front cover: *Helen Thomas*

From the Chair

Here we go again !

The last twelve months have flown by. Just as it feels as though we have only just packed the Christmas decorations away, it's time to get back in the loft and bring them out again !

Before we get all Christmassy, I want to say what a great night Saturday was, with the BMADS putting on a fabulous murder mystery evening. Being lucky enough to secure a ticket, (and believe me, they were as hard to come by as Willy Wonker's golden ticket) it was great to spend an evening as part of the audience for a change. A really fun evening, already looking forward to the next one!

Back to Christmas

Lots happening in the Village in the run up to Christmas. Shopping to be had at the Christmas market on the 29th Nov and sing-a -longs galore. I hope you all manage to get along to a few of these events .

Why not come along to the Church Rooms on New Years Eve for a drink with the BVA Committee? We'll be there from 5 so why not pop in on your way to your evening celebrations? We'd love to see as many of you as possible!!

From all the Committee,

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 2026.

EMAIL NETWORK

A lot of important information is distributed via the village Email Network. If you are not currently signed up for it, please register your interest and stay in the know!

**send an email to:
braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com**

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.

DEADLINE DATES FOR BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE NEWS 2026

23 Jan for February

20 Mar for April

22 May for June

24 July for August

18 Sept for October

20 Nov for December

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

PLANNING UPDATE

At the time of writing this is the position regarding planning applications in our Parish.

25/02170/FULLS - 9 houses on land south of The Wheatsheaf. The Parish Council has submitted an objection to this application.

25/02520/OUTS - 6 houses adjacent to Cedar Nurseries. The Parish Council has submitted an objection to this application which is outside the settlement boundary.

BRAISHFIELD ROAD, BARGATE - 60 houses. No further information, to that provided at our meeting on the 29th October is available at this time. Bargate has been contacted for further information but has not responded to our enquiries. We are very disappointed by this lack of communication.

We are still expecting an application to be submitted in the not too distant future, and we will alert you as soon as we have any details.

COMMON HILL MACRA - 40 houses. Details of this proposal were shared by representatives of Macra at the meeting on 29th October. No further details are available at the moment.

Please remember these applications and proposals are ***in addition to the 1000+ homes being planned for south and north of Jermyns Lane and Sandy Lane.***

At this time, the Braishfield Road development being worked up by Bargate, is our biggest and most imminent threat. We are very concerned that Test Valley Borough Council could even conceive of 60 houses, in a village of 300 homes, being appropriate development, regardless of government policy.

If you have not yet contributed, please consider contributing to our fighting fund - details are in this edition of the BVN and are published both on the Village Network and Facebook.

We are determined to fight this to the best of our abilities!

Braishfield Parish Council.

Braishfield Village Voices.....



Here's more dates for your diaries when you're invited to 'come and sing'.

Monday 24 November, then **22 December** for our Christmas carols sing, and, with very good wishes for the new year, **26 January 2026**.

Our very informal singing group meets on the 4th Monday in the month in the Church Room 2-4pm with an all-important break partway through the afternoon for chatting over refreshments.

All welcome - please contact

Wendy 368015/Meri 07974 957092 for more details

Village Voices, along with many other local groups, is providing background Christmas music (from 2pm), at the Christmas Country Market/Pantry open tasting event on Saturday 29 November 10-5 in the Village Hall

We look forward to seeing you

Christmas Sing Along

Monday 15th December to be held at
All Saint's, Braishfield, Church
Rooms.

A chance to sing together Christmas
Songs accompanied by Ukuleles.
All welcome to join in from 2.30pm to
4.00pm. Christmas refreshments to
finish.



Hosted by Braishfield
Ukulele Musical Society

Donations welcomed for our
chosen charities:
Open Gate Stroke Club and
Romsey Young Carers.

BUMS



**Merry Christmas from Braishfield
Parish Council.**

**Wishing all our residents a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year,
filled with peace, happiness, and
festive cheer.**

BRAISHFIELD 200 CLUB

We are in a really healthy position, with several new members joining us recently. So the lucky winners in October and November, Sharon Whitfield and Jeremy Brown, have received a nice pre-Christmas present (and it's tax free, to the Chancellors dismay!). And we've been able to give donations in excess of £200 to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance and the Romsey Food Bank.

But we still have room for more new members. If you can afford to give five pounds a month you'll be in with a chance, and every month £3 of your contribution will go to a charity or other good cause. Why not come along and witness the December draw, to take place in the village Pantry at 3.30 on the 1st December. If nothing else, you'll be amazed by our technology!!

David Robinson.

All Saints Churchyard Mowers 2026

As we come to the end of this year's mowing season, thank you to all the team for your efforts.

We are always looking for Parishioners to join the team.

Cutting season is from March to November.

Each mower is asked to do 2 sessions in pairs each season so its not onerous.

All equipment is provided.

Anyone interested in joining our merry gang please contact me.

Richard Brazier
07768020917 or 01794368414
rdbrazier@hotmail.com

Braishfield Village Association

Annual General Meeting



Our AGM is being held on **Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7:00pm** in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. Please do come along to see what we've achieved and what's coming up. We'd love to see you there.

Hope at All Saints' raises funds for charity

An appreciative audience was treated to some musical delights on Saturday 20th September at All Saints' church. The Hope Piano Trio - Warwick Hewson, piano, Caroline Banwell, violin, and Pieter van der Grinten, cello - gave a varied programme to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. The charity is close to the heart of Caroline, whose first husband, Charlie, died of a glioblastoma brain tumour, aged 59. During the evening, Caroline gave a moving account of this history and of her appreciation of the work of the charity.

Some of the music they performed was for violin and cello playing as a duo, including pieces by Mozart, Gliere and a passacaglia by Handel 'extrapolated' by the Norwegian composer Johan Halvorsen. The strings were joined by the piano in Dvorak's 'Dumky' Piano Trio, with its evocative Czech folk dance rhythms, and the andante from Schubert's Piano Trio in B flat.

It was an atmospheric and convivial evening, with an opportunity to chat and enjoy a glass of something in the interval.

The Trio was introduced to us by Diana and Chris Wyers, and the concert was organised under the auspices of BMADS, with Wendy Quarendon providing the organisation and acting as impresario. Thanks to the generosity of the audience, through ticket sales and donations, and the musicians taking no payment, some £960 was raised on the night after costs, which has been passed on to The Brain Tumour Charity. Additionally, we have learned that further funds linked to the event have been donated through the musicians' contacts bringing the overall total to over £3000 including Gift Aid. Demonstrating that Hope is indeed a fitting name for the group.

Richard Groves



All Saints Church Braishfield invite you to ...
**Celebrate Christmas with
Carols on the Recreation Ground**
accompanied by **Chandlers Ford BB Band**

Friday 19th December 6.30pm - 7.15pm

[Bring light to read your carol sheet!]



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

Mulled wine available to purchase

Pantry open for shopping, and refreshments from 5pm

Cash Donations in Aid of Action for Children



Village Hall set to save thousands with solar

The Village Hall trustees have announced the successful implementation of a solar panel and battery system, which has already shown significant savings.

Installed three months ago, the system has saved more than £550 a month in both August and September. The system will provide a significant amount of the electricity needed by the shop, café, and hall.

Not only does the system cut costs, but during the summer months, it also generates income by selling any excess power back to the National Grid.

The £53,000 project was spearheaded by village hall trustees Malcolm Ayres and Chris Balchin, with help from Andrew Tolfts of Dragonfly Power- a community energy group based in Test Valley.

THE PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY GRANTS FROM SSEN'S POWERING COMMUNITIES TO NET ZERO FUND, TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ASSET FUND, AND BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL, WHICH

PROVIDED EXTRA FUNDING TO INCREASE THE BATTERY CAPACITY. Cinergi, a company based in Romsey, carried out the installation.

The new system is not only cost-effective but also aligns with the hall's sustainability goals, generating carbon-free electricity on-site and reducing running costs, providing energy resilience.

The hall has also upgraded all lighting to LED and now uses air source heat pumps for heating.

In the event of a long-term power cut, the hall's large battery capacity means it can serve as a community resilience hub, offering lighting and heating when local homes may be without.

This project, which integrates solar power and battery storage, serves as an example for other buildings aiming to be more environmentally friendly and community-oriented.

Braishfield Village Hall, with its new green credentials, is setting a standard for sustainability and energy resilience in community buildings.



The team that made it happen: Andrew, Chris and Malcolm, in front of the Hall

BRAISHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Please note the AGM for the Village Hall will be held on **THURSDAY 8th JANUARY at 7.30** in the **Community Room at the hall.**

On the page opposite you will find details of the major work recently undertaken at the Village Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE - together with the Parish Council and a grant from TVBC we are hoping to totally resurface and deal with some drainage issues at the Village Hall car park. It is hoped this work will take place sometime between January and March 2026.

This work will obviously create some disruption to the parking arrangements for both the Hall and The Pantry. We will try to keep this disruption to a minimum and advertise details of the work via the Village Network and Facebook in advance. Details will also be advertised in The Pantry.

We hope you will appreciate the need for this work to take place as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of the Village Hall.

Seasons greetings from The Village Hall Committee



The Guides and Rangers have been working towards our first aid badge this term and were grateful to have a member of the local First Response team come and spend an evening with us. Some guides got to do a bit of a first aid refresher when we attended a "Challenge 25" event run by Guiding Hampshire West at Foxlease when the girls had 25 challenges to complete in a given time. We entered two teams and came 9th and 14th out of 32 teams which was an excellent result.

Thank you to our Trefoil member, Nicky Ayres for stepping in at the last minute to help us with our Remembrance craft for the Remembrance Service at the war memorial in Braishfield. Our Rangers carried our new unit flag, which we have been able to purchase by using money from a Spar Community Grant which we were awarded recently.

We are off to a Girlguiding Cinema Takeover event in December to see Disney's Zootropolis 2 and then in January we are going to see Sleeping Beauty at Romsey's Plaza to support one of our Rangers.

So, busy times ahead as our joint guiding unit goes from strength to strength with over 20 Guides and Rangers. We are a very friendly group and have lots of exciting activities and opportunities to meet up with other local guide groups for camps etc. If you are aged between 10-18yrs and would like to come and join us, please email 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. Adult volunteers are also very welcome!

Report from Cllr Sally Yalden, Borough Councillor

I hope everyone is keeping well. Life seems to get busier as the years go by and Christmas will be here before we know it! Here's a round-up of some of the things I have been doing as your local borough councillor.

Next Gen in Braishfield

We've been trailblazers in Braishfield! In September, I had the pleasure of working with Louisa Rice from Test Valley Borough Council to develop the very first 'Next Gen' youth workshop.

As a former teacher, I'm passionate about hearing the voices of our younger residents. We brought together young people aged 11 to 16 to discuss issues that matter to them most. (There are 56 young people aged 11–19 living in Braishfield.)

The group did a fantastic job presenting their findings to the Parish Council recently. We're now looking at next steps to build on their ideas and keep young people involved in shaping the future of our village.

Council Motion: Defending Test Valley from Speculative Development

At the Full Council meeting on 15 October, my motion on *Defending Test Valley from Speculative Development* was approved.

The motion calls on officers to take a robust, precautionary approach to speculative planning applications during the current housing land supply shortfall. It urges that applications be refused where adverse impacts outweigh the benefits, particularly when infrastructure, water supply, biodiversity or highways are at risk.

It also calls for an Infrastructure Capacity Position Statement and encourages parish councils and residents to provide evidence-based objections to help protect our communities from unsustainable growth.

(A small reminder. It's always worth double-checking what appears in the local press at times! A recent article in the Romsey Advertiser misreported my comments about Abbotswood where my point was that homes have been built but GP provision hasn't kept pace.)

Community Litter Pick

A big thank you to everyone who joined our autumn community litter pick! The difference your efforts make is clear to see. I've included some before-and-after photos below to show the encouraging reduction in litter collected in 2025 compared with 2021.

Special thanks also go to the wonderful volunteers who quietly help keep our lanes and verges tidy all year round. Your contribution really does make a visible difference.

Wishing you a joyful festive season and a healthy, happy 2026.

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

Cllr Sally Yalden

Email: CllrSYalden@TestValley.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cllrsyalden

Phone: 07783 821561



November 2021



November 2025

THE NEXTGEN INITIATIVE

On Saturday 6th September, eight young residents of Braishfield, aged 11–16, gathered for the first ever 'Next Gen' session hosted by Cllr Sally Yalden and the Braishfield Parish Council to understand what life is really like for young people in the village. They discussed what made them mad, sad and glad about living in Braishfield and from this came up with their three top priorities

1st – Upgraded facilities, such as an outdoor gym and monkey bars, to make the space more youth friendly and active.

2nd – Doing up the bus shelter, getting soaked before school was a common problem

3rd – Access to an area of woodland for safe play and exploration.

These priorities were formally presented by the young people to the Parish Council at their November meeting and councillors are now considering how to take them forward..

If you like to find out about NextGen, please contact Cllr Sally Yalden cllrsyalden@testvalley.gov.uk

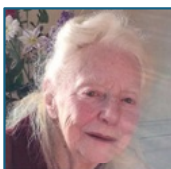
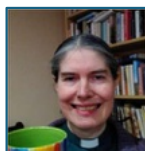
Meet your Churches!

The United Reformed Church (URC)



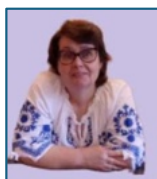
Hello, I'm the Reverend Mike Perrott and have been the Minister of Braishfield URC since October 2016. I minister here together with the Reverend Sarah Hall. I live in Chandler's Ford with my wife Marie, and our dog Benjie. My hobbies include our Benjie (of course!), visiting National Trust (and other) historic properties, travelling and a spot of gardening – when time and weather allow!

I'm the Reverend Dr Sarah Hall and have recently joined the ministry at Braishfield URC because the church is now part of the Southern Fellowship. I live in Southampton and my interests include reading, singing and storytelling in worship. I enjoy coming to Village Voices at Braishfield and have also joined the recent village litter pick.



Hello, I'm Shirley Smith, Church Secretary and a serving Elder at the United Reformed Church in the village. I came to Braishfield in November 1941 with my sister, Janet, and my Mum and Dad, Elsie and Alec Cottle, who had the licence of *The Newport Inn*. I went to the village school, was married at the United Reformed Church and our son Alan was baptised there.

Hello, I'm Allison Symes and am one of the Elders at Braishfield URC. I live in Chandler's Ford but my family and I have a longstanding connection with Braishfield and the URC as my late father-in-law, Cyril Symes, was the Church Secretary before Shirley. I am also a published writer and editor, a long standing member of the Association of Christian Writers, and run online workshops for flash fiction/short story writers.



Hi, I'm Sharon Whitfield and I live in Woodley, just up the road from Braishfield. I have been involved with Braishfield URC since 2003. I am the church treasurer and am also a church Elder. Having been a teacher, I am a play therapist now, with a particular interest in children in care.

All Saints' Church



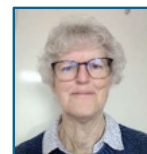
Hello – I'm Tom Benson, the Rector of Braishfield, Farley, Michlemersh, Timsbury and Awbridge, and priest in charge at Kings Somborne. I am married to Maryanne and we have lived here since 2021. We both love the village and its people and try to get out and about as much as we can. We share the house with several motorcycles and a black and white cat called, rather unfortunately, Pompey who has his own series of books.

Hi - I'm Jane Thompson. I'm a full-time priest, ordained nine years ago and I assist Tom in an unpaid capacity, working across all the churches in the Benefice. I'm often in and around the village, regularly in school for assemblies and Sparks after-school club... I'm also frequently found in the Pantry, topping up on coffee - please do say hello if you see me!



I'm Anthony Cross – your curate (or a priest in training). Before training for ministry, I was an Occupational Therapist working in secure mental health, including Broadmoor Hospital. I'm getting to a wide variety of events to meet as many people as possible. I'm married to Nadia and we live in Romsey with our daughter and our dog. My hobbies include reading, music, and drama.

I'm Andy Brooks – organist and churchwarden. My wife Maggie and I live in Romsey and have been active members of the All Saints' family for nearly 40 years. We are also both involved in the church children's work activities – Messy Church and Open the Book, which presents bible stories in school assemblies. Since retiring as an art teacher, I have also enjoyed travelling and painting for pleasure!



I'm Sarah Boothman – one of the two churchwardens. I also lead the Church Choir to which I have belonged since the age of 9! I have been part of All Saints and involved in the village all my life, was a primary teacher but now work part-time as Administrator for the Braishfield Benefice. I was brought up in Braishfield at the Rectory – now Seven Pines. I now live in Ampfield with my sister but Braishfield is my community.

Braishfield Parish Council

Fly-Tipping

Unfortunately, the fly-tipping along Merton Castle Lane continues. Winchester City Council is aware of the issue and has confirmed that any camera surveillance to monitor the site has to be covert, so no details regarding this can be shared.

The most effective way to help is by reporting any fly-tipping directly to the council using the online reporting form on the Winchester City Council website -

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/general-waste/flytipping>

Each report provides valuable information that helps their enforcement team track patterns and arrange removal. If you have any additional information or concerns, please email customerservice@winchester.gov.uk.

Any fly-tipping spotted within Braishfield should be reported to Test Valley Borough Council as normal -

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/fly-tipping>

By staying alert and reporting promptly, we can help protect our countryside!

Jane Ray Clerk to Braishfield Parish Council

Parish Council Fighting Fund - see also p.5

The Parish Council aim to establish a fund of £10,000 to fight overdevelopment in the village. To date we have received £5475 from parishioners and a generous donation of £3000 from the BVA.

The fund will be held by the Parish Council and at this time is intended to be spent on activities to initially challenge a potential planning application by Bargate.

The figures below are purely indicative:

If donations are received from 150 households @ £30 it will raise £4500 and £50 will raise £7500. However, if you are in a position to contribute a higher amount, your generosity would be much appreciated.

Any donations will be very gratefully received and returned, pro rata, if unused.

Bank transfers (preferred option) to:

Braishfield Parish Council

00181728

30-97-14

Or a cheque payable to: Braishfield Parish Council.

Arrangements have been made to leave your cheque in an envelope in The Pantry. Please include your name, address and e mail address (if you have one) with your cheque. We are aware a number of Parishioners are not on the internet and there is a book in The Pantry where you can leave your details to ensure you receive regular leaflet drops.

All your support is much appreciated.

Braishfield Parish Council

clerk@braishfield.org.uk

Remembering Adrian Fahy



Adrian Fahy grew up in Braishfield, living at Oakrood, The Square, with his parents and 3 brothers. After leaving school he worked at Tony Broster's garage in Timsbury as a panel beater and sprayer before joining the Royal Air Force, and becoming a Flying Officer.

Adrian was aged 26 and based at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland when, on 22nd April 1987 he tragically lost his life in a flying accident on a training flight. His body was never found.

A memorial plaque in All Saints Church, beneath the board bearing the names of those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, commemorates Adrian. And each year, on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day Adrian's name is read out at Braishfield War Memorial, as one who lost his life serving his country in peace time.

This year, a cross bearing Adrian's name was placed at the memorial in Lossiemouth by Corporal Benson, Rev Tom and Maryanne's daughter Rosie, who is currently serving there: a special link with his home village.



Braishfield Pantry

The Pantry team is brimming with excitement this season — and with good reason. The café has been proudly nominated for The Hampshire Chronicle and Romsey Advertiser Café of the Year, a recognition that has delighted staff and volunteers alike. We're absolutely thrilled, Thank you so much to everyone who voted for us — your support means the world. Now, all eyes are on the results.



In the meantime, the café has been a hive of activity. Lunchtime soup season is in full swing, bringing warmth and comfort to regulars and newcomers. Recently, the Pantry hosted the Social Contact Group for a special lunch [p.20] preparing soup and scones for almost thirty guests. Judging by the spotless bowls and smiling faces, the gathering was a resounding success.

November has also seen customers taking advantage of the month's offer: 10% off takeaway hot drinks and baked goods, with cakes, coffees and sausage rolls disappearing almost as quickly as they're made.

Behind the scenes, the team is hard at work assembling food hampers for the ever-popular murder mystery evening — an event so in-demand that tickets were harder to get hold of than Oasis tickets. With hearty hampers prepared, guests should have plenty of energy to deduce whodunnit.

It may only be November, but the festive spirit has certainly arrived. The Pantry has now been transformed with seasonal décor, and shelves are stocked with a delightful array of festive foods and gifts. Customers can place their Christmas food orders too, choosing from:

- Free-range turkeys from Noah's Ark Farm in New Milton
- Gammon and sausages from Greenfield Farm
- Trout pâté, gravadlax and fillets from Butler County Estate

Order forms must be returned by Monday 1st December for collection on Tuesday 23rd December. A wide selection of local cheeses, beers and wines will also be available — perfect for rounding out your Christmas table.

On Saturday 29th November, 10am–5pm, The Pantry will host its annual Christmas Bazaar alongside the Romsey Country Market. Visitors can browse unique gifts

while sampling some of the café's homemade treats. Special guests include:

- Cecilia from Goodworth Clatford Vineyard, offering tastings of English sparkling wine — with £5 off when buying two bottles
- Paula from Wessex Spirits, showcasing flavoured gins
- Tasters of Lyburn cheese and trout pâté

It promises to be a festive day full of flavour and community spirit.

Throughout November and December, customers will receive a raffle ticket for every £15 spent, entering them into draws to win a beautifully curated festive hamper. Those wishing to purchase their own hampers can select any items from the shop — the team will happily assemble them.

December's café special offers a comforting indulgence:

Coffee and a mince pie – £4

Tea and a mince pie – £3

Regular community groups will also be treated to a complimentary hot drink and mince pie on their final visit before Christmas.

As the year draws to a close, the Pantry team extends heartfelt thanks to every volunteer and customer who has supported them. "We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. If your New Year's resolution is to give back, we're always happy to welcome new volunteers — simply pop in for a chat or email us at braishfieldpantry@gmail.com."

Christmas Opening Hours

Mon 22nd: 9am–1pm
Tue 23rd: 9am–1pm
Wed 24th – Sun 28th: Closed
Mon 29th – Wed 31st: 9am–1pm
Thu 1st: Closed
Fri 2nd: 9am–1pm

With good food, festive cheer and a thriving sense of community, The Pantry is ready to celebrate the season in style.

Social Contact Group

Our outing in November didn't involve much of a journey this time! On a miserable wet day we were so pleased to be able to have a warming Soup & Scone Lunch in our very own Pantry. We are totally indebted to Debbie who made us a choice of two different very tasty flavoured soups & two different flavoured scones to accompany our lunch. We are so lucky to have Debbie and really appreciate the welcome & support she gave us all.

Our next outing is a return visit to Steff's Kitchen in Beaulieu in December for our Christmas lunch. It's hard to believe this is our last outing for 2025. However, plans are already in place for 2026, something to look forward to at the start of a New Year and if you would like to join us then please don't hesitate to give me a ring on 368339.



Finally, on behalf of all our Members, we would like to wish all the readers of the Braishfield Village News a very Happy Christmas and sincere good wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Hazel Prince

Braishfield Primary School

It has been a wonderfully busy first half term at Braishfield Primary School. We enjoyed a range of memorable events, including our Harvest Festival at the church, swimming lessons for every child, local community visits, and our eldest class embarking on their residential trip to Calshot. This half term we are looking forward to taking the whole school to the Pantomime—another exciting opportunity for our children to share a special experience together.



Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children have already begun rehearsing for their annual nativity performance. This is always a highlight of the school year, and although our performers are still very young, each child plays an important role. Their confidence and joy on stage are a testament to the support of their families and the dedication of our staff.

As part of our recent Remembrance Day assembly, a group of pupils visited the village memorial to lay homemade wreaths alongside members of the community. This was a moving and meaningful moment of peace and reflection, and one that reflects the pride we take in being part of the Braishfield community.

Finally, I would be delighted to welcome community members to our upcoming Carol Service in December. Please look out for further details on our school website and in our newsletters.



Natalie Alldred

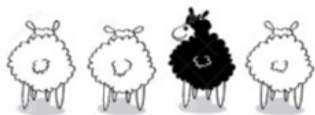
Headteacher,
Braishfield
Primary School



Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

After waiting patiently with heads resting on the fence, the rams were moved into the ewes fields 10 days or so ago and all is quiet.

The rams will be taken out of the field after some weeks, when they have their resting period again! Gestation in sheep is 152 days, so in theory at the end of March we will see lambs jumping about in the fields.



There isn't a lot to say otherwise; Fly is out of action for a while, having had surgery on her leg, so yesterday Kate, Ian and Lucy brought the sheep back here from the Scoggins' field without Fly. It was a smooth process; out of one gate, turn left, go along the road, but not too far, then through the gate on the right! I think the sheep knew where they were going as they have been there before! The trouble is that the grass always seems better by the road, so they can want to stop to eat. Once in the field, they then had to be encouraged to go into the cricket pitch field, which involved a lot of running... This move was because the sheep have eaten most of the grass in the Scoggins field. It is amazing that the grass has recovered as well as it has from the drought conditions of a few months ago although there probably isn't as much as normal.

It is very important for the ewes to have plenty of goodness during the gestation period; a lot of them could be going to have twins and the ewe must be in prime condition to cope with having to sustain the growth of her lambs. When the ewes are scanned in a while, Kate can make sure that those having multiple births are separated and given extra rations.

Wendy Quarendon



Braishfield United Reformed Church

News from Braishfield URC

The service at the War Memorial on 9th November was deeply moving. Daniel Symes laid the wreath and Allison Symes read on behalf of Braishfield URC.

We held our Memories Service on 16th November where we lit candles in remembrance of our loved ones.

Our Jars of Coins, raising money for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, were brought back to church on 23rd November.

Our Toy Service, led by Andy Bevan, was on 30th November. The new toys are given to Southampton Social Services who distribute to those in need. Their representative collects the donated toys from Braishfield and our sister church at Romsey. Thinking of toys, it brings home how quickly the year is passing. Here we are almost at Christmas. It would be wonderful if you could join us for our Christmas services.

We have a wonderful **Carols by Candlelight service at 3pm on Sunday 21st December** which will be led by the Reverend Mike Perrott. There will be no morning service but this afternoon service comprises favourite carols, readings, poems, and cracker jokes. Afterwards there will be tea, coffee, mince pies, and biscuits. The service is always fun. Do join us if you love a good sing (and are partial to mince pies!). We also have a thirty minutes service on **Christmas Day morning**, starting at 9.30am. That will be led by the Reverend Dr. Sarah Hall.



May we finish by wishing everybody in Braishfield a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

For more details please contact:-

The Ministers:

Church Secretary/Elder: Elders:

The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA - 01794 512163
The Reverend Doctor Sarah Hall - 02380 768004
Shirley Smith - 01794 368447
Allison Symes – 02380 262803
Sharon Whitfield – 01794 521937

All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church - Dates for your diary

Friday 19th December Carols on the Rec

6.30-7.15pm (Hot Dogs etc from 5pm)

Pantry open

We do hope you can join us!

Sunday 21st December

10.30am Quiet Communion (no music)



Candle-lit Carol Service

5.30pm Sunday 21st December

- stay for a seasonal hot drink and warm mincepies afterwards!



Christingle Service 4.00pm Christmas Eve

receive a lighted Christingle. Donations for the Children's Society welcomed.



Christmas Day Service at 10.00am

a service of celebration for everyone

We wish everyone a peaceful and joyful Christmas season

And also Braishfield Church choir will be contributing to an **Advent Carol Service at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne on Advent Sunday, 30th November, at 6.00pm.** Come and enjoy Advent hymns, music and readings as we enter this season of preparation for the festival of Christmas. Everyone is welcome!

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



From Rev Tom...

Hello everyone,

At this time of year we often see Nativity plays (some more traditional than others!) and for many of us, children and adults, it's easy to forget that the Nativity story is really quite irrelevant to our lives today, unless we have a grasp of who that small baby in the manger was and what he came to do. After all, the only reason we mark a historic figure's birthday is because of the life they led afterwards. So how about remembering during this season a few more facts about him.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

During his first thirty years he shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home.

For the next three years he went about healing sick and troubled people and teaching small groups in villages, in the fields and by the lakeside.

He gathered 12 ordinary men to be his helpers.

He had no money.

He had no university degree.

He commanded no army.

He wielded no political power.

During his ministry he never travelled more than 200 miles in any direction.

He was executed by crucifixion at the age of 33.

Jesus taught by what he said, by what he was and by what he did. He taught us to trust God, as a loving father, to pray in faith and to be sensitive to the needs of others, and to follow him in lives of generosity, faith, simplicity and love. He taught that we are each infinitely precious to God so we should look out for one another with understanding, respect and forgiveness.

Amazingly, even after all those years, there are over 1000 million people who follow him, who call him Lord. They believe that after his cruel death on the cross, God raised him from the dead to demonstrate to all people, for all time, that goodness will triumph over evil; justice over injustice, love over hate.

At this time of year in our churches we talk about Jesus coming into the world as a light into the darkness. 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, Tom

Braishfield Garden Club



GARDEN CLUB SPEAKERS 2026

JAN 13 – RAY BROUGHTON – ‘Pruning Techniques’ with time for your questions.

Ray has talked to us many times and he always has new information. This talk on pruning will be up to date with time left for your questions.

FEB 10TH – GREEN PAULINE – ‘You, Your Garden and Climate Change’.

Help your garden help the planet, and the low down on eco products.

MARCH 10TH – AMANDA GOMERSALL – ‘From Weeds to a Show Winning Urban Garden’.

Subsequently winning B & Q Garden 2024 ‘Best use of small space’

APRIL 7TH CHRIS BIRD - ‘A User’s Guide to Soils’-

Chris Bird will cover all you need to know, including the make - up of soil, dealing with various types, composting, and how to get the most from your plot.

MAY 12 Tom Maskell – ‘Vegetable Growing – Success on the Plot’.

Tom has a wealth of experience as a head gardener and will pass on the secrets of making the most of your vegetable area.

SUMMER SHOW – SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ‘SHADOWS’

SEPT 8 CHARLOTTE POPESCU – ‘Foraging for Wild Food’

Charlotte developed a passion for wild food growing up in the countryside with self-sufficiency an all important part of family life. Her talk looks at all the wild food you can get throughout the year.

OCTOBER 13TH GILLIAN TAYLOR - ‘Perfect Plants for People and Pollinators’.

Gillian returns with a look at the large range of plants and the insects that they support. How these can be applied to the garden from the practical and beautiful aspects.

NOVEMBER 10TH - AGM with Wine and Nibbles

‘Apple has got a Peel’ from the Romsey Advertiser

David Robinson was the winner of our annual Apple Competition held at our October meeting. David was presented with the Apple Trophy by our speaker Rosemary Le Grand.



Rosemary spoke on ‘Spring Flowers of Crete’. During her talk she revealed the surprising number and variety of orchids that are found on the Greek island – maybe a place to visit.

We start our new year off with:

JAN 13 – RAY BROUGHTON – ‘Pruning Techniques’ with time for your questions.

Ray has talked to us many times and he always has new information. This talk on pruning will be up to date with time left for your questions.

Non-members always welcome



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13th & 27th March
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Braishfield Village Hall, Braishfield, SO51 0PN
Last Saturday of a Month 10.30-12.30

28th February
28th March
25th April

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

7th March
4th April

Email: infromseycountrymarket@gmail.com



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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 5th, 19th December

2nd, 16th, 30th January

Household waste rubbish on:

FRIDAY 12th, 26th December

9th, 23rd January

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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