

ISSUE 277 | APR 2026



# Braishfield Village News

Wishing you a  
joyous Easter

The Braishfield Village Association produces and distributes the newsletter free to all residents of Braishfield and the neighbouring hamlets.  
Available in colour online at [www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)

## Braishfield Village Association Committee 2026

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01794 368894

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## Notices



### Editors note

Please send all items for the Braishfield Village News by email: [BVNeditor@gmail.com](mailto: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 DATE** for the next Braishfield Village News is Friday 22 May for the June Edition.

## Communications



### Your email network

A lot of important information is distributed via the Village Email Network. If you are not currently subscribed, please register your interest now and stay in the know. Send an email to:

[braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com)



### Village website

[www.braishfield.org](http://www.braishfield.org)

Please could all organisations listed on the website check that their details are correct. In the event of any changes or amendments, contact Chip Mead at: [chip.esq@gmail.com](mailto:chip.esq@gmail.com)



### Facebook Residents Forum

Ben Holdaway  
[www.facebook.com/groups/802698869862489](https://www.facebook.com/groups/802698869862489)

## Bookings



### Parish Council

[www.braishfield.org.uk](http://www.braishfield.org.uk)

Jane Ray  
07902 297004



### Church Room

Wendy Quarendon  
01794 368015

[BraishfieldChurchRoom@googlemail.com](mailto:BraishfieldChurchRoom@googlemail.com)



### Village Hall

Kate Knight  
[braishfieldvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldvillagehall@gmail.com)

Cover photo: Trek\_Jason

## From the chair

### Well, it's been a while ...

Firstly, thanks must go to our retiring Editor Wendy Dolby-Stevens. Wendy has been Editor for 7 years and arrived with new ideas for the BVN which were warmly received including a letters page and fantastic photography on the front cover. My thanks go to Wendy for all of her hard work, it really has been appreciated ... and welcome to Paul, our new Editor. Paul hasn't had the easiest of starts with a lengthy hospital stay since the New Year, but he joins us now from home, still recuperating, but with lots of enthusiasm and fresh ideas of how to make the BVN his own.

I think most of this edition was put together from his hospital bed so that's a first for the BVN! We all look forward to seeing Paul's ideas put into place.

For now, all that's left for me to say is enjoy the sunshine while it lasts.

*Bye for now, Julie.*

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.

## Annual Garden Club Summer Show

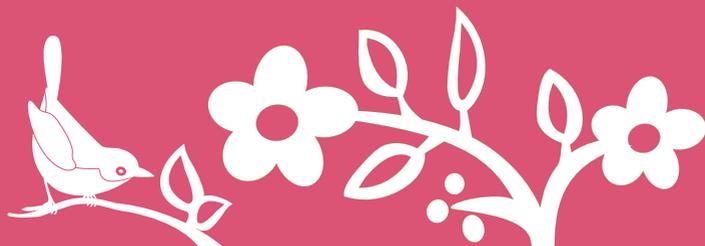
Saturday 18 July 2026  
Braishfield Village Hall  
at 2pm

Please come along and support your local event. All Garden Club and Flower Club members along with village residents are eligible to take part.

Photographic competition 'Shadows' or a Plant or flower photo.

Details will be available soon on the Garden Club website:

[e-voice.org.uk/braishfieldgardenclub](http://e-voice.org.uk/braishfieldgardenclub)



## Report from Cllr Sally Yalden, Borough Councillor



Test Valley  
Borough Council

After a grey and what felt like a never-ending damp winter, it has been lovely to see the arrival of spring. One of my favourite sights at this time of year is the bright yellow celandines appearing along the verges, a reminder of just how special the rural character of Braishfield is.

Having lived in the village with my family for over 14 years, it was that rural setting and character that first drew us here. I cannot help but notice though, that some of those same verges along our lanes have deteriorated over time. Protecting what makes this village special is something I care deeply about and will continue to raise when I can.

### **Southern Water New Pipeline**

I recently attended a public drop-in event held by Southern Water to learn more about their plans for the Water for Life Hampshire project. The company is investing over £100 million to build a new 19km pipeline and pumping stations linking the Otterbourne, Yew Hill and Rownhams sites, with the aim of improving resilience by allowing water to be moved between sites during periods of high demand or drought.

One of the unexpected highlights of the project so far has been the archaeological discoveries made during excavations: Roman glass and finds dating back to the Neolithic and prehistoric periods, some found remarkably close to the surface, just beneath our feet. It is a striking reminder of the deep history lying beneath our village lanes.

My household was affected by the problems at the Otterbourne site in 2023 and we were without water for several days, so it is reassuring to see this investment being made. I have also obtained the contact details of the main project lead, should any issues arise that might affect residents locally.

### **Potholes and Road Maintenance**

While responsibility for potholes sits with Hampshire County Council rather than Test Valley Borough Council, it's an issue residents quite rightly raise with me. And after recently having to pay for two new tyres because of pothole damage, it's an issue that has become personal to many of us too. A fellow councillor brought a motion to the most recent Full Council meeting asking the Borough Council to write formally to Hampshire County Council to express deep concern about the reported drop in highways repairs across Hampshire.

I spoke in support of the motion, calling for urgent improvements to Hampshire's highways. Residents understandably want to see better solutions and real improvements, rather than simply being directed to report potholes online. It is clear that a more effective long-term plan is desperately needed to address the ongoing deterioration of our roads.

Copy of email sent to the Braishfield Village Email Network 19 March 2026

## **Oil Heating Support for Rural Areas**

I was contacted today about oil heating support for rural areas. At this stage, Test Valley Borough Council is awaiting further guidance from Hampshire County Council.

We understand that the Government will be making funding available through a Crisis Resilience Fund which will be allocated to Hampshire County Council (HCC). It may be that HCC asks districts like TVBC to support delivery at a local level, but no further details have been confirmed yet.

In the meantime, the Cost of Living pages on the council website will be updated as more information becomes available: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefitsandcounciltax/cost-of-living-support](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefitsandcounciltax/cost-of-living-support)

I'd particularly recommend keeping an eye on the Fuel & Energy section - officers have created a "Help with Oil Costs" page, which will be updated as soon as further details are known. If you know of anyone who is not online and might benefit from this information, please share with them.

## **What Matters to You?**

I provide regular updates to the parish council and try to speak with residents whenever possible. Whether you have lived in the village for many years or have recently moved here, I would always welcome hearing from you about the issues that matter most. Please do get in touch by email, at a parish meeting, or simply if you see me around the village. I'm often doing litter picks!

***Cllr Sally Yalden***

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

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

Phone: 07783 821561

## **Keep Connected** ▶

Join the Village Email Network so you don't miss out on the important updates. A lot of vital village news is distributed exclusively via our Braishfield Email Network.

If you aren't already on the list, please email: [braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldnetwork@gmail.com) to sign up ...

*... and stay in the know.*



# Alan Dowden HCC Councillor - Baddesley Division



Dear Resident,

In January 2025, I let you know I planned to stand down at the next County Council election. The election that was supposed to happen in May 2025 got postponed, but now it's set for this year on 7th May 2026.

I just want to say a big thank you to everyone in the Baddesley Division - Ampfield, Braishfield, North Baddesley, and Valley Park - for trusting me back in January 1992 to be your voice and representative.

Thanks to your ongoing support, I've been able to serve as County Councillor for 34 years, the longest anyone has held this role here.

Serving you all has been both interesting and rewarding, and I've learned a lot about how local government works and the challenges of providing high-quality services. I'll admit, there have been some frustrating moments when improvements didn't happen as quickly as I hoped. Community needs are always changing, which puts pressure on budgets that are already stretched. The officers at the County Council have been fantastic to work with - their expertise in all the different service areas is impressive.

One of my earliest aims was to improve every school in my division, and I'm really happy to say that's now a reality, with extensions, refurbishments, and rebuilds. I've also had the honour of serving as a Local Authority governor at two schools locally.

Back in 2001, I proposed Public Participation at the full Council, and with support from the joint administration, we made it possible for anyone to speak on any topic at Council meetings. Lots of people and groups have made good use of this over the years.

As lead member for Health & Adult Social Care, I've had the chance to visit Care Homes and talk with clients, and I've met some truly memorable characters along the way.

Looking after the environment has always been close to my heart, and I've tried to do my bit to cut down on carbon emissions wherever I can. By pushing the County Council, I've helped get things moving on cycle routes - both on the roads and through the green spaces - which has made it easier for everyone to hop on a bike instead of driving. It's a simple way to make our area greener and healthier for all.

I'm also especially proud of the daffodils in North Baddesley and Valley Park. A total of 36,000 bulbs have been planted in verges and green spaces, thanks to contributions from local businesses and help with planting from sports celebrities and children from the local schools. They bloom every year, hopefully brightening journeys and bringing a little joy.

Thank you for all your support throughout the years. It's been a privilege to serve you on the County Council. I will still remain a Test Valley Borough Councillor and Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council.

With best wishes,

**Alan Dowden** HCC Councillor - Baddesley Division

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## Sheep Matters at Elm Farm

Life has carried on in sheep land despite there being no article to write last time.

So, when Kate had the ewes scanned in January in order to manage better their care, the overall average was 188%, nearly 2 lambs each. There are triplets and twins as well as singles giving us the figure that Kate is very pleased with.

Currently all the pregnant ewes are in the hay barn, giving them some shelter and allowing Kate to be able to keep a good eye on them. Separated into groups depending on how many lambs they are carrying, they are then given rations to suit. There are nearly 80 due to give birth in the next few weeks and they look very bonny.

Kate has been busy preparing the ewes, to make sure they are in prime condition in order to cope with motherhood. They have been crutched, which is clearing wool from the rear end to keep clean for lambing and hopefully to better control the flies later. Inoculations have been administered and all the important bits, like teeth and feet checked. Kate has also given them, into their stomach, the large pill which will then release good things to keep them well. It contains Selenium, Cobalt and Iodine; sounds like a tasty treat!

The big barn is being prepared to take some pens where the multiple births may spend their first day or two, before venturing out into the world. Let's hope for nice weather for them.

**Wendy Quarendon**



# Braishfield Garden Club

For our February meeting we welcomed a new speaker to our club, Amanda Gomersall *From Weeds to a Show Winning Urban Garden - Developing my Court Yard Garden*

Amanda's journey took her from a 5 acres garden to a small 5 x 11 metre garden in Chandlers Ford and winning a B&Q First prize in 2024 for the best use of a small space, all within four years.

It showed her journey from a blank canvas to her winning garden. She spoke of her vision and much research. Digging out 18 inches of topsoil and replacing it with top soil, mushroom compost and compost. The planning for each season for colours that blend together and for interest. The inclusion of solar lighting and a vertical herb garden, these were in pots hanging from the fence. How she painted her shed black (half) to blend in with black water butts. The use of mirrors and a small water feature.

The main colour for the summer were white Hydrangeas, white Agapanthus, Rosemary Blue Rain, and Rosa Iceberg, and Rosa Snow Goose, a repeat flowering rose. It was certainly thought provoking for those who have recently purchased a new house or for those who just need to change their garden.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday 14 April** - 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.

**Tuesday 12 May**, Michael Harvey - Michael is the senior gardener at Mottisfont and in charge of the Rose garden. He has worked with the National Trust for 10 years and gained a wealth of knowledge about the garden.

## Annual Garden Club Summer Show Saturday 18 July 2026

Photographic Competition 'Shadows'

Details will be available soon on the Garden Club website: [e-voice.org.uk/braishfieldgardenclub](http://e-voice.org.uk/braishfieldgardenclub)





## Programme 2026

**Thursday 22 January**  
Annual General Meeting  
and Social Supper

**Thursday 26 February**  
Katie Baxter  
'Spring is Coming'

**Thursday 26 March**  
Melanie Smith  
'Beauty in Bloom'

**Thursday 23 April**  
Martina Coleman  
'Floral Delight'

**Thursday 28 May**  
Miyuki Griffin  
Ikebana Workshop

**Thursday 25 June**  
Jennifer Thompson  
'Let there be Music and  
Flowers'

**Thursday 23 July**  
Party Time

**Thursday 24 September**  
Christina Lowe  
'Modern Classes'

**Thursday 22 October**  
Pip Bensley  
'Chelsea'

**Thursday 26 November**  
Coral Gardiner  
'Tree-Mendous Christmas'  
Open Evening \*



## Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society

We recently welcomed Florist and Floral Demonstrator Katie Baxter with her demonstration 'Spring is Coming'.

She inspired the audience with her alternative arrangements without using floral foam. Society members were fascinated when she introduced a new technique - flowers made from pages of old books. Katie never disappoints and the society look forward to welcoming her back in the future.

### About the society

BFAS meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 7:30pm in All Saints Church Rooms.

Annual Subscription is £40 for Members. Visitors £8 per meeting and are assured of a warm welcome.

### Get in touch

Email: [braishfieldflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldflowerclub@gmail.com)

Details of the programme for 2026 can be found on the village website: [www.braishfield.org/activities](http://www.braishfield.org/activities)

\* The Open Evening is a ticketed event held in Braishfield Village Hall



## Social Contact Group

### **Quiz and Fish & Chip Lunch**

On a chilly damp day in January we started the New Year with a fun quiz compiled by Judy Thorpe with assistance from Diana Wyers. The questions were varied & brought back many shared memories especially over names & dates of films, film stars & musicals.

As a result of items for a hamper, Judy received enough donations to create 4 beautiful hampers for our usual raffle and our Members were very generous in purchasing tickets.

Following the Quiz we enjoyed our usual fish & chip lunch with plenty of time afterwards for a chat!

We are very grateful to both Judy & Diana for organising such a fun occasion & a request has already been made for a repeat of this event next year!

### **Film Show and Tea & Cakes**

A February afternoon of pouring rain did not deter our Members from coming to The Community Room to see the film 'Downton Abbey - The Finale' which followed on from the film we showed last year. We stopped for an interval part way through for tea & cakes. We are extremely grateful & appreciative of the help from Debbie in The Pantry who made the delicious cakes & helped us serve the refreshments. It was getting dark by the time we left but it had stopped raining and there was a good deal of reflective chat about the film.

We would all like to say a big thank you to The 200 Club for their extremely generous donation to our funds. This support is greatly appreciated.

Our plans are already in place for this year & if you would like to join our very friendly group, please don't hesitate to give me a ring on 01794 368339.

**Hazel Prince**  
Chairman

# Braishfield Golf Society

This summer will be the 14th year since the Society was formed in 2012. Although the number of participants have dropped over the last couple of years those who have continued have enjoyed a social gathering at each event.

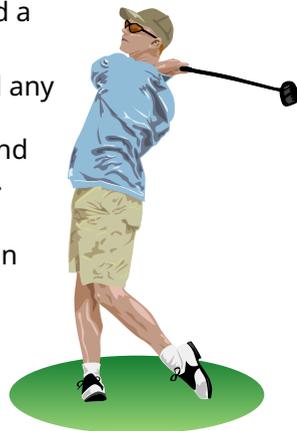
Geoff Briggs and I have set up 4 meetings this year and any Village golfer, irrespective of ability, would be most welcome to join. So please send me an email soonest and we will include you of the circulation list for this season.

The first outing is planned for Wednesday 6 May, South Winchester GC at 11.30am, tee off with coffee and bacon roles beforehand - £58 pp. **If you want to play please email me back soonest. Cut-off date 24 April.**

*Richard Brazier*

[rdbrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:rdbrazier@hotmail.com)

07768 020917



## Advanced Warning of Road Closures

**Romsey Road Runners** will be holding their annual 5-mile road race on **Sunday 7 June 2026**. The race will start at **10:00am** at Braishfield cricket ground and finish at the recreation ground.

The route passes through Braishfield (Dummers Road, Braishfield Road, Paynes Hay Road, Lower Street, Kiln Lane and Newport Lane) and the race organisers hope that you will not be too inconvenienced; the route will be signposted and marshalled. Up to 450 runners will be involved, taking about an hour to complete the course.

It would be much appreciated by Romsey Road Runners and the participants if you could keep the roads clear whilst the race is in progress.

There will also be a free 1km fun run for children aged 5 to 14 years and a "toddler dash" for the under-5s which will take place after the main race.

We are delighted that The Braishfield Village Pantry will also be open during the morning of the race.

We would once again like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the residents of Braishfield for helping this event to continue to be a popular and enjoyable occasion for all concerned.

*Louise Holliday* - Secretary, Romsey 5 Mile Beer Race  
[www.romseyroadrunners.co.uk](http://www.romseyroadrunners.co.uk)



# Braishfield Music & Drama Society

## What's on in 2026?

BMADS have been part of village life for over 40 years, and we are keen to carry on providing entertainment for you.

This year we plan to hold another murder mystery following on from the sell-out shows in 2024 and 2025. This year we are hoping to put on two performances so that tickets are not so hard to come by. We are also hoping that the BVA will help on the night. Dates have yet to be set but it will be at a similar time to previous years - November or early December.

These mysteries are an excellent way to dip your toes into acting - parts are small and you have an audience of friends willing you on. So if, like Sheila Holloway last year and Ian Jeffrey in 2024, you fancy having a go, do let me know at [ovstores@gmail.com](mailto:ovstores@gmail.com). Both loved it and Sheila is now busy leading the search for this year's offering!

While we have no firm plans yet, we are also hoping to be able to organise a coach trip to the Chichester Festival in the summer to see **My Fair Lady**. Their musical productions are always excellent and often transfer to the West End. If you think you might like to join in with that, please register your interest with me at [ovstores@gmail.com](mailto:ovstores@gmail.com). Obviously, there is no commitment yet but it will give us an idea of how popular it would be.

*Mike Allen*

## Braishfield Village Voices

Many of you will know that I've a thing about singing being for everyone, with Village Voices being just that - a singing group welcoming everyone.

Next meet-ups are Mondays - 27 April, 25 May, 22 June and 27 July, from 2pm to 4pm in the Church Room.

From Beatles to folk songs, hymns to Lloyd Webber, music hall to part songs and rounds, we take requests for all sorts of music, try anything and enjoy singing together.

Music's like a medicine, lifting everyone's spirits, having far-reaching benefits mentally and physically, and just getting people together.

We look forward to seeing you - further details from **Meri** 07974 957092 or **Wendy** 01794 368015.



# Sing Along

All welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday\* of each month during 2026 at All Saints Church Room, Braishfield SO51 0QH.

Starting at 2:30pm until 4pm we will be singing some of your favourite songs and providing song sheets should you wish to sing along with us.

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

\*Except July and August.



**Hosted by Braishfield  
Ukulele Musical Society**

**This is a free event**

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



### When to visit us

Monday to Friday  
9am to 4:30pm

Saturday  
9am to 1pm

Sunday  
Closed

### Where to find us

Braishfield Pantry  
Braishfield Road  
Braishfield, Romsey  
SO51 0PN  
(Next to the Village Hall)

### what3words

syndicate.buddy.tinned

### What we can offer

- Ample free parking
- Free Wifi
- Indoor & Outdoor seating
- Cycle Racks
- A base for local walks
- Children's play park
- Recreational field



## Braishfield Village Pantry

After what has felt like an especially long stretch of dreary, rain-soaked months, it is a joy to finally welcome the first signs of spring to Braishfield. The village is beginning to feel brighter again, and nowhere is this more evident than at the Pantry, where the garden is looking absolutely fabulous. A huge thank you goes to Ruth, whose care and attention have brought a wonderful display of spring flowers into bloom truly lifting everyone's spirits.

Before we leap fully into the new season, it's worth reflecting on a very successful end to last year. The Pantry enjoyed excellent Christmas sales, and our Christmas Bazaar held in association with Romsey Country Market was a tremendous success. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to feel such strong community support during the festive period.

We would also like to thank everyone for their patience over the past few months while work was ongoing in the car park. The disruption was not ideal, particularly during the wet weather, but we are delighted to say the improvements are now complete. The potholes and puddles are gone, making access safer and more pleasant for all.

Our village hall continues to thrive, and we feel very fortunate to be part of such an active community. The Pantry regularly welcomes groups visiting the hall, and recently we had a lovely visit from the Social Contact Group. They enjoyed a film screening followed by cakes and drinks from the Pantry - a simple but special way to spend time together.

## Easter at the Pantry

Looking ahead, Easter is just around the corner. Please note our opening hours:

- Closed on Good Friday
- Open Saturday 4 April
- Closed Easter Monday

To celebrate, we're running a special Easter offer: spend £15 and receive a free Cadbury's Creme Egg. We are also well stocked with a tempting selection of Easter treats, alongside our usual range of high-quality local produce. Why not indulge in a bottle of local fizz from Goodworth Clatford Vineyard paired with delicious trout pâté from Butler County Estates or some Isle of Wight cheese?



Finally, 2026 marks a very special milestone for us - the Pantry's 10th anniversary. For a decade, this community shop has been at the heart of village life, and we would love to celebrate with all of you. We warmly invite anyone who has been involved in volunteering over the years to join us for an evening celebration at the shop on Thursday 11 June from 5pm to 8pm.

In addition, everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate the Pantry's 10th birthday on Saturday 13 June 10am to 3pm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the Pantry soon.

**Debbie Sykes** [www.braishfieldpantry.com](http://www.braishfieldpantry.com)

## Village Hall Update

Many thanks to our neighbours, users of The Hall and customers of The Pantry who have put up with the disruption caused by the resurfacing of the car park.

I hope you will agree the finished site not only looks better but the installation of marked parking bays should help accommodate more users of the facilities. We hope the potholes and flooding will now be things of the past.

Whilst The Hall is well used, please remember it is a village facility and it would be great to see even more villagers using it for events and activities.

**The Village Hall Committee and Parish Council**





## All Saints' Church, Braishfield

### Everyone is welcome ...

**Good Friday** 7:30pm 'God so Loved the World' An hour's reflective service with hymns, readings and anthems from the church choir.

**Easter Sunday** 9:30am We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with Holy Communion followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children and refreshments in the Church Room for everyone.

### Dates for your diary

- BBQ - Saturday 15 August
- Hymns and Pimms at the Social Club - Sunday 20 September
- Harvest Supper - Saturday 3 October
- Carols on the Rec - Friday 19 December
- Saturday 5 September 9:30am Churchyard Working Party with refreshments, please bring your tools

### We do hope you can join us!

More information: [www.asbchurch.org](http://www.asbchurch.org)  
or contact Jane Bennett on 01794 368109



## Easter Excitement

Friday 10 April 3:30pm to 5:30pm  
All Saints Braishfield

**messy activities - celebration - feast**

Contact Rev Jane Thompson for details  
[jane.thompson@me.com](mailto:jane.thompson@me.com)



## From Rev Tom ...



Dear Friends,

Easter is here again - and with it comes one of the simplest and most powerful messages at the heart of the Christian faith: Christ is risen.

After the quieter, more reflective weeks of Lent, and the sadness of Good Friday, Easter morning brings a real sense of joy and relief. It reminds us that darkness doesn't get the last word. However, things may look or feel, hope is never lost.

For many of us, life isn't always straightforward. There are worries about family, work, health, and the wider world. Some days feel heavy, and it's not always easy to see a way forward. The good news of Easter speaks right into those moments. It tells us that God is with us in the middle of it all - and that new life, in ways big and small, is always possible.

You don't have to look far to catch glimpses of that new life. It's there in the signs of spring around us - longer days, blossom on the trees, gardens coming back to life. It's there too in simple acts of kindness, in people looking out for one another, and in the strength that so many show when times are tough. All of these echo the hope that Easter brings.

Easter is also a gentle invitation. An invitation to come and see, to pause and reflect, or perhaps to reconnect with faith in a fresh way. Whether you've been part of church life for years, drop in from time to time, or are just curious, you are always very welcome here. There's no pressure - just a chance to share in something hopeful and life-giving.

As a church, we look forward to celebrating together over Easter and beyond. It's always a special time to gather, to sing, to pray, and simply to be together as a community.

Whatever Easter looks like for you this year, I hope you find moments of peace, joy, and renewal. And perhaps, in a quiet way, a reminder that hope is closer than we think.

With best wishes for a happy and peaceful Easter,

***God Bless, Tom***

### **Good Friday**

All Saints Braishfield 7:30pm *'God so Loved the World'*.

An hour's reflective service with hymns, readings and anthems from the church choir.

**Everyone is very welcome**





## Braishfield United Reformed Church

### News from Braishfield URC

In January, we welcomed David Parker from the *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance*. His talk was enlightening and mind boggling - their costs are huge, what they can do to help people by the roadside is amazing. We support a charity project every year.

Our Annual General Meeting was held as part of our service on Sunday 15 March. Many thanks to all who supported that and who put their names on the jobs list for another year.

We hope those who won prizes in the Easter Egg raffle enjoyed the chocolate. Many thanks to all who contributed to a delicious looking selection of eggs!

We are part of The Southern Fellowship group of six URC churches, which includes our sister church at Romsey. Braishfield URC will host the Southern Fellowship Anniversary Service on Saturday 9 May 2026 starting at 2pm. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow the service. Do come if you can. Parking will be on the roadside.

We will join All Saints Parish Church for the United Christian Aid Service this year. All are welcome. It is lovely the village churches take it in turns to host this annual service.

You will need to be in good voice for our Favourite Hymns service on Sunday, 24 May. Can Braishfield URC beat its record of ten hymns, readings, prayers, notices, the collection etc and still finish a few minutes early? We shall see! And if you enjoy a good sing, do come and join us.

**For more details please contact:**

#### The Ministers

The Reverend  
Mike Perrot MA  
01794 512163

The Reverend  
Dr Sarah Hall  
02380 262803

#### Church Secretary/Elder

Shirley Smith  
01794 368447

#### Elders

Allison Symes  
02380 262803

Sharon Whitfield  
01794 328853



# Braishfield 200 Club, in 2025



2025 was a good year for the Club, with several new members joining. Our total income for the year was £3560, our only expense was the annual licence fee of £20 (payable to TVBC). So the 'pot' was divided into 60% going to charities and local 'good causes' (£2124) and 40% to members in the form of a monthly draw – so 12 cash prizes totalling £1416, (an average of £118). Nice to have, but not life changing!).

The charities and good causes we supported included the two local churches, the village's Social Contact Group, the Countess Mountbatten Hospice (in memory of the club's founder Andrew Lalonde), Air Ambulance, Search and Rescue, Jane Scarth House, Romsey Young Carers, the Romsey Food Bank, ServeDirect, and the Jumbulance Trust. (if you're counting up, one charity received two cheques).

If you're not a member, would like to join and won't miss £5 or £10 a month, contact me and we'll join you up. You might even win one of the monthly prizes, who knows?

*David Robinson*, 01794 368774.

## In case of emergency



### Electricity

Phone 105 or SSE on 0800 072 7282. Report or check a power cut [powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack](https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack)

If you require special assistance call SSE on 0800 294 3259 to register for Priority Services.



### Water

Supply or waste water 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

Cllr Jane Bennett 01794 368109 or 07823 320910.



## Hants and W.Berks Jumbulance Group

### Update Spring 2026

Our first 8 day holiday is a return to the 4 accessible Atherfield Green Farm Cottages near Chale on the Isle of Wight in July. There are so many lovely places suitable for us to visit and going on the ferry it really feels we are getting right away. It is self catering but we have a volunteer professional caterer, my niece, Nicola from N.Yorkshire. This she does at cost and it makes for a cheaper holiday for everyone and delicious meals with some meals out.

Our second 8 day holiday is in September to the new to us, Merton House Hotel in Ross and Wye, with 9 ground floor fully accessible rooms with wet rooms and we are taking 30 people in total (21 in a Jumbulance with 2 volunteers cars as well as to carry the extra 9 volunteers we need this year) It also has very popular single rooms. Entertainment each evening and 4 day trips out to a variety of places in the area. This holiday is also full with a waiting list.

We are victims of our own success and have more applications than we can cope with. We do have waiting lists as sadly inevitably some people become unwell for various reasons before the holiday and have to drop out, but we have had to pay for the holiday and Jumbulance 8 weeks before the trip. A half full Jumbulance costs as much as a full one to hire! We can therefore often take people on the waiting list at short notice to fill these places.

On March 5th we had a group meeting followed by our Spring Reunion lunch and were very well looked after by Jo and her team at the Wheatsheaf. Our Volunteers brought members who have no transport and Maggie Hills discussed possible accessible day trips for the outings. This allowed regulars to meet up again and new people to come and find out what we could offer. More supporters joined us for lunch and the current mayor of Romsey, Councillor Russell Theron also joined us for lunch and gave lots of time to talk to our members and found out more about our supported holidays.

On March 20th we have a Fundraising Curry and Quiz night at the Dog and Crook pub, who hosted us last year for our Spring meeting and Lunch and are very supportive. Rishi has organised an excellent Indian and English 3 course meal. We already have several teams and we hope with our Hamper Raffle to raise more money towards subsidising this year's holidays which have gone up.

I also apply for grants for both individuals and for the group and am very grateful to the Romsey Lion's Club this year and Hamble Ladies Group. It is sometimes soul destroying trying to raise money and applying for grants and distracts from what we do best of all. We have some more events in W.Berkshire later in the year and have had some generous donations which we really appreciate as costs escalate.

We also need a voluntary book keeper if anyone would like to help us. I have had to do it for some years as two consecutive book keepers became ill and retired. I hate it – not my forte at all. We are always looking for younger volunteers and pleased we have new ones this year and some returnees.

**Chris Chisholm**

Mobile: 0788 774 8224

Email: [cookchrisr@aol.com](mailto:cookchrisr@aol.com)

Affiliated to the Jumbulance Trust:  
registered charity No. 1090731



## According to Google: Easter

### ... otherwise known as Artificial Intelligence

Easter is a "moveable feast" with origins that blend ancient pagan traditions and Christian beliefs. Celebrated annually between 22 March and 25 April, its date is determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.

### Surprising Historical Origins

The Name "Easter": Most scholars believe the name comes from Eostre (or Eastre), the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility, who was celebrated at the spring equinox.

German Bunny Roots: The Easter Bunny originated in 17th-century Germany as a mythical hare named "Osterhase" who laid colourful eggs in nests for well-behaved children.

Pretzels were Treats: Before chocolate became the standard, pretzels were a popular Easter snack because their twists resemble arms crossed in prayer.

Temporary Ban: In 1647, the English Parliament under Oliver Cromwell actually abolished Easter celebrations, considering them too "extravagant"; the holiday wasn't restored until 1660.



## Keep the heart of Braishfield beating



Braishfield Village News has shared the stories, events, and key milestones that make our village feel like home. From regular events to celebrating our organisations and clubs, we strive to keep everyone connected.

### **But we can't do it without you?**

Remember, Braishfield Village News is FREE so as a community-run publication, we rely on reader donations and supporting local businesses via advertising to cover printing costs annually. This printing cost amounts to £6.50 per household, but we face an average shortfall of £2 per recipient annually.

### **Help by donating**

If you enjoy reading these pages, please consider donating a small contribution to keep us going. This can be a one-off payment or a monthly standing order.

### **Donation details**

- Account name: Braishfield Village Association
- Sort code: 30-97-14
- Account No: 31483060

**Your donation helps and ensures a copy reaches every resident in the village**

*Thank you on behalf of the Braishfield Village Association*



## Your feedback ...

The Braishfield Village News has been a community staple for many years, capturing the heart of village life.

We welcome any feedback or ideas that bring value to our residents and local businesses. Your photographic contributions truly bring our pages to life - please keep them coming.

### Have a story or a photo?

Email your story or high-res photos to: [BVNeditor@gmail.com](mailto:BVNeditor@gmail.com)  
Remember, please include your name and a brief caption of where the photo was taken.

*BVN Editor*



### Deadline Dates 2026

**Braishfield  
Village News**

Friday 22 May

Friday 24 July

Friday 18 September

Friday 20 November

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### 2026 Market Dates

Romsey Town Hall Market & Community Café  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of a Month 10.30-12.30

10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April  
8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June  
10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> July

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

25<sup>th</sup> April

Romsey Market at The Corn Exchange  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of a Month 8.30-3.00

4<sup>th</sup> April  
2<sup>nd</sup> May  
8<sup>th</sup> June  
4<sup>th</sup> July

Email [info@romsycountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:info@romsycountrymarket@gmail.com)

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# Waste & Recycling

The collection of household waste and recycling takes place on alternate weeks. Food waste is collected weekly.

Black wheelie bin



Household waste every two weeks

Brown wheelie bin



Recycling waste every two weeks

Black kerbside caddy



Food waste every week

\*Green wheelie bin



Garden waste every two weeks

This means that your black household waste wheelie bin and your kerbside food caddy will be emptied one week + your \*green garden waste wheelie bin (sack) service if you have subscribed.

... and your brown recycling wheelie bin and your kerbside food caddy will be emptied the following week.

Recycling information can be found at: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/recycling)

Your bin(s) must be placed at the edge of your property by 7am on your collection day. Your bin(s) must be returned onto your property as soon as possible following your collection.

You can check up "when are my bins collected" at: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/bins](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/bins)

## Household Waste Recycling Centre

Open seven days a week all year round, excluding 25 and 26 December and 1 January. The opening times vary according to the time of year.

Bunny Lane (Casbrook) local tip booking [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres)

## Recycle waste + food waste



April 10, 24  
May 8, 22

## Household waste + food waste + garden waste



April 3, 17  
May 1, 15, 29

April						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Glass and textile recycling can be found to the rear of The Wheatsheaf pub car park



To find your local recycling centre and what can be recycled visit:

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



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