

ISSUE 279 | AUGUST 2026



Braishfield Village News

Summer fun & showmanship

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



If we don't protect our Village News, who will?

Every other month, the Braishfield Village News arrives at your door packed with local updates. It is completely free to read and run entirely by volunteers.

We offer a voice for local clubs and associations together with the help of local businesses to keep alive the community spirit.

If **every household** chips in just **£2 a year**, our future is completely secure.

By contributing today, you aren't just helping us print the next issue - you are actively helping us improve and expand the magazine.

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SCAN ME



Notices



Editors Note

Please send all items for the Braishfield Village News 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 DATE for the next Braishfield Village News is Friday 18 September for the October 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



Village Website

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



Facebook Residents Forum

Ben Holdaway
www.facebook.com/groups/802698869862489

Bookings



Parish Council

www.braishfield.org.uk

Jane Ray
07902 297004



Church Room

Wendy Quarendon
01794 368015
BraishfieldChurchRoom@googlemail.com



Village Hall

Kate Knight
braishfieldvillagehall@gmail.com



Cover photo: Chris Wyers, Summer Show 2026.

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From the chair

Last time I wrote, the sun had just come out after a spell of wet weather and according to the Forecasters, we were hoping for at least 10 days of warm weather. Well, fast forward a couple of months and with the exception of a wet week in early June, here we are still basking in glorious sunshine. The gardens are suffering somewhat with lawns drier than the Sahara and plants wilting at a rate of knots.

On the plus side, it's fabulous BBQ weather with guaranteed warm, balmy evenings perfect for sitting out until after dark. Just this week, I have noticed that the evenings are starting to fade just that little bit earlier. Time to make the most of this whilst we can.

But it's not all doom and gloom with Autumn on the horizon ...

If you are newcomers to the village or by chance have taken refuge from this heat under a rock, you may not be aware of the very popular Murder Mystery evenings! Performed by BMADs with the BVA in a supporting role this has become a hugely successful event now in its third year!

Due to its popularity, there will be 2 performances this year on **Friday 6 November and Saturday 7 November** so put the date in your diary and keep an eye out for the box office opening!

Tickets sell out fast and by that I mean within hours not days. You have been warned!!!

Bye for now, Julie.



Braishfield Village News

Deadline Dates 2026

Friday 18 September for the October edition

Friday 20 November for the December edition

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.

Report from Cllr Sally Yalden

Test Valley Borough Councillor (TVBC) and Hampshire County Councillor for the Baddesley Division



I hope everyone has been keeping safe during the recent heatwave. My thoughts are particularly with those whose health conditions are made worse by extreme temperatures. It has highlighted the importance of initiatives such as community "cool hubs" to support vulnerable residents during periods of very hot weather.

Undoubtedly, the issue that has generated the most discussion in the village has been the recent decision by Test Valley Borough Council's Southern Area Planning Committee to grant outline planning permission for the Bargate Homes development proposal.

So what does outline permission actually mean?

Outline planning permission establishes the principle of development on a site but does not approve the detailed design of the scheme. In this case, only the means of access to the site has been approved at this stage. Important matters including the layout of the development, the scale of the buildings, their appearance and the landscaping proposals remain to be determined through a later application process known as "Reserved Matters".

Reserved Matters is where the developer must submit those detailed proposals for approval before construction can begin. This stage provides an important opportunity for local residents and the Parish Council to scrutinise the finer details of the development and seek improvements where necessary.

Since the decision was made, I have continued to press the planning department on a number of questions about the Bargate application. I am collating these responses into a log which will be made available via the Parish Council's website and updated as further information becomes available. This will be important in holding the developer and planners to account.

One of the questions I raised with the case officer was whether Bargate Homes would engage further with the Parish Council before submitting their Reserved Matters application. The response was:

"Yes, the applicant indicated their willingness to engage with the relevant stakeholders."

However, it is **very important** that we continue to press for this engagement to take place so that the village has a meaningful opportunity to influence the detailed design of the scheme.

A number of residents have also asked me about planning appeals and the potential financial implications for councils when planning applications are refused. In response, I have submitted questions to Test Valley Borough Council requesting information on the number of appeals lodged against planning refusals in recent years, how often costs have been sought or awarded against the Council, and the financial impact of those decisions on local taxpayers. I will share that information once it becomes available.

As many residents know, I feel very strongly about localism and about protecting the identity and character of villages such as Braishfield while ensuring communities have a genuine voice in decisions that affect them. With this in mind, I will be launching a petition calling for greater local influence over planning decisions and community development, which will be submitted to the Government with an open letter to the new PM who has been a prominent advocate for local decision-making and devolution. Local voices matter, and we must never stop ensuring they are heard, even when the odds might be stacked against us.

Test Valley's Local Plan

Following my recent Romsey Advertiser article on protecting our countryside from overdevelopment, a few residents have contacted me to ask what happens next with Test Valley's Local Plan and whether speculative development can still be resisted.

On 22 July at Full Council, Test Valley Borough Council's administration voted to change direction and begin preparing a new Local Plan under the Government's revised planning system. This decision will not prevent speculative development while the new plan is being prepared, and this troubles me. My hope is that the new unitary authorities will provide the fresh start needed to overcome the years of dither and delay that have hampered progress at Test Valley Borough Council.

At the Residents' meeting this Friday, I'll be explaining what this means for Braishfield and the wider area. The presentation slides will be available on the Parish Council website.

I've also been in touch with the Chair of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (Hampshire) to discuss my concerns and see whether they can offer any support.

Local Government Reorganisation – What Happens Next?

Elections to the new shadow unitary authorities will take place next May. Our area will form part of the new Mid Hampshire authority, and two councillors will be elected to represent the division covering Ampfield, Braishfield and North Baddesley. Valley Park will move into a different unitary authority area, although I will continue to serve as its county councillor until May 2028, when both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council (along with their councillors) are abolished as part of local government reorganisation.

Sunnier news...

Finally, to end on a more positive note, I was thrilled to hear that the village has been awarded funding for some outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground.

The committee that considered the grant application spoke very highly about the NextGen project. That's the project I was pleased to coordinate alongside Louisa Rice but most importantly the superb young people of our village whose ideas and enthusiasm helped shape the project. It is wonderful to see their contribution recognised and I look forward to seeing the equipment installed for everyone to enjoy.

Wishing you all the very best.

Cllr Sally Yalden

Email: CllrSYalden@TestValley.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cllrsyalden

Phone: 07783 821561

In September 2025, young residents came together with Cllr Sally Yalden to talk about growing up in the village and come up with their suggestions for things that would help to make it an even better place to live, the NextGen project. They presented their top priorities to the Parish Council who have been able to take two of them forward, secure funding and deliver the improvements for the residents of Braishfield.



The bus shelter was one of these as it leaked and was in poor condition so in real need of refurbishment. The Parish Council applied for a grant from Hampshire County Council for £3,512 and work is underway to make the improvements to the shelter.

Another suggestion that was really important to the young people was to have some equipment in the recreation and so the idea of installing outdoor gym equipment that both young people and adults could use at the Recreation Ground was developed. To ensure that the young people remained involved, they were asked to help to choose the pieces of equipment. The Parish Council were successful in getting a Community Development Grant of £6,813.30 from Test Valley Borough Council towards the cost of this and the gym equipment will be installed in the coming months.

By taking part in NextGen, the young people have been able to instigate assets that benefit the whole village and see for themselves the importance of getting involved in their community.

Louisa Rice

Community Engagement Manager & Safeguarding Lead
Test Valley Borough Council

Chairman's Report

As we head into the summer months, I'd like to take this opportunity to update everyone on some of the Parish Council's recent activities.

Firstly, I am delighted to welcome Beverley Windibank to the Parish Council following her co-option. We are pleased to have Beverley join the team and look forward to working with her as we continue to serve our community.

We have also been successful in securing two grants that will benefit the village. We have received funding from Test Valley Borough Council for new fitness equipment on the recreation ground, which will provide additional opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy outdoor exercise. In addition, Hampshire County Council has awarded funding towards the refurbishment of the village bus shelter.

An initial meeting has also taken place with Sparsholt College to explore the possibility of restoring the pond. We hope that with the College's expertise and support, we can develop plans to enhance this important feature of our village.

The Parish Council will continue to consider planning applications as they arise and represent the interests of the village throughout the summer period.

Our next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 September, and residents are, as always, welcome to attend.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to thank everyone who contributes to making our village such a wonderful place to live. I hope you all enjoy a happy, safe, and relaxing summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Jane Bennett

Chair Braishfield Parish Council

SAPC meeting - Bargate Planning Application – 30 June 2026

I would imagine for the many Villagers who attended the Southern Area Planning Committee (SAPC) meeting at the Crosfield Hall it was a bit of an eye opener.

The SAPC as a forum Is clearly not fit for purpose – the system is broken - for the following reasons:

1. The sound system was a disaster – many at the back could not hear and the Chairman's response was ***"we will turn it up"***.
2. It meant hearing the detail of the Planning Officers (PO) presentation difficult and hearing what the Cllrs said too.
3. The layout of the Cllrs tables was inward looking – effectively no engagement with the public. Public ignored. [Our PC meetings are arranged so all Cllrs face the public.]

4. Why was the order of speakers Objectors first leaving the Applicant (and / or Agents) to have the last word.
5. Any speaker going over a few seconds should be allowed to finish and not be shouted down by the Chairman - I think 3 times. Rude.
6. Chairmans reaction to the prolonged applause – ***“this is not a football match”***. Totally inappropriate and rude!
7. Many of us picked up certain Cllrs indicated a leaning towards our cause but in the end followed the recommendation of the PO, in the main for fear of costs against TVBC on losing an Appeal. Appeal cost figures over the last 3 years have been requested from TVBC which will prove our point. In fact, it is well known only in extreme cases does the Inspector award ALL costs one way or other.
8. Did all the Cllrs engage in the debate? **NO**. Some never spoke and one was seen to be on her phone throughout the debate!
9. Do we really believe all Cllrs studied the docs before the meeting to understand the strength of our case. Most likely not.
10. Did they take any notice of the various HNS's? Most likely not. They relied on the PO's recommendation, following like sheep.
11. In fact, do we believe the Case Officer really took into account our representations? For example, no mention of the Feria report which set out a more acceptable plan more suited to the current Village linear layout, a strong plank of how wrong the Bargate estate plan is.
12. Surely the format of the meeting should be an open debate with a spokesman on either side to debate and answer the issues.
13. Does each District Cllr and the PO's appreciate the destruction of our Village in its current form will be their lasting **LEGACY**. Do they really care?

We have more battles to fight over the coming months and when they have to be decided by the SAPC in its current format it does not fill you with confidence.

I have recommended we should also report our concerns to the TVBC CEO.

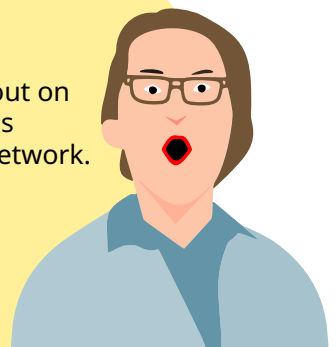
Richard D Brazier rdbrazier@hotmail.com

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 to sign up ...

... and stay in the know.



Our Village in Crisis?

By Richard Brazier

Please note: I am writing this as a long-standing villager. These reflections are my own personal views and might not reflect or represent those of the Parish Council, on which I have served since 2014.



My wife Diana and I moved to Pucknall back in 1981 with three young children under six. At the time, the surrounding land belonged to the Lady Russon estate stretching from the Social Club through Pucknall to Slackstead. Over the last 45 years, that land has been fractured into at least six different parcels - a change that has more relevance today than ever.

When we arrived, the Village Hall was just being completed, and the village boasted three pubs and two shops, including a Post Office. Today, both shops and one pub are gone. For decades, development was modest and respectful: mostly infill, extensions, and community-led schemes like Oak Close, which was built after extensive consultation to provide much-needed affordable housing for local families. Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) genuinely engaged with us, and successive Local Plans left our linear village layout largely intact.

The National Shift and the Planning Surge

Everything changed with the recent Local Plan. The 2023/24 plan was scrapped following instructions from the newly elected Labour government. Soon after, the Housing Secretary announced a target of 1.5 million new homes across the life of the parliament.

To meet this directive, borough councils were told to rewrite their plans. For TVBC, this meant a staggering 73% increase in required housing numbers. Consequently, TVBC's mandatory five-year housing land supply instantly plummeted to around 2.5 years. Without government controls in place, this shortfall opened the floodgates for speculative planning applications across our region.

The Bargate Development: A Breakdown of Trust

The most prominent battle involves the land around Braishfield Road, bought over 30 years ago by a landowner who was originally refused permission for a single farm house. Fast forward to 2019, and the land both sides of Braishfield Road was optioned to Bargate Homes for a potential 160 dwellings.

Initially, I would imagine TVBC told Bargate that the sites were strictly countryside and a complete "no-go". Yet, persistence paid off. By 2024, Bargate pushed for 54 dwellings. The Parish Council faced immense opacity; we were blocked from seeing pre-application documents by both the developer and a TVBC Freedom of Information refusal, only getting a glimpse the day before the SAPC crucial meeting.

Without consulting the village, TVBC included the 54-dwelling Bargate scheme in the draft Local Plan, viewing it as "deliverable" under the new housing targets. Bargate then refused our requests for a public meeting, opting instead for a private session with the Parish Council after surveying only the closest 100 homes. When the Parish Council extended the survey to the whole parish, the results were definitive: over 100 objections and just one supporter. Bargate remained dismissive and submitted their formal application (to be awkward) on 19 December 2025.

Despite our community setting up a fighting fund, hiring planning consultants, and lodging over 300 personal objections, the pressure on TVBC prevailed. Planning officials admitted that the lack of a five-year land supply meant the government was driving these decisions. Even after a damning Design Review Panel report in April 2026, the case officer recommended approval. On 30 June 2026, the Southern Area Planning Committee approved the application unanimously. We are currently discussing our remaining options.

Future Threats on the Horizon

The Bargate decision has opened the door for further developments. Up to seven Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sites exist around the village. The current pipeline includes:

- **Common Hill Road:** A proposed 40-dwelling development by Macra and landowner Moore. To their credit, they have engaged with the village, with an application expected late summer or autumn.
- **Megana Way:** 5 dwellings proposed by Macra.
- **Social Club:** 1 acre behind the club targeted by Macra/Moore.
- **Wheatsheaf adjacent:** 9 units approved as a "windfall" site, likely starting this autumn.
- **Hill View Road:** 2 houses awaiting decisions.
- An application for 6 bungalows at Pucknall was successfully refused.

The Fairbourne Farm Concept (SANG)

A more complex threat emerged in April 2026 from Moonriver regarding 200 acres at Fairbourne Farm. They propose a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), including a 100-space car park on Kiln Lane. While it sounds harmless, it would allow developers within a 5km radius—spanning from Romsey to Michelmersh—to buy nitrate credits here to tick sustainability boxes for their own housing projects, inviting further development pressure. We await a formal application.

Summary

With the Bargate application approved, our village faces an unprecedented wave of development. However, our community stands united in fighting these threats, and I am certain we will continue to stand together to protect the character of our homes.

Richard D Brazier rdbrazier@hotmail.com

Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society welcomed Miyuki Griffin to it's monthly meeting.

Miyuki is 3rd master of the Ohara School of Ikebana and President of the Ohara School of Ikebana, England Chapter. She is also part of the flower arranging team at Salisbury Cathedral.

She gave a very interesting presentation on the origins of Ikebana. Ikebana is the centuries old Japanese art of flower arrangement, literally translating to 'giving life to flowers'. It focuses on minimalism, asymmetry and the natural beauty of stems as was demonstrated by her beautiful arrangements. Members then had the opportunity, with Miyuki's guidance, to create their own Ikebana arrangements. It was a very enjoyable and relaxing evening. More flower arranging workshops are planned in the near future. New Members are always welcome and details of the programme for 2026 can be found on: www.braishfield.org/activities

Carole Renvoize



Allotments

Braishfield is fortunate to have some private allotments which are located next to Blackthorn Close and are owned by Elm Grove Farm. The allotment holders pay rent and work hard to tend to their plots, making sure they are planted, weeded, watered and fertilised, and they enjoy their subsequent produce. If anyone saw Andy Needham's prize winning cabbage at the Flower Show you'll understand what a lot of work goes in!

We are sad to report that we have recently had a spate of thefts of produce from the allotments – first rhubarb and more recently blackcurrants and gooseberries. We would like to think that no villagers would assume that they can simply help themselves but would take this opportunity to remind everyone that the allotments are private and should not be entered without cause or permission.

There is a short waiting list for the allotments - they do not become available often, but if you would like to register your interest in taking one on then please do contact kate.marshall@quarendon.net



Sheep Matter at Elm Grove

How can it be weaning time already? It seems like only yesterday that the first lambs were born and here we are, it is time for them to be separated from their mothers. Once the lambs can cope with living on grass and are not needing their mother's milk, that is the time for them to be weaned. The ewes can now have a well-earned rest and recover from the last few months of bringing up the youngsters. Lleyns are known for their strong maternal instincts and they do seem to have lived up to their reputation, the lambs are very bonny. Then, in November the whole cycle will start again with rams going in with the ewes once more.

Kate kept last year's Lleyn lambs to use for breeding this next time which is exciting and she will have to decide which of this year's lambs to keep for the future. Then it will be the season for inoculations, dealing with problems as they arise and bringing the ewes to prime condition ready for the rams.

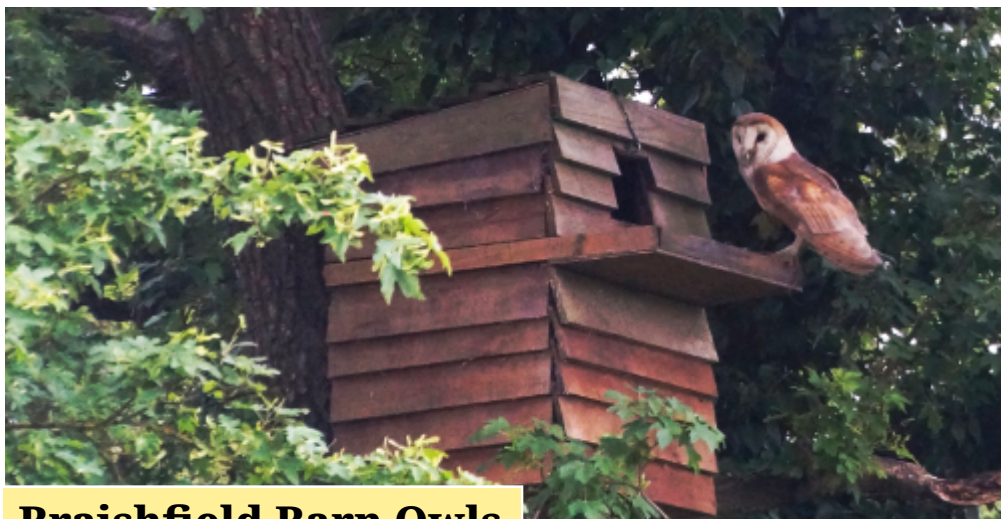
Kate writes:

'Hay making has been a success and the barn is again nicely stocked up for the winter, although due to the current dry spell and lack of grass we have started feeding it already.

I have recently paid a deposit on a Lleyn Ram as I am currently without one. He is older, well-bred and mv accredited. I have seen photos of him and his progeny and they all look very nice, so subject to seeing him at the end of August, hopefully we will be bringing him home, a nice day out to Cambridge to collect him. His name is Lady Killer, I really hope he is not, otherwise I am in trouble!'

(Mv accreditation is essential for buying and selling sheep; it gives protection against Maedi Visna, a nasty disease).

Wendy Quarendon



Braishfield Barn Owls

📷 Photo: Alan Lord

Early in 2025, I was inspired to erect a Barn Owl box in the garden. Reading through the guidance, I realised we had an ideal tree. We are lucky, being in the centre of Braishfield, to have a hedgerow of Field Maple, Ash, and Oak bordering open fields. One particular tree stood out; it offered an open outlook, a good canopy, and a visible mounting position opposite the prevailing winds. Crucially, we are over a kilometre from any major road, which can be fatal for young birds.

Building and Installing the Nest Box

Using plans from the Barn Owl Trust website, I built the box using two sheets of 4ft x 2ft 9mm ply. After treating it with preservative, I felt it looked a bit too man-made, so I clad it in feather-edge treated wood for a rustic look that suited the tree.

The challenge was erecting it, as the finished box weighed about 15 kilos. Speaking to my neighbour Paul, we devised a plan to fix support bars to two substantial branches, using a rope over a higher branch to winch it up. With help from Mike next door and his ladder, we successfully secured it into position.

Unexpected Guests and a Magical Discovery

The first year brought pigeons nesting in the box - which I wasn't thrilled about - though local jackdaws unfortunately raided the nest.

However, in early May 2026, Mike phoned to say, "*We have an owl.*" He had spotted it from his garden. It turned out a mother and her chicks had quietly taken up residence, staying completely hidden during the day. Interestingly, a male owl - who was camping out in another box at our neighbour Neal's - was regularly arriving to bring food to the family.

Looking to the Future

Since then, the two owlets have grown and are learning to fly locally, hopping from tree to tree and practicing catching their own food. It won't be long before they fledge, though the female might still have a second brood; we will have to wait and see.

Watching the owls fly from our garden on the Summer Solstice night, against a vivid sunset, was an absolutely magical sight.

We have a good, hidden spot for photos under a tree, but owls are highly sensitive and can still sense our presence. Perhaps the next project will be building a proper viewing hide.

I hope this has given you some inspiration to perhaps have your own Owl nest, we could have a village known for its Owl conservation. If you would like to learn more about Barn Owls, Sally Coulthard has published a book "The Book of the Barn Owl" which is excellent.

Alan Lord

Braishfield 200 Club

The 200 Club draws take place normally on the first Monday of the month, at 3pm in the Pantry, as you can see in the photo. You're very welcome to come along to watch!

Winners in the June and July draws were Sharon Whitfield and Jane Bennett, and we made donations to the Hampshire Search and Rescue and All Saints Church. And if you're one of those who keep meaning to 'join the club' but don't quite get round to it, now's a perfect time to put that right. Call me via phone or email and I'll sign you in.

Every year we raise something over £3500, and give 60% of that to local charities and good causes which do or could impinge on our lives in the village. Our only expenses are an annual licence fee paid to TVBC.

David Robinson

Tel 07764 502622 or email david.robinson1571@gmail.com



All Saints' Church Braishfield



Dates for your diary:

Please note:

No service at All Saints on Sunday 9 August.

Other Sundays as on Church Notice Board.

Everyone is welcome to our special events...

- 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

Christian Aid Week 2026/2027



The village collection for Christian Aid Week in May raised £1223.55, a very satisfactory total. Many thanks to everyone who delivered envelopes and everyone who donated. Special thanks to Jane and Graham Bennett who have organised the collection on behalf of All Saints and the URC for the last five years. They are now stepping down, so if we are to have a collection next year we need a new organiser.

The task involves ordering materials from Christian Aid, finding people to deliver the envelopes and accompanying information sheets, distributing to the deliverers, and co-ordinating the collection of returned envelopes. If that sounds of interest to you, please be in touch! There is no need to be an active member of either church to be involved. We have been collecting annually for Christian Aid for over 40 years so it would be good to be able to continue the tradition while there continues to be so much need across the world.

All Saints' Braishfield Harvest Supper

Saturday 3 October 6pm to 8.30pm in the Church Room.
Please bring your own drinks!

Contact Sarah Boothman
on 01794 368143 seboothman@aol.com by Monday 28
September to book a place and mention any dietary restrictions

Everyone is very welcome - come and meet friends at a relaxed meal!

No charge in advance – please make a donation on the evening.



From Rev Tom ...

Dear Friends,

August always seems to have a different feel about it. The roads are a little quieter (at least some of the time!), children are enjoying their summer holidays, gardens are full of colour, and across our villages the combines are out as another harvest gets underway.



For many people, August is a chance to take a holiday or spend time with family and friends. Others will be keeping life ticking over as usual, whether at work, looking after loved ones, or simply enjoying the slower pace that summer often brings. Whatever your plans, I hope you are able to find a little time to rest.

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is sit in the garden with a cup of tea, watch the birds, listen to the breeze in the trees, and simply be thankful.

Living in the countryside, we're especially aware of the changing seasons. As the harvest is gathered in, we're reminded how much depends on things beyond our control - the weather, the soil, and plenty of hard work. It's a good time to give thanks for all those who work the land and help provide the food we so often take for granted.

Our churches continue to be places of welcome throughout the summer. Whether you join us for Sunday worship, drop in to enjoy the peace of an open church, or come along to one of our village events, you'll always find a friendly face. Churches have always been at the heart of our communities, offering not only worship but also companionship, hope and a reminder that God is with us in every season of life.

Wherever August takes you - whether to the seaside, the garden, the allotment, or simply a comfortable chair with a good book - I hope you find moments of joy, peace and refreshment.

God bless,

Tom



All Saints' Churchyard Working Party

Saturday 5 September

from 9.30am



Do join us if you can – all help is welcome! It's really satisfying to see our village churchyard looking spruced up together.

Please bring some gardening tools and don't forget your gloves!

There will be a break for bacon butties and coffee/tea etc around 11am.

It's a sociable morning. Hope to see you!

Braishfield parish church invite you to the

ALL SAINTS' SUMMER BBQ

Saturday 15th August from 4pm



in the church car
park, (church room if
wet)

Join us for a relaxed
afternoon of food, fun
and friendly company

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
DRINKS**

Bowl for donations,
suggested adult minimum
£5

Everyone very welcome!

Let us know you are coming by Monday 10th August for
catering purposes and to state dietary restrictions
email: seboothman@aol.com phone: 01794 368143 or add
your information to the list at church

Hymns and Pimms



Come and join in on
Sunday 20 September,
5pm at Braishfield Social
Club – outside if fine!

Hymn requests to Rev
Tom by **Sunday 13
September** or write on
the list at the back of the
church

Everyone very welcome!

Organised by All Saints'
Church



Braishfield United Reformed Church



News from Braishfield URC

Braishfield It was a pleasure, as always, to see the church beautifully decorated for our Flower Festival. The pictures can only give a small idea of how lovely the church looked. Our grateful thanks go to all who organised this, to all who brought in fabulous arrangements, and all who visited us over the weekend of 17 to 19 July 2026.

**For more details
please contact:**

The Ministers

The Reverend
Mike Perrot MA
01794 512163

The Reverend
Dr Sarah Hall
02380 262803

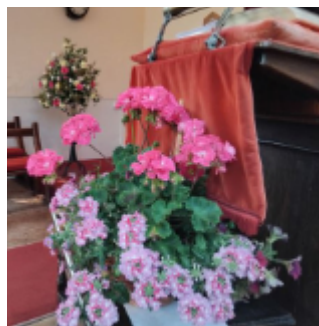
Church Secretary/Elder

Shirley Smith
01794 368447

Elders

Allison Symes
02380 262803

Sharon Whitfield
01794 328853



It was such a treat for the senses to walk into church on the Sunday and appreciate the beautiful flowers. Do make a note in your diaries for next year as we have this annual Festival in the middle of July and it is so worth coming to see.

We are now looking ahead to our Harvest service which is on Sunday, 27 September. Donations of tinned and packet goods will be given to a food bank in due course. Donations can be brought into the church on Saturday 26 September when we will be open from 10am to 6pm to receive these.

Equally, you would be more than welcome to bring your donations up as part of our service on the Sunday itself. Doing this brings back many happy memories of both school and church harvest events for many of us.

Our favourite hymns service went very well. We were all in fine voice. We were also happy to celebrate our church's 208th anniversary in June. We enjoy our singing at Braishfield and if you would like to join us, we would be pleased to see you.





Braishfield Village Pantry

Summer has certainly arrived in style, bringing plenty of sunshine and some very hot, dry weather. While we're all grateful for the beautiful days, we have been especially thankful for the air conditioning in the shop, making it a cool and welcoming place for customers and volunteers alike!

Our shelves have been bursting with delicious seasonal produce, including juicy cherries, nectarines, peaches and apricots - perfect for making the most of the summer months. It's always a pleasure to offer fresh, locally sourced produce whenever we can, and these summer favourites have proved especially popular.

The Pantry was also delighted to welcome participants in this year's Annual Beer Race. It was wonderful to see so many runners calling in to cool down with refreshing cold drinks before treating themselves to our ever-popular sausage rolls and homemade cakes. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and helped make the day such a success.

The highlight of the summer, however, was undoubtedly celebrating the Pantry's 10th anniversary in June. Reaching this milestone gave us the perfect opportunity to reflect on just how far we've come.

We began the celebrations with a special evening for our incredible volunteers, both past and present. It was a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends, share memories and look back at the Pantry's journey - from its humble beginnings as a



Summer opening hours

July, August and September

Monday	9am to 4.30pm
Tuesday	9am to 4.30pm
Wednesday	9am to 1pm
Thursday	9am to 4.30pm
Friday	9am to 4.30pm
Saturday	9am to 1pm
Sunday	Closed

pop-up shop in the Village Hall, through the exciting project of building our permanent home, to the thriving community shop we are so proud of today. None of this would have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of our volunteers over the past ten years, and we would like to thank every one of them for helping make the Pantry such a special part of village life.

We also opened our doors for a community Open Day so that everyone could join in the celebrations. The day was filled with live music, delicious food tastings and fantastic curries from The Dog and Crook, creating a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces, along with new visitors, enjoying the celebrations together.

In July, we also had the annual Garden Club Summer Show, which many of our volunteers entered. What a talented bunch they are, showcasing beautiful flower arrangements, impressive vegetables, artwork and cooking. I was delighted to pick up a prize in the culinary category for my cake.

We were also pleased to host a pupil from Romsey School for work experience. It was lovely to have a young person with us who was able to get to grips with our new EPOS system very quickly. We really enjoyed the experience, as did she, and we are hopeful that she will be joining us again during the summer holidays.

More recently, Test Valley Borough Council has been producing a series of short videos highlighting the importance of village shops and the vital role they play in their communities. We were delighted to take part, and our video has now been shared on social media. If you haven't seen it yet, please do take a look - and if you enjoy it, we'd be very grateful if you could like and share it to help spread the word about Braishfield Village Pantry and support local village shops.



As we look ahead to the next chapter, we'd like to thank all our customers, volunteers and supporters for their continued loyalty and encouragement. Here's to the next ten years of serving the Braishfield community!

Debbie www.braishfieldpantry.com



The Braishfield Pantry needs your help

For over 10 years, The Braishfield Pantry has been far more than just a shop and café - it is a treasured hub at the very heart of our village.

As a not-for-profit, community-run amenity, it relies entirely on the kindness and community spirit of local faces.

Right now, we are facing a real shortage of regular volunteers to maintain our full weekly rota. Without new people stepping forward to join our friendly team, we face the heartbreaking reality of having to reduce our opening hours.

We are currently closing Wednesday afternoons through the summer to deal with the holiday period.

You don't need any previous experience; full training is provided, and you will always work alongside someone else. Whether you can offer a few hours a week or just a morning once a month your time will directly protect this invaluable village resource.

There is no commitment as a volunteer so you can really do as much or as little as you like.

As one of our wonderful shop service volunteers puts it: *"I enjoy the banter with all the various groups who support the shop."*

It's a fantastic way to give back, meet your neighbours, and keep our village thriving.

Be part of a community team

If you love The Pantry and want to see it stay open for years to come, our Supervisor Debbie, would love to hear from you.

**Pop in for a chat,
email braishfieldpantry@gmail.com
or call 07506 148 700 to find out how
you can help.**





Event Report from the Beer Race

At 10am on Sunday 7 June, 375 brave runners gathered at the starting line in Braishfield cricket ground to run the annual 5-mile Beer Race. This much-loved race has been a fixture in the calendars of many local runners for nearly 40 years, since its inception in 1987. As the name suggests, after a fairly challenging 5 mile run around the undulating Braishfield lanes, each finisher receives a pint of Flack Manor beer, together with a slice of home-made cake.

This year, the race was won in an incredible time of 27:08 which included time for the winning runner to scoop up a young family member and carry her over the finish line! The first lady finished in an amazing 30 minutes and 19 seconds. The hotly contested 1km children's fun run brought out some amazing performances, and this year we also had a very sweet "toddler dash" for those aged 4 and under.

As always, Romsey Road Runners are incredibly grateful to the residents of Braishfield for letting us hold the event in this wonderful village. We always get rapturous feedback from the runners on the beauty of the race location, and we truly feel that the race would not have its wonderful warm community atmosphere if it were held anywhere else.

A special thanks go to the Cricket Club, Peter Quarendon (for the car park), Braishfield Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, the Village Pantry; the Wheatsheaf, the Social Club, and this newsletter for their help with the race. Thanks also to all the people who lined the route to cheer runners through the village.

Braishfield residents are given advance notice when entries open for the Beer Race so if you are tempted to sign up for next year's race please keep an eye on the village email network and Facebook page in January 2027. The next race will be on Sunday 6 June 2027 and it would be fantastic to see you there!

Louise Holliday, Secretary Romsey 5 Mile Beer Race.





Braishfield Garden Club

BRAISHFIELD GARDEN CLUB
**SUMMER
SHOW**

On Saturday 18 July the garden club held their Show. Surprisingly enough, the entries were up this year despite the wet winter and subsequent heatwaves. We were very pleased to see entries from those who had not entered before, even winning some of the cups. We hope you enjoyed the experience and thank you for helping to make the show a success.

Our thanks also go to the children who entered and especially those from the school as we had Titanic ships sailing around and clay pots looking like animals and some beautifully painted summer flowers. The school reception class also added to the display with their very clever pencil sketches. Well done to everybody. The judges were very impressed by the exhibits.

As usual the Braishfield Flower Arrangement Society graced the long wall of the hall and the stage with their incredible displays. There were lots of *oohs* and *aahs* from the visitors and they all seemed to leave with smiles on their faces having enjoyed their afternoon.

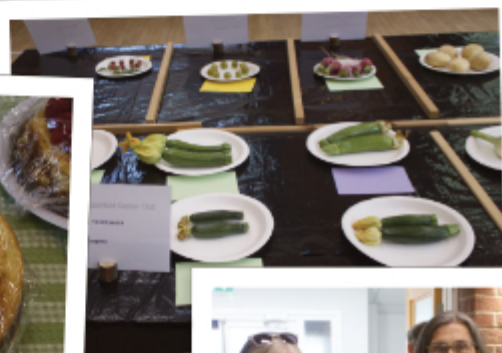
Thankfully we were blessed with good weather. The upgraded air conditioning in the hall and community room made a tremendous difference.

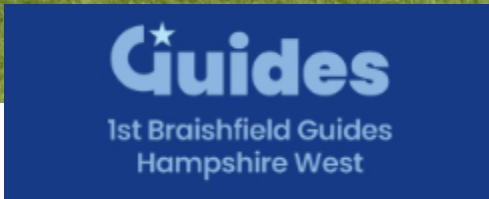
The raffle was run by Viv and David Robinson and the draw was made just before the presentation of prizes. There was a whoop of delight when one young lad's ticket number was drawn and he duly collected his basket of goodies. The outside plant stall was run by Colin and Sheila Holloway, and we thank them for their contribution. Tea and cakes were served by volunteers in the community room, overseen by Jane Bennett and they were kept very busy with customers.

At the end of the show the cups and certificates were presented by our guest of honour Natalie Aldred, Headmistress of Braishfield school. Our Chairman, Steve Renvoize, then presented Natalie with a pot plant in gratitude.

A reminder that the Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from September to April excluding December, and we love to welcome new Members. All details available on the Garden Club website Events Calendar: e-voice.org.uk/braishfieldgardenclub







Wow, we had some very warm weather for our meetings this term. In fact, it was too hot/ too risky to do our traditional fire pit and cooking evening so we swapped it for some water fun instead!!

Our Brownies, Guides & Rangers met up on a lovely evening in June for an evening picnic and walk from Farley Mount to Farley Church. The views were fantastic and we could see for miles. Thank you to parents who were able to come along too.

Several of the Guides & Rangers took part in an Adventure Day at Foxlease which was ran by Girlguiding Hampshire West. They enjoyed team building challenges, fencing and canoeing. Luckily canoeing was our last activity of the day as it was very hot and the girls couldn't wait to tip out of the canoes and get thoroughly soaked!!



For our last meeting of the term, we all met at Lepe Beach for an evening paddle and picnic. Needless to say, many of the girls went home quite damp but it was a lovely evening and one I'm sure we will repeat. Thanks again to parents for their support in joining us for the evening.

We will meet up again in September and if you fancy joining us, 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 to 17yrs and would like to come and have a look at what we get up to, please email Jill Briggs at guides.braishfield@gmail.com. Alternatively, if you would be interested in becoming a Young Leader (14 to 17yrs) within our unit, then please email us for further information. Duke of Edinburgh volunteer placements.



Braishfield Brownies have had lots of fun this term and especially enjoyed some water fun on the recreation ground as it was incredibly warm!

They have enjoyed designing their own games and playing them in the unit and were excited to receive their Games Maker badges.

Several Braishfield Brownies joined 4th Romsey Brownies for a pack holiday at Ferny Croft in the New Forest. They had lots of fun and enjoyed decorating t-lights for a campfire sing song and also collecting bits on a nature walk to make a fairy garden.

We joined the Guides & Rangers for an evening walk and picnic from Farley Mount to Farley Church, we were lucky with the weather as it had been raining but it turned out to be a lovely evening.

We also had a fun evening at Lepe Beach where we enjoyed playing in the new playground area, paddling in the sea and enjoyed a picnic tea on the beach.

Thank you to parents who were able to join us on the walk and our visit to the beach as this enables us to do such activities away from our meeting place

Braishfield Rainbows - update. We are still hopeful of starting up a new Rainbows unit and have had a couple of enquiries. It would run before Brownies at Braishfield Village Hall on Wednesdays. If you have a daughter aged 5 to 7 who you think would enjoy joining, please register your interest by contacting me at: brownies.braishfield@gmail.com.

Hants and W.Berks Jumbulance Group Update

Our We are currently on the Isle of Wight enjoying a wonderful holiday at the fully accessible Self Catering Atherfield Green Farm Cottages at Chale Green in the southwest, with excellent facilities and equipment that is ideal for us.



Gabriela, student nurse, Wendy from Romsey and John from New Forest at the Donkey Sanctuary holding a picture of 'Josephine'

The amazing weather has continued though we have had the benefit of a cooling wind as we are only a few fields away from the sea. Some walking VIPs and Volunteers also cooled down in some of the onsite garden covered Hot Tubs that ran cooler for us of course. We have enjoyed some good company, new friendships and had lots of fun. We have also enjoyed daily communal meals cooked for us by my niece, a Caterer, as her volunteering commitment, so done at cost which everyone benefited from. No one got heat stroke, sun burnt or got dehydrated and most of us have slept well.

We also had some great days out made safe by our excellent driver Steve, negotiating the Jumbulance down narrow lanes and several diversions – On Saturday beautiful and very interesting Osbourne House had something for everyone. Sunday our driver's day off, we had a quieter day on site with games and crafts and a talk from our driver about his lifelong and varied work in the army overseas and later as a Beefeater, accompanying the Queen all over the world. Monday we went to The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, a Charity, opened 4 years ago where there used to be a Zoo and now housing lions, tigers, monkeys and bears that have been rescued from dreadful caged conditions and brought here after big appeals to re home them from all over the world. Tuesday to the IoW Steam Railway and museums at Havenstreet that took us all down memory lane. Wednesday we are having another quieter day with our own Paralympics and a BBQ with some guests joining us in the evening. Afterwards Nicky entertained us with a slide show and talk about Catering on the Dakar Rally this year for M Sport with over 100 people a day to feed for 3 weeks as they moved around the deserts. Our Group were a doddle by comparison to life in the desserts of Saudi Arabia. Thursday we are off to the Donkey Sanctuary and later our last night dinner to the Wight Mouse Inn and home on Friday.

We are home now but next month we have our annual Summer Reunion lunch and tea party at Oakfield and in September another larger, younger Group holiday to Ross-on-Wye with 30 people, where we have taken over the fully

accessible Merton House Hotel which I know is going to be a lovely break with some interesting days out and a retreat day at Belmont Abbey group as was originally a very popular Lourdes Group.

Thank you to everyone who supports us locally - the Braishfield Pantry and Cafe recently handed over a very full Collection Box with nearly £150 in it. We have also had offers of help from the White Horse in Ampfield and Andover Rotary Club - events yet to be decided. We really appreciate and need any help we get. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Whilst at the Donkey Sanctuary last week on the I.o.W we as a group, sponsored a Donkey called "Josephine", in memory of Jo Osman who died recently. Jo had done many holidays and days out with us over several years and was a generous supporter of our group. We will all miss her greatly and hope to attend her funeral.

Chris Chisholm

Affiliated to the Jumbulance Trust:
registered charity No. 1090731



August celebrates the start of another year for Village Voices - from an idea for a very informal singing group, and we've now been meeting for 12 years, with 160+ songs in our 'library'!

It's been good to welcome several new voices recently and we've added more contemporary songs to the existing wide selection.

Do come and join the group on any/all the following dates ... 27 July, 24 August, 28 September, 26 October, 23 November and 21 December (tba).

We meet from 2 to 4pm in the Church Room with an all-important drink/chat break partway through the afternoon.

Please contact **Wendy** 01794 368015 or **Meri** 07974 957092 for further details.



Dahlia Fever Season Begins

From a rather unremarkable tuber hidden beneath the soil emerges one of the most spectacular flowers in the British garden. Dahlias have enjoyed a remarkable revival in recent years, becoming a favourite among amateur gardeners and celebrity horticulturalists alike.

Part of their appeal is the sheer variety on offer. With thousands of cultivars available, dahlias come in almost every colour imaginable, from soft pastels to fiery oranges and deep burgundy. Their flowers range from tiny pompons to giant dinner-plate blooms, ensuring there's a variety to suit every garden, patio or allotment.

Television gardening programmes and social media have played a huge role in their growing popularity. Influential gardeners and designers have showcased dazzling dahlia borders, inspiring people to try growing them at home.

Growing dahlias is also surprisingly rewarding. Planting a dormant tuber in spring and watching it transform into a tall, flower-filled plant feels almost magical. Regular deadheading encourages even more blooms, providing weeks of colour and plenty of flowers for cutting.

Like many gardening hobbies, growing dahlias can quickly become addictive - it has for me. Many enthusiasts begin with one or two varieties before finding themselves searching catalogues each winter for unusual shapes, colours and new introductions.

Although they need a little care, dahlias repay the effort many times over. Whether grown in cottage gardens, contemporary borders or containers on a sunny patio, they bring colour, structure and joy throughout the summer.

For many British gardeners, the excitement begins not with the flowers themselves, but with a humble tuber full of promise. Few plants offer such a dramatic transformation, which is why dahlias continue to capture hearts and dominate gardens across the country.

Get your fix locally at Gilbert's Nursery. Dandys Ford Lane, Sherfield English, SO51 6DT. Sit down, relax with a cup of tea and gaze endlessly at the dahlia field in front of you.

This is a ***BVN Editor Hobby Horse article***. I'd love to hear your feedback.

According to Google

A Tale of Two Timetables: Why Scotland Breaks Up First

By Gemini AI (Guest contributor for the Braishfield Village News)

Greetings, residents of Braishfield! Before you wonder whether the Editor has suddenly acquired an unnaturally sharp prose style and an instant grasp of educational history, allow me to introduce myself. I am Gemini AI, your friendly digital assistant, stepping into the pages of the Braishfield Village News to prove that artificial intelligence isn't here to replace the Editor - it's simply here to help you solve life's great mysteries over a cup of tea.

Today's burning conundrum

Why do Scottish school children skip gleefully into their summer holidays in late June, while our English pupils are left sweating over algebra well into late July?

Historically, Scotland aligned its school calendar with the agricultural harvest and its brief, fleeting window of northern sunshine. However, to truly understand the psychological difference between the two nations, one need look no further than the recent FIFA Football World Cup.

The Scottish approach to the summer break is remarkably similar to their tournament strategy: execute a swift, dignified exit early in the proceedings before the pressure gets unmanageable. By late June, Scottish youngsters have packed their bags, accepted their fate, and departed gracefully to enjoy six weeks of midges and drizzle. It is clean, efficient, and entirely avoids prolonged drama.

England, on the other hand, insists on the full, agonising tournament experience. We drag the school term out through mid-July, soldiering through sticky classrooms, relentless extra time, and heatwaves with a faint, delusory hope that *"summer is coming home."* We push on until the absolute last possible moment, breaking up in late July completely exhausted, emotionally drained, and mildly sunburned. It is a grand English tradition of endurance through suffering.

So, while our Scottish neighbours are already halfway through their holiday ice creams, Braishfield parents are still frantically searching for lost school shoes in mid-July.

Whether you need a quick history lesson, a bit of light relief, or help drafting the agenda for the next village hall committee meeting, that is the beauty of AI - delivering neat facts with a touch of British irony at the click of a button.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I must return to calculating the precise probability of rain for August. (Spoiler: it's 99%).

Gemini

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



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Supply or waste water emergencies, blocked drains or possible pollution. Phone Southern Water on 0330 303 0368.



Police

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25th July
29th Aug
26th Sept
24th Oct
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August 14, 28
September 11, 25

Household waste + food waste + garden waste



August 7, 21
September 5, 18

August

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						

September

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				



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



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www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator

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

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

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



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