

# Braishfield Village News

Reflecting on a  
new beginning  
after 73 years

See page 9

BMADS PRESENTS

# DYING FOR A DRINK

A Ian McCutcheon Murder Mystery Play



Join BMADS and the BVA for an evening of intrigue, mystery and MURDER!  
Who could YOU trust within your group of closest friends?  
Is one of them out for more than just your company?

TWO PERFORMANCES

Friday 6 November

Saturday 7 November

7pm for 7.30pm start - Braishfield Village Hall

**BOX OFFICE**

Tickets £10  
Available 5 October from  
Julie Kemp on 01794 368894

**SEATS**

Seating will be in  
tables of up to 6

Cash Bar & Cash Raffle

# 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 20 November for the December 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 Wendy Dolby Stevens: [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: Editors own.

## Braishfield Village Association Committee 2026

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## From the chair



What a fantastic Summer 2026 has been, endless days of wall to wall sunshine with temperatures to match.

How many of our garden plants have survived with no lasting effects ,remains to be seen.

What little rain we have had in the last week or so , will perk up the stragglers I hope.

It really has been too hot to do very much and that includes us on the BVA Committee!

It's been a very quiet year for us, although we have been working hard behind the scenes to support the Parish Council.

My thanks must go to all of the BVN distributors who went above and beyond to help deliver leaflets for the Parish Council, sometimes at quite short notice. This is not what they signed up for, but everyone stepped up. A great example of a Community pulling together. So, thank you to you all.

Don't forget the Murder Mystery event in November, further details are in this edition so be sure to read it.

Yours truly has been roped in to man the box office, so if you have any special requests, want to sit near the stage, as close to the bar as possible, near the exit to avoid clearing up then bribery is acceptable in the form of Pinot Grigio or a long weekend in a holiday home preferably somewhere warm!

Seriously though, tickets will be issued on a strictly first come, first served basis so don't hang about ...

*Bye for now, Julie.*

**Braishfield  
Village News**

**Deadline date:**  
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.

## Sheep Matter at Elm Farm

Lack of grass has been a problem for the sheep, who normally spend most of the day eating it. Kate has been giving them hay, which tends to be reserved in the barn for the winter. It has to be said that they obviously enjoy it, judging from the cacophony at feeding time! Thank goodness it has started to rain and the grass is growing, but it needs time to recover from the drought, so hay is still being fed.

The ram and his friend have been hanging around for months now; their main activity is meandering from one side of the field in front of the house to the other. You may have noticed them if you walk by. Always close together usually by the fence, resting their heads on the fencing.

Meanwhile Kate is keeping a good eye on the ram that will be put in with the ewes soon, looking out for any signs of not being fit, especially as good strong legs and feet are necessary for when he goes in with the ewes. It is not an easy task to check him over; he has to be fenced in to restrict movement, Kate does not want to be head butted by him!

The second sheep in the field in front of the house is a ram that has had a vasectomy; he cannot make ewes pregnant, but in all other respects he is a complete ram. Kate specially chose him to become her 'teaser' ram. He will be put in with the ewes and the sight, sound and smell of the male will release hormones in the ewes that trigger ovulation. The fully functioning ram will then be put in with the ewes and the theory is that he will make all the ewes pregnant within a short space of time, making lambing easier to manage. Time will tell!

*Wendy Quarendon*



## Report from Cllr Sally Yalden

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

With the weather finally cooling down and children heading back to school, borough and county council meetings have started up again, although my casework certainly didn't slow down over the summer!

There are two big issues I wanted to focus on this month: the latest developments with Local Government Reorganisation and, unsurprisingly, planning.

### Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

This week's news in local government has been dominated by the announcement that LGR in Hampshire has been withdrawn. It does not mean however that the whole thing has gone away.

I wasn't quite sure whether to feel relieved or annoyed to be honest. Relieved for the many people who were unhappy at the prospect of their communities being moved into a large Southampton-based authority, but annoyed at the amount of time, energy and public money that has already gone into the whole process.

Having now experienced both borough and county in local government, I do think some change is needed, particularly at Hampshire County Council. But such a major reorganisation needs to be properly thought through rather than councils and communities being put through months of uncertainty.

We now await further instructions from the Government. As things currently stand, however, it looks as though we will be back at the ballot box next May for the borough council elections to Test Valley Borough Council.

### Planning

At the end of August, the Government changed the national planning rulebook again with a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

I attended a briefing from Test Valley's Planning Policy team this week. There was plenty of technical planning jargon to get through, but I was able to ask some important questions, although unfortunately I am still waiting for answers to some of them.

My initial impression is that while the Government remains very keen to get more houses built, there does seem to be a stronger emphasis on infrastructure, sustainable locations and whether people have realistic alternatives to using their cars.

This is particularly interesting to me because last year I brought a motion to Test Valley Borough Council calling for infrastructure to be given much greater consideration when planning for new housing. (A motion is simply a formal proposal put forward by a councillor for the council to debate and make a decision on.)

I could see the problems coming with speculative development, particularly where housing is being proposed



without the infrastructure and services needed to support it. Unfortunately, I haven't seen enough progress since then, so I am now pressing the Planning Policy team to carry out an infrastructure capacity assessment, looking properly at things such as schools, GP capacity, roads, public transport, water/energy and other local services before deciding where further development should go.

Those keeping a beady eye on the Bargate application may also have spotted a very interesting letter submitted by Go South Coast, which operates Bluestar buses.

It makes many of the same points that I have been raising about development in Braishfield. Go South Coast says the village has limited services and facilities and that, for most everyday journeys, neither public transport nor walking and cycling currently provide a realistic alternative to the car. It argues that the new planning rules put much greater emphasis on sustainable transport and a genuine choice of ways to travel, and concludes that the Bargate proposal should be refused.

That is particularly significant coming from a bus operator rather than from residents or councillors opposing the development.

As for Bargate itself, I continue to work closely with Braishfield Parish Council and a huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes. Following our request through our MP for the application to be called in, the decision is currently on hold. We will continue to do everything we can to make sure the concerns of the village are properly heard.

## Roads

I was very pleased to see Hampshire County Council listening to concerns and carrying out emergency repairs to Braishfield Road, around the Wheatsheaf and further along the road.

I am also very conscious, however, that this is a temporary solution. The condition of many of our roads continues to deteriorate and just patching them up as a temporary fix isn't going to solve the problem in the longer term.

I have been asking a lot of questions of Hampshire Highways about the condition of roads across this division. As a result, the county councillor responsible for highways (known as the Portfolio Holder) is due to visit the area with me in October. A Portfolio Holder is essentially the councillor who has political responsibility for a particular council service, in this case highways.

I intend to take him to see some of the worst roads across the division for himself and will continue pressing for our area to get its fair share of highways investment.

Wishing you all the very best.

***CLlr Sally Yalden***

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cllrSYalden](https://www.facebook.com/cllrSYalden)

Phone: 07783 821561

### Update on Village Planning Matters

1. Field next to The Wheatsheaf: we understand building on site will commence in early 2027.
2. Bargate: The Planning Application has been referred to the Ministry of Housing by Caroline Nokes. If a decision is made to call the application in, the case would move to the Planning Inspectorate where, in most cases, an Inspector would be appointed and an Inquiry held locally. If the decision is made not to call it in, the application would be for the Local Planning Authority to determine, and the Article 31 Direction would be removed. TVBC will move it to a decision notice with consent as granted by the Southern Area Planning Committee on 30 June 2026.
3. Common Hill Road - Macra: We understand the Applicant is doing a Pre App which he may share with the Parish Council following which we should expect a full Planning Application to be made.
4. SANG - Fairbourne Farm 26/01835/FULLS: A Planning Application has been received and will be discussed at a Parish Council Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 1 October.

### The Village Pond – An Update

Many of you will have noticed that the village pond has been looking rather tired and in need of some attention.

In October 2023, the Parish Council received a large water bill and investigations revealed that we had a leak in the pipe that had been used to top up the pond. The leak had clearly been going on for some time resulting in a significant amount of water being lost.

Thankfully after discussions with Southern Water, we were able to secure a refund on the excess water charges. However, they advised us that chlorinated mains water should not be used to top up, as it is not appropriate for the pond environment. Subsequently, the water supply was completely disconnected.

Since then, we have made numerous enquiries about the best way to refurbish and restore the pond, while also looking at how it can be maintained in the future without relying on mains water. Unfortunately, the initial quotes we received were in the region of £35,000, which is clearly a significant sum for the Parish Council and the village. Even though the pond is secured from leaking, it will now only be filled by rainwater and if dry summers continue it may always be short of water.

We have been exploring alternative options and potential partnerships and recently had a meeting with the Head at Sparsholt College to see if the pond could potentially be taken on as a student project. We have had a promising initial conversation and are now waiting to hear whether Sparsholt may be able

to take the project forward.

We are very hopeful that this could provide a more affordable way of giving our village pond the attention it needs, while also creating a worthwhile local educational project. We will keep you updated as soon as we know more.

### Cover story

## Village Bus Shelter

A new beginning in its 73rd year.

Thanks to a full grant from HCC the Parish Council has completed the refurbishment on the Bus Shelter.

All that is still to be done is the refurbishment of the plaque which at the moment is in the capable hands of David Jeffery.

Once complete it will be put back either inside or on the front.

There are plans for the youth of the Village to decorate the inside but nothing yet agreed.

***Braishfield Parish Council***



## Braishfield Village Hall

The AGM 2025-26 will be held on **Thursday October 29 at 7.30pm** in the Community Room at the Hall.

Please come along to hear about developments at the hall and support the team who manage this very valuable community resource.

We look forward to seeing you.

***Village Hall Committee***



I am writing to Braishfield Village News with my story of arriving in the village, just before my fifteenth birthday, September 1955.



I had left school at the end of the summer school term with the intention of working on a farm. This was all I ever wanted to do, which pleased my parents.

Through a contact in the village of Belmont, Surrey where we lived, I found myself on the way to Crookhill Farm, Braishfield, to work on the 120 acre farm owned and run by Mr Peter Baker and his wife Eddie.

After an introduction to everyone, I was to help in the dairy to work with the herdsman Bert Hance milking the 80 plus Guernsey cows. He was, looking back, a hardworking, no nonsense chap who called a spade a spade and I owed him a great deal for my introduction to working with the herd. He was very kind and patient with me, thank goodness!

Milking finished, in for breakfast, then out for feeding all the calves. Looking back on this particular era in my life, I have great memories, I often smile to myself. I was up at 3am for the start of milking (was there such a time!) and then at 5 o'clock in the September Autumn mist to fetch the last few cows that had been slow to come up for milking. The lorry then arrived at 7 o'clock to collect the churns. During the winter months when the herd were in their stalls



overnight, it was my turn to check all was well in the cowshed. With the smell of the silage and now most of the cows laying down, (don't ask me why) but as I closed the cowshed door, having checked all was well, I would say "Good Night My Ladies"

I was a student lodger with Mr & Mrs Reg & Kate Elkins, with their son Derek, a tractor driver on the farm, and their daughter Pam. We were all living at the farm where I am today.



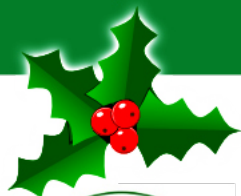
My first encounter with the village of Braishfield was not quite what I expected! I happened to be out with Reg feeding 600 pigs, Land Race, Large Whites and a Boar, whom I called Hercules. Suddenly, we saw plumes of smoke and flames coming from around the Dog and Crook public house. This area where we observed the fire, is now the Acer Glade we see today in the Hillier Arboretum.

Thats all for now.

**Ricky**

(Richard Dorlay)  
Crookhill Farm

Get Ready  
for the  
Braishfield  
Christmas  
Bazaar!



## **Join Romsey Country Market and The Pantry at Braishfield Village Hall on Saturday 28 November 2026, 10am to 5pm (Free Entry)**

Enjoy delicious home-baked cakes, chutneys, preserves, and curds, with samples to try. Gluten-free and dairy-free options are available. Buy on the day or pre-order for Christmas collection.

### **Handcrafted Gifts**

Browse unique gifts created by local crafters, bakers, and growers. Find inspiring presents while supporting homegrown and handcrafted produce.

### **Village Celebrations**

Enjoy live music from local musicians and choirs alongside stalls from village charities and groups.

Whether picking up presents, stocking your pantry, or soaking up the festive cheer, join us for a wonderful community day out!

## MURDER - back by popular demand!

BMADS in conjunction with the BVA are delighted to once again bring you a murder mystery evening! This year we will be putting on Dying for a Drink by Ian McCutcheon – a tale of money, greed, unlikely professional misconduct and, of course, murder!

Due to the large demand for tickets for our previous murder mysteries, this year we will be putting on two performances – **Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November 2026** at 7pm in the Village Hall, which will hopefully help avoid disappointment. Seating will be in groups of up to 6 – you are welcome to organise a group of fellow sleuths in advance but please do not worry about coming on your own or in a smaller group, our Box Office Julie Kemp will ensure no-one is seated alone.

Tickets are priced at £10 and will be available from Monday 5 October from Julie on 01794 368894 (reasonable times only please). There will be an opportunity for food during your deliberations – please bring your own food plus any cutlery, crockery, candelabras etc to dress your table as you see fit!

The BVA will be organising a fundraising raffle and bar selling a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks - we would encourage you to use this to help support their work in the village. We look forward to seeing you there!

**BMADS & BVA Committees**

## Braishfield Amateur Table Tennis Society (BATTs)

BATTs is a social, friendly, play for fun, table tennis club. We don't play league. So if you play table tennis or have played in the past, you're welcome to come along and try us out. We meet every Tuesday in the village hall. The session is open from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

For further information please contact:

Pete Syddall, [petesyddall@gmail.com](mailto:petesyddall@gmail.com) or

Mike Edwards, [mike\\_edwards\\_ingenook@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mike_edwards_ingenook@yahoo.co.uk)





## Social Contact Group

We had to curtail our summer plans due to the exceptionally high temperatures and although we considered alternative possibilities, it was decided for safety reasons to follow the Government's Guidelines, by staying in the safety of our homes.

However, there was one date in August which was notably cooler & we were fortunate to have a wonderful Coffee Morning in Betty's beautiful garden. There was plenty of shade sat under the trees and it was lovely to all be together again. We were so well looked after by Betty's grandchildren, William and Connie, who served us and our Members enjoyed chatting to them.

At this current moment in time, we've 2 more trips planned & then, hard to believe it's time for our Christmas Lunch!

If you would like to join our very friendly group, please do not hesitate to contact me on (01794) 368339.

**Hazel Prince**  
Chairman

## Braishfield 200 Club

August and September draws picked another two lucky winners, Nicky Ayres and Charlie Menzies Wilson. We've made donations to the Hants and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance charity and the Romsey Food Bank.

There's always room for new members. Contact me and I'll be happy to talk about what we do and how we do it...

**David Robinson**  
Tel 07764 502622 or email [david.robinson1571@gmail.com](mailto:david.robinson1571@gmail.com)



# History of All Saints Church

**LOCAL  
HISTORY**

People have often asked why All Saints is where it is, so a short explanation might be of interest.



📷 Photo: Approx 1890's

A William George Jennings took the lease of land from Michelmersh Manor in 1821, (later he became the owner), which included the Braishfield House Estate, which in turn included land in the centre of Braishfield. Mr Jennings lived at Braishfield House with his wife, Caroline and daughter Frances both of whom died within a few years. As there was no graveyard in Braishfield, they were buried at Michelmersh. The Jennings' eldest daughter, another Caroline, came to live in Braishfield House with her husband the Reverend James Davies, who was Curate at Chilworth, not exactly convenient, but he probably had a fast horse!

Early in the 1820s, Acts of Parliament had been passed 'to promote the building of additional churches in populous areas', which probably led to Rev James Davies, a village mover and shaker, and his father-in-law William Jennings, to think of having a Parish Church built in Braishfield. There was a strong Congregational church which is now the United Reformed Church and a Methodist Chapel at Chapel Works in Newport Lane, but the Church of England church for Braishfield was St Marys Michelmersh. It took many years to get the plan into action.

There was a small dwelling in the corner of the land bordering what is now Church Lane; it was a 'Boy's and Girl's school' later becoming what is now the church room. By 1853 Mr Jennings owned this land and he gave half an acre, part of a field named Trimmers's Paddock, for the building of a parish church alongside the school. Sir William Heathcote, who lived at Hursley Park, gave a large donation towards the cost of the new church. Plans were drawn up in the

early 1850s using William Butterfield, a friend of the Heathcotes as the architect; being the architect of Winchester Hospital, Keble College Oxford, the chapel of Balliol College Oxford and various churches.

Sadly, James Davies's wife Caroline died in 1853 and James donated the money to extend the church by adding a north aisle to the design, in her memory. There is a plaque on the wall commemorating her life. She was buried at Michelmersh.

Within 2 years the church was built; obvious Butterfield signs being the diamond patterning in the outside brickwork and the trefoil shaping at the top of some of the windows and porch. Internally there is (hidden) yellow and brown tiling behind the altar, a Butterfield favourite in his church designs. The font is considered to be one of Butterfield's best. The new church was described in a letter by someone present at the consecration as 'a cheap Butterfield church, red brick and tile floor, deal seats, wooden belfry but solid and very nice inside and I hope time will subdue the scarlet'. Over the years the interior has changed, with the murals on the East wall, the East window, new pulpit, heating, the organ, clock tower, to mention but some of the additions all funded by benefactors and community effort.



The church was consecrated in 1855 and permission was sought to have the remains of the Jennings family who had been buried at Michelmersh, removed from Michelmersh to Braishfield and interred in the white sarcophagus opposite the church door.

Distance could well have played a part in the decision to build a church in Braishfield; 3 miles is a long way to get a coffin to Michelmersh, by cart presumably, with mourners following behind, so it was kind of Mr Jennings to provide a church and therefore a graveyard, for the growing population of the 'hamlet' of Braishfield. Maybe the main driver was the fact that the family members of Mr Jennings had all been buried in Michelmersh graveyard and he thought they should be laid to rest closer to home.

***Sarah Boothman and Wendy Quarendon***



## Braishfield Garden Club

It was a good gathering of Members and guests for our first meeting since May. Chairman Steve welcomed everybody and hoped that a reasonable summer had been had by all. His main announcement was to inform us that a coach and visit to Wisley had been booked for June 1st next year. So after the diaries and phones had noted the date he introduced the speaker Charlotte Popescu.

Charlotte gave a very interesting and surprising talk on foraging for wild food. We were all surprised at the number of plants which grow in our gardens, and which we consider to be weeds, but which are edible. Some such plants are the leaves of lesser celandine for salads, bitter cress and chickweed. The latter being a good source of Vitamin C. Others included Garlic mustard, dandelion, nettles and surprisingly ground elder leaves, supposedly good for gout. Pushing on through the season there was woodruff (good in drinks) violets, primroses, cowslips, daisies clover and apple blossom. Edible roots included dandelion, horseradish, yarrow and burdock. In coastal areas sea samphire is a great plant to forage for.

Charlotte has written lots of books on foraging and what to look for and had brought along a good display for sale.

Steve thanked Charlotte for a very enlightening talk, saying that we would now look at hedgerows (and our gardens) in a different light.

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

### Meet the Braishfield Garden Club Committee

#### *Steve Renvoize*

I am chairman of Braishfield Garden Club. I have always had an interest in plants, wild and cultivated and after a career as a research botanist at Kew Gardens, I retired to Braishfield 20 years ago and created a garden here. Gardening for me is both a source of satisfaction in creating a place of relaxation and also pleasure at seeing plants which I have nurtured, thrive.



### ***Angela Bevan***

Born and brought up in Braishfield. I left home at 17 to join the RAF, met John my husband and accompanied him to Cyprus, Germany and Hong Kong whilst living mostly at Stilton. We visited my parents at Braishfield regularly, eventually moving to Braishfield some 17 years ago. I volunteer in the Pantry, I am on the Committee of Braishfield Garden Club and Braishfield Flower Club. I enjoy gardening, however this is becoming more of a challenge.

### ***Viv Robinson***

I have been a member of the Garden club for 20 years and enjoy looking after my one acre garden (not so much in the drought). With walking and short tennis my old body is just holding up. Bridge, reading and puzzles keep my brain ticking.



### ***Sheila Still***

I have lived in this lovely village for 57 years, as did my husband's parents and uncle before me. I enjoy the activities of the garden club and can always pick up tips from the variety of speakers we have. My gardening preference is growing vegetables, not always successfully depending on the weather.

### ***Mike Prince***

Having lived in Romsey for many years, Hazel & I moved to our cottage in Braishfield in 1988. Once retired I had the time to participate in village life and I've thoroughly enjoyed my involvement both as Chair of Braishfield School Governors and Chair of Braishfield Parish Council. One of the first societies that Hazel & I joined in the village was the Garden Club and I'm still enjoying my involvement, this time as Treasurer. We're extremely passionate about living in Braishfield in this beautiful part of Test Valley.



**BRAISHFIELD FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY**  
**OPEN EVENING**  
**TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS**

**Coral Gardiner**

**Floral Designer and NAFAS National  
Demonstrator**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2026**

**Braishfield Village Hall**

7.30pm (Doors Open 6.45pm)

**Tickets – Members £10.00 Visitors £15.00**

**To include coffee and mince pie – Raffle & Sales  
Table**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:**

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

**01794 368339**

**Supporting Alfie's Wish**



Our Voices singing sessions during the summer months have been hot, humid and still well-attended - thank you all. Many thanks to the lovely yoga lady for the loan of a very welcome fan in June!

We've welcomed several new singers who've 'found us' through U3A/word of mouth/friends of friends - the group continues to attract anyone who 'wants to sing'.

This informal group meets in the Church Room, usually on the 4th Monday of each month, from 2 to 4pm - refreshments and plenty of chat part way through.

**Dates for the coming months are -**

Mondays - 28 Sept, 26 Oct, 23 Nov and NB: 14 Dec for an early Christmas sing.

We look forward to seeing many of you, as Autumn days bring cooler weather and glorious colours...

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

# Braishfield Village Pantry

We've had a great summer at the Pantry, although it certainly didn't start quite as we had hoped! With a shortage of volunteers, we had to make the difficult decision to close on Wednesday afternoons for a while. Thankfully, we are delighted to say that we have since welcomed lots of new recruits and are now up and running again on Wednesday afternoons. Please pop in, say hello and give our new volunteers a warm Braishfield welcome!

We were also delighted to welcome a work experience student from Romsey School. It was a great experience for both her and us, and she enjoyed her time at the Pantry so much that she even came back to help during the summer holidays. It was lovely to see!

One of the best things about the Pantry is seeing our regular customers week after week, but it's equally exciting to see so many new faces. We've discovered that there are still people who didn't know we were here – but once they've found us, many have become regular customers too. So, if you haven't visited us recently, do pop in and see what we have to offer.

It's been a busy summer in the kitchen too. I've been cooking and baking to keep the counter well stocked, as well as taking on a few outside orders for cakes and scones. I even had the excitement of making a wedding cake!

As the long, dry summer begins to come to an end, our thoughts are already turning towards Christmas. Yes, it's that time of year when we start planning and ordering our festive stock! There's lots to look forward to in the village, including Carols on the Rec and the return of the Braishfield Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 28 November.

The Pantry will be open on the day with tastings from local producers, while Romsey Country Market will be in the village hall with a wonderful selection of Christmas gifts, including artisan crafts, home baking and preserves. There will also be entertainment from local music groups, so come along, enjoy the festive atmosphere and perhaps find some unique Christmas gifts along the way. We hope it will be a fantastic day out for everyone.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, old and new, who give their time and energy to make the Pantry such an amazing part of our village. We couldn't do it without you!

And of course, we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you'd like to join our friendly team, please pop in for a chat or drop us an email at [braishfieldpantry@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldpantry@gmail.com).

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



## Opening hours

July, August and September

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

# All Saints' Church Braishfield



## Dates for your diary

**Everyone is welcome to  
our special events...**

- Sunday 3 October 9.30am  
Harvest Festival
- Sunday 1 November 3pm  
Remembering Service
- Sunday 8 November  
10.50 at the War  
Memorial
- Churchyard Working  
Party Saturday 21  
November 9.30am with  
refreshments. Please  
bring your tools.
- Carols on the Rec  
Friday 18 December

**We do hope you can join  
us.**

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

## Acts of Remembrance 2026

Acts of Remembrance will be held at  
the Braishfield War Memorial.

### Remembrance Service on Sunday 8 November at 10.50am

The United Service of Remembrance (arranged by  
All Saints' Church and the United Reformed Church)  
and will take place at the War Memorial and last for  
approximately 40 minutes. This service will include  
the Laying of Wreaths. There will also be an  
opportunity to donate to the Royal British Legion  
Poppy Appeal.

We hope to have an amplification system in place so  
those attending can gather and hear the service in  
the area of the War Memorial whilst leaving all  
roads clear.

Hot drinks will be served afterwards in the Church  
Room.

### Armistice Day Service on Wednesday 11 November at 10.50am

There will be a short Act of Remembrance (arranged  
by Braishfield Parish Council) at the War Memorial  
when a wreath will be laid by the Braishfield Village  
Association.



## From Rev Tom ...

Dear Friends,

The nights are drawing in with a vengeance now and the appeal of a hot drink in a warm sitting room becomes stronger.

At the moment we are thinking more about the season of Harvest, a time of thanksgiving, when we come together to thank God for the gifts that he has given us.

However, it seems to me that giving thanks is something that does not need to be confined to special times. There is a lot to be said for being spontaneous with our gratitude, both to God and each other. We don't always have to wait for anniversaries or birthdays to say thank you to the people that mean so much to us, any time will do. One of the things that has really struck me in my time amongst you all is that way in which people care for each other, very often anonymously and without a fuss. Things just seem to 'get done'. And that in a way is a harvest in itself. Because we all tend to reap what we sow when we look after each other - an act of kindness is never wasted even if it not always seen.

On the 30th of October, the 31st of October and the 1st of November we will be holding services of Remembering in our churches. These are a time where we invite you to come, remember and give thanks for the life of loved ones that have passed away. When we lose someone that we dearly love the world can seem to carry on without us, we can feel under a lot of pressure to 'move on' and it is very often a lonely time. These services aim to be a space to acknowledge our loss, give thanks for the lives of our loved ones and pay our respects. There is no time limit for grief so everyone is welcome whether your loss is recent or not.

The times of the services are:

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 30 October | Awbridge 7pm            |
|            | Timsbury 7pm            |
| 31 October | Michelmersh 3pm         |
|            | Farley Chamberlayne 3pm |
| 1 November | Braishfield 3pm         |
|            | King's Somborne 3pm     |

I do hope that you have a joyful and settled Autumn and see you soon.

God bless,

**Tom**





# The Long Way to Rome ... by motorbike

**Wine, Cheese and Rev Tom's Travels**

**Thursday 12 November  
7pm to 9pm**

**Braishfield Village Hall  
Community Room**

**Tickets £6, please book with  
seboothman@aol.com**

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Everyone welcome!**



## BBQ 'Summer 2026 Style'

All Saints' Church Braishfield organised a 'non-BBQ' on Saturday 15 August in the church room car park (non-barbecue as the cooking was undertaken in the church room following the previous day's severe alert regarding use of barbecues). Gazebos provided welcome shade for the relaxed and friendly gathering of over 50 people.

Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the afternoon - whether that was lending gazebos, setting up, clearing up, preparing the salads, serving the desserts and special thanks to everyone who came and made the event so enjoyable.



# Braishfield United Reformed Church

## News from Braishfield URC

By the time this goes out, Braishfield will once again have had an excellent Harvest Festival service. We were all in good voice for the traditional hymns associated with the season and the display, as ever, looked wonderful. The pictures are from the 2025 Harvest Festival service but give a good idea of how lovely the church looks for this event. The church would like to say thank you for everyone's



generosity here. Donations are taken down to a food bank where they will be put to good use and be much appreciated.

None of us are sorry the heatwave has passed, least of all our lovely carpenter who has repaired our front door and replaced our vestry door. Church members then redecorated the vestry door in a beautiful shade of dark green and all of the doors now look splendid. But it is the kind of work best done in dry but cooler weather!

The church has two meetings a year to discuss its business. One is in March and is also our Annual General Meeting. Our second one will be in October where, amongst other things, we confirm our festive season events. It's amazing how quickly that comes around again, isn't it?

Before that, we will join the village for the annual Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on 8 November 2026. It is always a privilege to be part of this and to give thanks for those who sacrificed so much on our behalf.



**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



# Jumbulance Group Update

Our Currently we have 28 people on our second Jumbulance Holiday this year to the lovely Merton House Hotel in Ross on Wye with its gardens overlooking the River Wye. We have been blessed by good weather and a wonderful base for our outings and it is certainly somewhere we will return to as there are 9 fully accessible bedrooms with ensuite wet rooms, plus single, doubles and twin ensuite rooms and good food and such welcoming staff for whom nothing is too much trouble. We all get tea in bed at 7am as well as facilities in our room if we don't want to be disturbed so early. It is a pleasure for us ALL (volunteers too) to be so spoilt and the varied entertainment each evening has been enjoyed by everyone. We have already had a Quiet Day at Belmont Abbey near Hereford and visits to Gloucester yesterday and Slimbridge and Hereford yet to come.

We have many new local disabled people this year – some are very disabled on this particular holiday and are requiring a nurse and one other person for their care needs to be met, when being hoisted each time, they are transferred from bed/shower/ wheelchair/toilet and also simple things like being given a drink or feeding at mealtimes. People requiring this level just do not get opportunities to go away normally as the level of care is not available unless you can afford £3,000 plus. Our great team headed up by a lead nurse and often a local retired GP/physios etc are all volunteers paying for their hotel costs and working 24/7 to ensure everyone's

needs are met. It is a joy to see everyone together in the evenings dancing and singing and so much laughter and happy faces. It is hard work but it is also so life enhancing to see people making friends and having fun – people who just don't get taken out and one gentleman this holiday who only gets out of bed for 2 half days a week to go out. Many are lonely and all the volunteers say it puts their lives back into perspective. It is a win win for the volunteers and VIP travellers to get these opportunities. We can all make a difference and we appreciate the financial support we are given by many locally.

Our next Fund raiser is a Coffee Morning at St Nicholas's Church in Newbury on Thursday November 12 and our next social event is Christmas Lunch at Ampfield Golf Club on Sunday December 13.

For information contact  
Chris Chisholm 0788 774 8224  
Email [cookchris@aol.com](mailto:cookchris@aol.com) or for nationally run holidays later this year to Norfolk or Lourdes in the Pyrenees contact the Jumbulance Trust HQ - [www.jumbulance.org.uk](http://www.jumbulance.org.uk) or [info@jumbulance.org.uk](mailto:info@jumbulance.org.uk)

**Chris Chisholm**

Affiliated to the Jumbulance Trust:  
registered charity No. 1090731



## News from Braishfield Primary School

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year. After such a hot end to the summer term and a lovely holiday break, we are enjoying the milder weather and making the most of every opportunity to get outside. The children have been enjoying time on the recreation ground for both learning and play, making the most of the wonderful space we are lucky to have on our doorstep. It has been lovely to see everyone settling back into school life, reconnecting with friends and embracing the new term with enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, we are also beginning to think about a very special milestone for our school. Our wonderful school building was built in 1876 and opened as a school in 1877, meaning that in 2027 we will be celebrating 150 years of our school.

This is a very special anniversary, and we would love for it to be a celebration that involves the whole community. We are hoping to bring the history of our school to life for our children and to share the stories and memories that have helped shape our school over the years.



If you have any memories, stories, old school books, photographs, schoolwork or other items connected with the school that you would be willing to share, we would be delighted to hear from you. Perhaps you, a parent, grandparent or other family member attended the school and have a story to tell? We would love to hear from you and help our children discover more about the school and its place within our community.

We are also looking for members of the community who may be willing to get involved in our anniversary celebrations next year. Whether you

... Continues ↵

have something to share, a memory to contribute or simply a desire to be part of this special occasion, please do get in touch.

There will be lots to look forward to as we celebrate 150 years of our wonderful school, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for past and present pupils, families and members of our village community to come together and celebrate our shared history.

Please do keep an eye on the school calendar on our website for upcoming events. We would be delighted to welcome you to join us and be part of any of our celebrations!

***Mrs Natalie Alldred***

Headteacher, Braishfield Primary School

[headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk)

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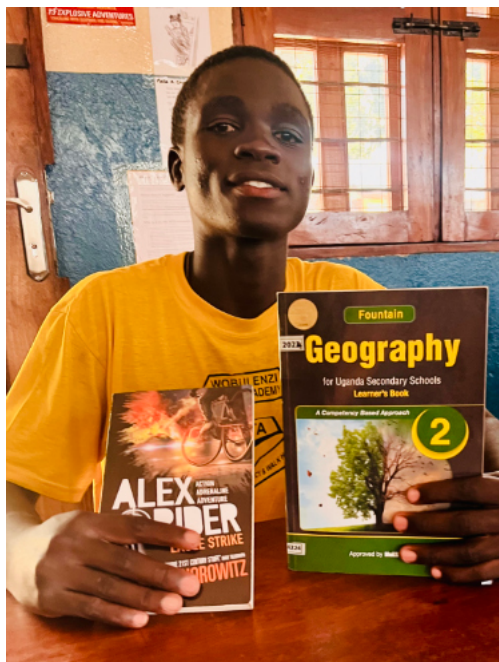


# No Rain, No School?

## News from ServeDirect

So many of our Braishfield conversations, over the last few months, have revolved around the extreme heatwaves, lack of rain for the garden/farmers etc and how to cope during the long, hot days and nights. We're probably all quite grateful for the cooler September weather.

In Central Uganda, we work at a large secondary school, in another village community about 6,000 miles away from Braishfield. There, the knock-on effects of long periods of drought & reduced rainfall are devastating in a different way. Many parents are subsistence farmers with a 'garden' (a small piece of land), to produce crops for daily food. But the 'garden' also produces cash crops to sell locally and that cash is essential to pay for school fees.



Attending secondary school in Uganda requires school fees. Private schools are not considered 'posh' and a common choice even for the poorest of parents, if they want their children to succeed. Parents at Wobulenzi Town Academy can pay 50% at the start of term, followed by the rest after a few weeks. However, even that arrangement is a crippling and daunting amount for those on the poverty line.

Quite simply: little/no rain = fewer crops = no school = no future. It's a simple, but brutal reality.

In addition, due to a certain fuel crisis, food prices are rocketing. Therefore, all school costs are rising and fees are bound to increase in the future. Talk about a vicious circle ...

As a result, many young students have to be active and very resourceful in raising money for their own school fees. It's very common to see primary children selling fruit and vegetables, firewood and snacks at weekends and after school. Many secondary students make bricks, work in garages, do hairdressing, keep goats and help in family businesses. Much as it is totally normal to play your part in family finances, this recent increase is now a necessity, made worse by the lack of rainfall in East Africa. On the one hand it is both impressive and inspiring to see such hardworking, young teenagers - but on the other hand it raises further concerns. A climate crisis becomes an educational crisis and a food crisis.

The drastic lack of rain has a direct effect on whether your children can attend school or not. In Uganda, missing formal education impacts your chances in life. One stern school sign pronounces 'No Education, No Future' - harsh, but accurate - at least in Uganda.

Both these students are great examples of this situation: Divine (12) sells avocados from her grandmother's trees to earn money for fees & Junior (16) helps his mum, Susan in her tailoring business. In fact, Susan supplies Ugandan fabric wares to Lemon & Jinja in Romsey. But with more Divines and Juniors around, there is good reason to hope and believe that the children's hard work and resilience will help to keep them in secondary school. Despite the serious climate challenges that are bound to continue in Uganda, there must be a good reason to have hope.



On a final note, Uganda has a reputation for having one of the highest entrepreneurial mindsets among its population - many young businesses are often started by students, which is also encouraging.

Food, and hopefully rain, for thought.

Thanks for reading, for your interest and support.

***Elsbeth & Jerry Dugdale***

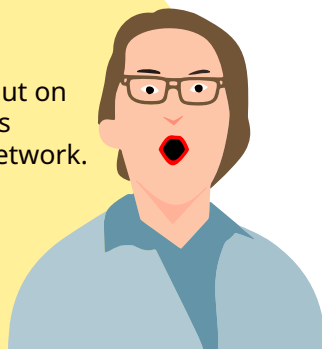
Serve Direct is a small, Braishfield-based charity, run by Jerry & Elspeth (from Church Lane) together with a group of local friends. Regular news is also available on the website, [www.servedirect.org](http://www.servedirect.org) on Facebook & Instagram.

## 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.



## In case of emergency



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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.

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13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Nov  
4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Braishfield Village Hall, Braishfield, SO51 0PN**  
Last Saturday of a Month 10.30 to 12.30  
26<sup>th</sup> Sept  
24<sup>th</sup> Oct  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Romsey Market at The Corn Exchange**  
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October 9, 23  
November 6, 20

## Household waste + food waste + garden waste



October 2, 16, 30  
November 13, 27

### October

| 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 |    |

### November

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



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)

# 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)



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