



# *The Bramley* **FREE** *Magazine*

FOR BRAMLEY AND  
LITTLE LONDON

**November 2014**



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# The Bramley Magazine

*for Bramley and  
Little London*

**November 2014**

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**Material for the December/January  
issue to be sent to the editor as soon as  
possible and no later than 15 November**

## BRAMLEY



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George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)  
Playwright, Nobel Prize winner and co-founder of  
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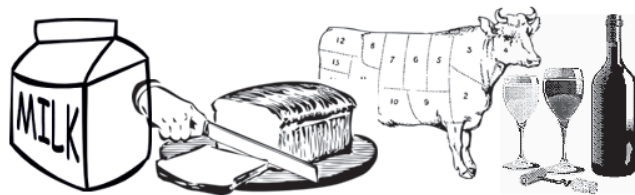
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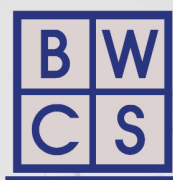
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**Church diary for November...**

<b>1st</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
4.30pm	**CAFÉ CHURCH – SCHOOL HALL**
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday before Advent</b>
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Matins (1662) – Bramley
<b>9th</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Remembrance Service – Bramley
<b>16th</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion (1662) – Bramley
10.30	Morning Worship – Bramley
10.59	Fly past by a Chinook helicopter from RAF Odiham, prior to the two minute silence.
<b>23rd</b>	<b>Sunday next before Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Holy Communion – Bramley, with Guest Speaker, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint
<b>30th</b>	<b>Advent Sunday: Christingle</b>
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Christingle Family Service - Bramley

**...and into December**

<b>6th</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
5.00pm	Lighting of Christmas Tree and Carols with Tadley Concert Brass: Village Bakery (NB Replaces Café Church)
<b>7th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
9.00	Holy Communion – Little London
10.30	Matins (1662) – Bramley
6.00pm	CAROLS IN LITTLE LONDON St Stephen's Church Carols, mince pies and mulled juice. Need a lift? Call 01256 889040
<b>14th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – Bramley
10.30	Holy Communion – Bramley

**Catholic services****Basingstoke**

Church of St Bede, Popley Way, RG24 9DX

Sunday Mass: 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.30 pm in St Bede's

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Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX:

Mass usually: Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 am in Holy Ghost Church

Phone 01256 465214 or email

[stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for information

See [www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk)

**Tadley**

St Michael's Church, Bishopswood Road,  
RG26 4HG

Saturday Mass: 6.00 pm

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am

Parish priest: 0118 9814572

# Bramley

## Lighting of Christmas Tree and Carols with Tadley Concert Brass

**Saturday 6 December**  
**Bramley Village Bakery**  
**5pm**

# Carols in Little London

DID YOU COME TO St STEPHEN'S LAST YEAR?

WERE YOU HOLDING A PRESENT?

This year we meet on

**Sunday 7th December**

And we might be going 'crackers'

Location:- **St Stephen's Church**

Time:- 6 p.m.

FOLLOWING THEIR APPEARANCE LAST YEAR

**THE KJJ TRIO**

(that's Ken, Judith and John to you)

WILL AGAIN BE ACCOMPANYING THE SINGING

The evening will conclude with mince pies  
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If you require transport please contact us on

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12:30pm - 1:30pm  
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### Ballroom & Latin Class

7:15pm - 8:15pm  
£5.00 per person / per week

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8:15pm - 9:15pm  
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**Fridays**

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## DANCE LESSON GIFT VOUCHERS

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## SPECIAL EVENT

### Christmas Tea Dance

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## The Reverend John Lenton, vicar of St James's church, tells us how he's recently been reminded that **patience is a virtue.**

Over the course of my lifetime, there have been various expressions to describe any really boring process: "it's like watching paint dry", for example, or "like watching grass grow". For instance, having been used to the thrill and swoop of downhill skiing, I used both the paint and the grass expressions to describe how I felt about my first experience of cross-country skiing... not a very successful experiment, as you might imagine.

Well, I've got a new expression now: "it's like watching email download". What? How can that be? you may ask. Here we are in Bramley, with most of the village linked to fibre optic cable, high-speed broadband readily available to most addresses – surfing the web should remind me of barrelling down the ski slope. Cue bitter laughter.

Like many people, I've looked forward to the arrival of BT Infinity for a long while. When we were still in London, we had Virgin cable, which really zinged along. Arriving in Bramley was a bit of a shock, to find that 1.5-2 Mbps was the best we could do. But somehow or other, you manage and you get used to it, while putting your name down to be told when BT Infinity arrived.

The Big Day duly came a couple of months ago, when our end of the village finally got what the other end had enjoyed for ages. An email arrived, saying that BT Infinity was now here, and all I had to do was to sign up, which I promptly did. The application went easily enough, given that I was already with BT Broadband, until I got to the last step, where I was asked to give my MAC code. What's that? Apparently, it's a code that your present provider gives you so you can switch to BT. Sorry? My present provider is BT. I'm not switching suppliers, I'm just upgrading. But still it insisted, and wouldn't complete the application because I couldn't give the information.

In frustration, I cancelled the online application and decided to wait till they straightened it out. Bad mistake. Nothing happened. But a few days



Rev'd John Lenton

later, a phone call from BT offering to sign me up for BT Infinity. Sure, great idea. We zip through the questions, all the way to the final moments: "Just one more thing: we will need your MAC code." Yes, really. I explained; the young lady agreed it was silly and said she would report it as a fault, end of call, and no call back.

But then, as if to really put the pressure on, the broadband signal dived from about 1.5 Mbps to about 120 kbps, in other words, less than 10% of the usual speed – and that is where the expression about watching email download came in. I called BT; spoke to several really polite, obliging people in India, who agreed that the speed was very slow indeed and that there must be a fault. They would report it and correct it within 48 hours. And of course, it stayed the same for three weeks. More calls; same answers; no change.

But actually, if BT kept asking for a MAC code, as if I wasn't their customer, why not take them literally and change suppliers? I'd always heard good things about Sky's customer service. Maybe it's time.

And to cut a long story short, I did it. Cut the cord to BT, got the satellite dish, bought the fibre broadband service – which went live yesterday. The line speed went from 120 kbps to 38 mbps. Yes, that is certainly fast: it's like going from walking speed

to hitching a ride on a jet aircraft.

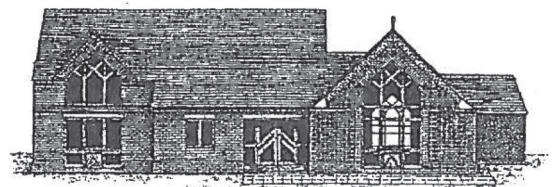
So, what is the moral of this story? Is there one?

Obviously, one moral is for BT – if you don't satisfy customers, they'll vote with their feet. I've been a loyal customer since arriving in Bramley, but loyalty only goes so far.

But actually, the real moral is for me. I often pray that God will give me patience, as if He might ladle it out in dollops to people who ask. But that isn't how it works at all; St Paul talks about patience as a "fruit of the Spirit", together with love, joy, peace, kindness and so on. And fruit doesn't just appear on a tree: it takes time and the right conditions to make it grow. So as I sat and watched that little blue spiral revolve round and round on my computer screen, waiting for an email to download, that was actually growing my patience. I had a choice: let this problem get to me, scream and kick and shout – or learn to adapt to it until something could actually be done about it. Slowly, I learned. And I realised God was answering my prayer by using circumstances to grow that fruit of patience in me.

Thanks, God. And thanks, BT, for stretching my patience over these weeks, even though you finally found its breaking point.

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## Remembrance Day - Lest we forget

Our front cover shows the headstone of Private John Tilley of the South Wales Borderers, a Bramley man, who was killed on 7 July 1916 during the attack by the 38th Welsh Division on Mametz Wood. The headstone is at Flatiron Copse Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Mametz, France. The Red Dragon, which many consider to be the most emotional of all the memorials, is around the corner and is in memory of Welsh soldiers who died here and on the Somme battlefields.

John Tilley's brother Percy was killed the year before at the 2nd battle of Ypres, so this Bramley family lost two sons in a short space of time. Both accounts have been written up for this magazine by Rachel Holland in her excellent series covering the war dead of Bramley.

Sir Herbert Baker designed this cemetery, which contains 1500 graves, and it is one of the most haunting on the Somme. To stand at the entrance is to be like on a stage, with the graves of the dead an ever attentive audience rising up the slope.

This cemetery is rare in that here lie three pairs of brothers. Two pairs are Welshmen, Tregaskis and Hardwidge. Both pairs died in the attacks on Mametz wood when one attempted to help his wounded brother and were both shot by snipers. The Philby brothers were killed in August 1916.

The Victoria Cross winner buried here is Sgt Edward Dwyer of the 1st East Surreys who won his award for conspicuous gallantry at Hill 60 in the Ypres salient 1915. He returned to UK on a recruiting mission and then returned to the Front only to be killed in November 1916.



Rhydian Vaughan, Vice President Bramley  
Royal British Legion.

## Bramley Voluntary Care Group

Our Committee keeps in touch with Good Neighbours Support Services, an organisation which gives us invaluable help, and in October Jenny Edwards and I attended the Annual Conference in Winchester.

We heard about their reorganisation; everyone is very enthusiastic about the changes, which will bring the organisation more out into the community. This affects us as the chosen venue is so easily accessible. Named 'Resource Cafe', meetings will be at the Sherfield (Wyevale) Garden centre every six weeks or so. Our area

adviser, Angela Smith, will be there to talk through any problems, queries and issues and to chat with members. Teas, coffees and cakes will be provided. The next meeting for Bramley will be on Tuesday 11 November from 2-4pm.

Jenny and I enjoyed the conference in the morning and in the afternoon we split up into groups for our specific interests: Jenny on transport and drivers and me on food and balanced diet. There was a special group this year for helping dementia sufferers which drew much interest. Jenny and

I found this an altogether rewarding day. Thanks to GNSS for the support we as a group have received over the years with particular mention for Elizabeth Foulds in her new organisational status.

**Bramley Voluntary Care welcomes Ian Nicholson as a new voluntary driver and thanks him for his interest and help.**

Please contact Phyl on **01256 881296**  
[www.goodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.goodneighbours.org.uk)

Phyl Davies



**T**his month our regular **Meet your Neighbours!** feature takes a trip overseas. **Sarah Hodnett** has recently returned from a year teaching in Sweden, and has been asked to tell us about her adventures.

I thought I'd retired!

A phone call at the end of May 2013 changed that. Steve, an acquaintance who taught at the John Madejski Academy in Reading after I had left, was starting a new school in Stockholm and needed a maths teacher who could teach in English. Would I go? After going through the pros and cons with my lodger, Abi, who also knew Steve, and receiving lots of encouragement from my siblings and my daughter (did they want me out of the country?!), I accepted. My flight was booked for the first of August.

That didn't give much time for organisation! I had quite a lot of commitments, but everyone seemed pleased for me and took over those I couldn't do online. I had quite a lot of advice, and comments on the cold winters, so I packed my warm

clothes, bought a new furry hat and felt myself prepared.

I arrived in a downpour and realised I had only brought a heavy warm jacket, not a waterproof summer one. Fortunately Steve and Abi met me at the airport and took me to the cheap hotel I had booked, so I was fine. The rain stopped and the sun came out, though it didn't make the hotel look much better, but as the temperature reached 24 degrees and stayed there I found that the decking was a very pleasant area. After a month it even began to feel like home. That month



Sarah, in Sweden, wearing one of her trademark hats

proved that Stockholm wasn't always cold – a shame I hadn't brought any summer clothes, either!

The next task was to find somewhere to live. There were quite a few staff from England so three of us started to house hunt together. We then came up against Swedish bureaucracy; to get a flat we needed a bank account, to get a bank account we needed a personal number and to get a personal number we needed an address. A vicious circle which we eventually solved by using the address of a colleague's bedsit. Stockholm has a housing problem; it is quite difficult to find flats. There were very tiny, expensive flats towards the centre of town, but we were fortunate to get a large flat in the outskirts, with a marvellous view of Lake Malaren. The lake is huge and provides all the freshwater for Stockholm. It has islands in it and pleasure boats, steamers and ferries on it. I enjoyed walks along its edge at many different times of the year.

Having a flat out of town was not too much of a problem as the public transport system is really efficient; I was only aware of two buses running late in the whole time I was there! We were on a bus route and a metro line, and a monthly card was only 790 Swedish Krona (£75) for unlimited travel. Also it wasn't necessary to go into town for shopping. IKEA was not too far away and very efficient; we went to buy beds on the day we moved in, bought them at 5pm and they were delivered at 6.30pm the same evening.

The shopping malls were good, too. I was surprised to find the prices - and many of the shops and brands - were similar to those in Britain. Alcohol however was a different matter; wine in a bar or restaurant was very expensive. There is only one off licence chain and prices there are about the same as at home. However, as it closed at 3pm on Saturdays and did not open on Sundays, we found that we bought more than we may have needed – just in case!

Now I was really living in Sweden, ready to attempt to visit most of the 85 museums that they advertised, and already teaching... lots of stories there, but perhaps I'll save those for a later issue!



The view over Lake Malaren

Do you know someone who contributes to our community, who you'd like us to feature? Please email [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk) or tell one of the editorial team.



In September's magazine, Ailsa Stockwell told us how she was going to raise money for 7 year old Junior to go to school in Tanzania. Her proud mum, **Catrina Stockwell** tells us about their **Welsh Three Peaks Challenge**.

We made it! Hooray!

Originally I said I'd only climb Snowdon. Then, on our way up, an elderly gentleman asked the reason for the challenge, and donated £20. It was so sweet of him, I was determined to climb all three peaks.

Snowdon on the Saturday was actually quite enjoyable. All the walking around Bramley and Kingsclere, and up Box Hill was paying off – not too much huffing and puffing! The weather was sunny and cool – perfect for walking. This is not to say it was not demanding, and it took us three hours to get to the top!

Achieving the summit was a bit of a shock. I knew Snowdon was popular, but it was absolutely mad. We managed to get a team photo and then adjourned for a welcome tea and pie! Paul - my husband - met us in the café, and took our souvenirs down on the train for us. We, however, had a two hour walk down!

Cadair Idris was a different story altogether. Firstly, we started at 7.30am (ugh) on the Sunday; we were all tired and aching from the day before; the weather was cooler and cloudy; the wind was strong and cold so we had to put on all the clothes we had with us. The mountain itself has a harsher, more menacing appearance (or was that just our imagination?). The climb was much harder, and near



to the summit we had to scramble using our hands as well as our feet and, although it is quite safe, it was hard work. Not so much joking and banter! The whole climb took us five and a half hours.

Afterwards, Paul distributed very welcome sandwiches, snacks and drinks before the two and a half hour drive to Pen Y Fan.

The weather was better again, cool and breezy but sunny. The climb was easier and the end in sight! Despite our aches and pains, we were all more cheerful. Pen Y Fan was the shortest climb, taking only two hours, and the views from the top were beautiful.

We worked well as a team, even though some of us had never met before, and our ages ranged from 16 to 54. Joining Ailsa from Bramley were her cousin, Cahaya Pranata, school friend Lily Kale and Lily's brother



Archie. Also with us were Vicky Paynter from QMC; Veronica Beckett, a fellow Tanzania volunteer; Hywel Evans a student from Glamorgan University, and Roy Wiles, one of her old lecturers (who dragged his wife along!)

Between us we boasted a toe broken only two weeks before, a bad back, dodgy hips, dodgy knees, a fear of falling, scrapes and bruises from a recent cycling accident, a bad chest and jet lag! All of these were overcome with the encouragement and support of other team members.

Four of us climbed all three mountains – the others joined for one or two as other commitments and injuries allowed.

Thank you to all the people who advised me to buy walking poles: they were invaluable for getting me down each mountain.

Thanks also to Paul for his invaluable role driving, buying food, and packing up for us.

We must thank all those who have donated to the fund which has so far raised more than £1000, almost double the original target. This will allow Ailsa to support the school's boarding facility for a couple more years at least.

Paul and I are very proud of Ailsa for wanting to support Junior, and for making all the arrangements. I am grateful to her for encouraging me to try something I would never have thought of. It was certainly a challenge, both physically and mentally, and I have a great sense of achievement.

The best news is that Junior started at Patandi School on 7 October. Ailsa can now email his family directly and has emailed to find out how he is getting on – she is awaiting the reply with anticipation.

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## **Bramley Lunch Club**

We met in Cross House on a cold October morning. Warm drinks were served from 10:30am and news and a chat brought us all up to date.

Judy was well-prepared and the menu was appropriate for the climate of the day; beef stew with dumplings, potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Apple or rhubarb crumble followed, with custard and cream.

The usual free raffle with a prize for everyone followed. Chairman Judy then asked whether members thought that as a fundraiser we might sometimes have a raffle with a special prize and tickets at 50p. All agreed with the idea.

Next there was a surprise as Bramley Primary School had donated Harvest Boxes and Bags to the club and these were distributed. As well as a big Thank You here to the school for such

a kind thought, members plan to send thank you letters to the children, who had put their own notes in the boxes and bags.

The next meeting on 13 November will be followed by the AGM of the Bramley Voluntary Care Group/Lunch Club at 2.30pm. This is an open meeting, all are welcome. Contact **01256 882441 or 881053**

Phyl Davies

## **Could you knit for a good cause?**

The Bramley knitting group is calling all knitters to join the team as numbers of the original group have recently fallen but our products are still much needed in Zimbabwe, where children need jumpers and slipovers at night when the temperature drops so low.

The organisation Revive and Thrive requests jumpers for up to three year olds and Knit for Peace asks for any knitted garments. All are asking for our cot size blankets. A recent bulk



consignment has been sent by courier to Knit for Peace. These are always gratefully acknowledged so we always know when our work reaches its destination. Wool, needles and advice are always on hand. Meetings are on the last Tuesday each month in members homes but we can all continue to knit away at home. On November 25th we shall be at Dusty's in Bramley Green Road. Please come and join us. Contact **01256 881296**

Phyl Davies



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## **Little Apples of Bramley**

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## An auction at the Priory Primary School

We are very excited that our long awaited building work has now started. As I write this article I can hear the distant whirr of machinery, which is a very good sign, and we anticipate the work will be completed by the first week in December!

The coming few weeks will see our school significantly remodelled – the kitchen and staff room will change places, the old junior toilets will be completely refurbished, a new infant toilet block will be built, a new reception area will be formed, a link corridor will join the newer part of the school with the old Victorian classrooms and a new library and resources area will be created. As you can imagine we are all very excited and cannot wait to see the finished result.

All of this building work has been possible due to our successful application to the Government's Academies Capital Maintenance Fund and as part of this bidding process we

undertook as a school to contribute the sum of £25,000. For a small school with just 168 children on roll this has been quite a considerable feat but we have refused to be daunted by the challenge. So far, we have had a number of fund raising events such as bake sales, a farmers market and non-uniform days but the culmination of our fund raising will be our charity auction which will take place on Friday 28 November at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets are now available from the school (£5.00 to include a chilli supper, nibbles and a complimentary bottle of wine per table) and a full list of items for bidding can be seen on our website - [www.priory.hants.sch.uk](http://www.priory.hants.sch.uk). Alternatively, please do pop into school to pick one up.

Just to whet your appetite the following items are available:

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Many of these would make ideal Christmas presents and are unique items that 'money can't buy'!

For more information about the evening please call the school on **01256 850062**. We hope to see you there on the night; your support is invaluable to us.

Suzanne Kelly, Headteacher



## Promise and possibility at Bramley Primary School

As we move into the darkness of November, so we look to each other to shine and illuminate the shorter days. While this part of the school year is full of events and seasonal activities, it also brings with it a transition.


It is a transition that we see every year in school. Moving from the possibility of what is to come to the reality of making it happen. Moving from hope for the future to deep hard work and effort of realising potential. Moving from thoughts and words to actions and outcomes.

The school continues its journey toward genuine and real brilliance in every aspect of our work. The brilliance that is amongst us never ceases to amaze. Our school captains and house captains who gave tours at our Open Morning in October most definitely shone. I can assure you that they are replicating that leadership ability in the classroom, too. Book Week saw characters and costume abound. Skip for Life saw us raise a four figure sum for the British Heart Foundation. At the centre of all of these activities is learning.

We have a new website going live in November, please do visit and give us any feedback. Please look out for school events and support them wholeheartedly. Together we can continue to embed and realise #brilliantbramley in all its glory.



Andy Higgs, Headteacher




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# Christmas Sale

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## National Womens Register

The Bramley Group met on 24 September at the home of Rose in Sherborne St John.

The subject for discussion: research recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Rose told us the Nobel Prize was a set of annual and international awards bestowed by Swedish and Norwegian Committees, dating from December 1901 when the first award was to Henry Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross. Each recipient receives a medal, diploma and monetary prize.

Sibyl gave us Albert Schweitzer, German/French philosopher, theologian and medic with a policy of reverence for life. He was awarded the prize in 1952.

Pat had done a lot of work on three recipients in 1994 including Yasser Arafat. Anne had discovered that

fifteen women had received the award and there was reference to the Feminist Peace Protester Movement.

Further well known names came up, such as Desmond Tutu (1984) and Nelson Mandela (1993). Marie Curie with her husband won the prize twice 1903 and 1911 in connection with the discovery of radium.

Alexander Fleming was famously recalled regarding mouldy bread and penicillin. Our group leader Pat Thompson came up with Shirin Ebadi, a judge and women's rights activist.

Phyl had concentrated on Mother Teresa, her work for the "Poorest of the Poor" and the many rescue homes opened by the Missionaries of Charity. Her award was in 1979. Phyl had also looked into the reason for Lisa Meitner (buried here in Bramley) not being included in the award given to



Otto Hahn 1945, although she had worked with him on the discovery of nuclear fission.

I cannot get everything into this brief report but as you can see the meeting was full of interest. Thanks to Rose who looked after us with lovely refreshments.

The next Bramley NWR meeting will transport us back in time by a film in the true old fashioned cinema style at 4 Dollis Green. Interested? Then please join us - 29 October.  
[www.nwr.org.uk](http://www.nwr.org.uk)

Phyl Davies

## Bramley WI

At this month's meeting Sue Atrill from County came to talk to members and the committee concerning WI matters. She stayed on to enjoy our speaker Elene Burjan - who many will know lives in Bramley - spoke to us about complementary medicine. As well as having her own business she also works at the Basingstoke Hospice.

She brought a number of essential oils and explained their history. She told us aromatherapy is about the smell and how it goes to the brain and it can affect people in different ways. We all had a smell of different oils and creams, and had to guess what they were. A number of us had it wrong, some could not smell them at all, but for others, in particular a member who suffers from asthma, it had a very calming effect.

It was interesting to note that it is believed that women have more sensitive noses than men and can therefore detect different scents. We were also told which oils are best for certain ailments, for example, lavender for calming and relaxation - but it must always be diluted as it is very powerful. Quite a few of these oils go back a long way to the Roman and Egyptians times. She gave us all leaflets on how to use them and answered questions. It was a very interesting talk, and our many thanks go to Elene for coming to give us a presentation.

The evening ended with refreshments and a raffle.

Next month Vivianne is coming to demonstrate some craft work which will we will all attempt to make. Anyone who is interested please come along: Thursday 13 November, 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Bramley Room.

Jane Matthews

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## Flower club's autumn antics

Our October meeting was a demonstration by Jane Hass, a return visit for a well known area demonstrator.

Jane's demo, 'Autumn Antics' took us from autumn to Christmas with titles including 'Harvest', 'Halloween' and 'Firework Day'. Her commentary was very constructive, with detailed explanations of what - and more importantly how - various flowers & foliage are included. She had several very useful tips for flower arrangers, such as using cooking oil for leaf shine, or taking out the top buds of gladioli.

We had our usual break for home made cake & tea and at the end we raffled off all the arrangements.

On 25 October we are holding 'A Workshop with Lunch' at Cross house.

The Bramley & Romans Floral Society meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall, from 1.30pm. Visitors are always welcome. Call **01256 881125** for information.

Eileen Gulston



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**H**arvest is traditionally a time for counting your blessings along with your crops - and for giving a little extra to those in need. This year's Bramley Harvest Festival had plenty of room for both, as **Ian Evett** explains.

The St James's flower ladies had created a stunning display for this year's festival and the interior of our beautiful church was a riot of colour. After the opening hymn and prayers, John Lenton accepted the many gifts of food and produce from the congregation.

The centre piece was a traditional Harvest loaf, created by the skilled hands of Simon Smart and the Bramley Village Bakery. John later used some of the bread for Communion.

During the service, John and all of the congregation said "farewell" to Mark and Sarah Mitchell who are leaving to live in Fowey, in Cornwall. Mark and Sarah have been active in the church during their short time in the area and particular thanks were due to Sarah for taking the Bramley Magazine from strength to strength during her term as editor.

In place of the sermon, Mrs Rosalie Hill gave a moving presentation on the work of Tearfund, a charity that is dedicated to providing aid to needy communities in the third world ([www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)). Mrs Hill spoke particularly of the challenges of establishing uncontaminated water supplies. The church collection for the day was donated to Tearfund.



People donating food for May Place House

Later, Sandra and Ian Nicholson took the non-perishable Harvest offerings to May Place House, Basingstoke, a centre for the homeless.

The service was followed by a delightful Harvest Lunch in Cross House.



Church Warden Geoff Twine and the Harvest loaf



After the service everyone had Harvest Lunch together



Saying goodbye to Mark and Sarah Mitchell



A few readers sent in some photographs to show how **Beautiful Bramley and Little London look this autumn.** Thank you - we're always happy to have your photos!



Bramley Bushcraft Instructor, George Aitchison, sent in these stunning pictures of autumn in action, all taken around the village in the last two months.



Debby Pringle took these images on an early morning stroll through Morgaston Woods, on The Vyne estate, with a friend and her dog.



**In his regular feature on Bramley's wildlife, John Stubbs pays tribute to a lowly bird with a remarkable homing device.**

Pigeons. Not greatly loved by farmers or gardeners, though they do have a strong following of enthusiasts – fanciers – with quite a different viewpoint. Personally, I struggle to credit the animal with grace, charm or song - but I guess at least they're better round here than they behave in Trafalgar Square.

However, they do have one special trick that keeps scientists permanently engaged in research projects: they can find their way home. The pigeons, that is, the humans are more likely to get lost. Homing is not unique, of course, we can all do it to some extent, but homing pigeons, selectively bred over thousands of generations mainly from the rock dove, are so very good at it. Put them in a sealed box, shielded from any magnetic field, and release them hundreds of miles from home, somewhere they've never seen before. Next morning they'll be back in the loft demanding breakfast. This is, of course, a skill with many layers; they do use visual landmarks such as hills, rivers and roads. They also pick up air currents with olfactory clues – that is, they can smell their way home. All fair enough – we can to some degree imagine how these ruses work. The trait I have difficulty with is their use of the earth's magnetic field. If for instance we humans want to

plan a walking trip we can take a map and check the direction needed. Then we can use a compass to guide us if, and only if, we know exactly where we are to start with and have the coordinates of our destination. Out of a box, though, it's no use just looking at a compass – all it can do is keep us walking in a straight line: better than going round in circles, but it's not likely to get us to the pub in time. Birds are ok in that respect anyway – they can normally use a sun or star sighting, compensating for the time of day to allow for the angle of the earth's rotation, to maintain a given

magnetic field means they can see home from hundreds or even thousands of miles away – but it's not sight as we know it, captain. They can use the shape of the magnetic field in three dimensions – its 'dip' in the vertical direction, its north to south orientation, and magnetic anomalies caused by geological features. All these factors build a picture that means they can just fly home – never mind where they start from, and they don't need a map of any sort.

This is the type of conceptual difficulty one species (us lot) lands in when trying to understand another

consciousness. We can't just ask a pigeon how the flight path looks to them. There are compounds in the pigeon's eye called cryptochromes that can sense these minute magnetic fields – but can they see home? Do they see a moving arrow like a sat nav? Or is it a neural short-circuit in the same way that we don't need to deliberately beat our hearts all the time? There are lots of different approaches: neuroscientists, chemists, meteorologists, biologists, even quantum physicists all working on the humble pigeon. They're doing some most ingenious experiments, coming up with all sorts of different possible route-finding mechanisms. Many of these hypotheses

are conflicting, most of them are a bit hard to pin down. And they'll be at it for a while yet.

That clever Wittgenstein guy reckoned that if we could speak lion-ish, we wouldn't understand him (or her, I guess, logically). It would be the same with pigeons. Sort of sums the problem up - isn't that what philosophers are for?



This rather disgruntled looking pigeon was perched behind St James's one Sunday morning

heading over featureless terrain or at sea, for instance.

On a cloudy day, though, or when some twerp had put you in a box on a train, what do you do? That's where our concept of vision comes unstuck. We think of seeing our way home from what's in front of us, we follow a mental map and a mental compass to get back. But birds' use of the



## Pamber Parish Council Notes

**Pamber Parish Council meeting, 13 October 2014.**

### Decommissioned Telephone Kiosk, Little London.

I am pleased to report that we now have a volunteer to run a book exchange or library in the kiosk. The plans for this will be put on hold until the defibrillator has been fitted. At the moment we are awaiting a specialist electrician to carry out the work needed for the operation of the defibrillator. Once the defibrillator has been installed, arrangements will be made to fit the necessary shelving for the books. If you have any books that you no longer want, please keep them until the scheme can go ahead. If you have any unwanted shelves which are small enough to fit into a telephone kiosk, they could also be very useful!

### Parish Council elections

Parish Council elections will take place next May. Please check the notice boards and website for details in the New Year if you are thinking about taking up this very important

role. Alternatively, contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor for a chat about the work involved.

### Bramley Road, Pamber End.

Further to my report last month, the final plans for the new scheme were approved at the October meeting and Hampshire County Council has found funding to cover the costs of the installation of the gateway feature, white lining and '30mph' roundels. It is hoped that these added features will remind drivers to keep to the speed limit.



### Review of charges.

Councillors agreed that there would be no change to the charges made for allotment rent or to the tennis club for use of the club courts. Please remember that parishioners are able to use the courts at the Memorial

Hall, Pamber Heath free of charge. Telephone **0118 9825587** to arrange access to the courts if you would like to play tennis there.

If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder, please ring 0118 9811438. The allotments are on Pamber Park, Pamber Heath (off Burney Bit).

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 10 November 2014 in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Details of meetings are displayed on the notice boards and on the website.

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## **Safety pedestrian crossing improvement scheme proposal**

Further to last month's article the parish council has now submitted an application to utilise the Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) monies released by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. These funds were generated by housing developments within the parish and are to be used for the benefit of as wide a spectrum of the community as possible. The following is a summary of the proposal which we hope you find both informative and highly relevant to our safety as we move around the village environs. There are of course safety issues in other areas of the Parish which are not being ignored but there is only so much funding available at this time. There is still work to be done and partnering agreements to develop but we believe it important to put a stake in the ground regarding this important issue.

This report outlines proposals to create crossing improvements and a safe route to school for the majority of pupils and parents that walk or cycle to the Bramley Primary School. The proposal centers around the Level Crossing on the C32 and Bramley Lane junction off the C32 leading to the Bramley Primary School.

- The report will seek approval in principle to implement the proposals, authorisation to consult on a preferred option and to advertise a 20mph speed limit.
- Order for the proposed 20mph zone around the dedicated pedestrian crossing over the C32 and level crossing.
- The report will also outline a longer-term plan to create an off-road, shared use route so that pedestrians and cyclists do not have to use the congested and dangerous C32. The aim is to link the disconnected regions of the village of Bramley and also potentially bordering parishes, to enable, a safe route to school for all those that choose not to use motorized forms of transport.
- The aim of the proposal is to work with all available parties such as Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Bramley Parish Council, Network Rail, national bodies such as Sustrans or County-wide Sustainable and Healthy

Access Routes Programme and local business in developing a co-funded sustainable proposal.

- Safe Routes to Schools aims to enable more young people to walk and cycle to school. They usually involve a series of highway measures supported by other community and school projects making roads safer and providing the infrastructure and skills to make walking and cycling a popular choice.
- Currently within the village there are distinct areas separated by either the C32 North/South or the Railway level crossing East/West. No managed traffic control crossing is available to cross the C32 and paths are not interconnecting to separate cycle/pedestrian users from the C32.
- It is the Bramley Parish view that every child should have the benefit of a safe route to school. We want to make this a reality for more children.

Cllr. Anthony Durrant,  
Parish Council Chairman  
published as received

## **Neighbourhood Planning, November 2014**

October has been taken over waiting for the results of the Housing Questionnaire. As it was decided that, rather than allocate sites to accommodate the 200 houses allocated to Bramley via the Local Plan, we take the Tattenhall approach by registering the maximum number of houses per site for future development, then we needed the views of the community as to the maximum houses per site which would be acceptable.

At the time of going to print, we have received in excess of 400 replies. The results of the survey will be published on the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan web site in the near future. On the basis of the results in so far, there is a majority that see a maximum of 50 houses per site being acceptable in keeping with the rural aspects of the village. Having given examples of different sites within the village with the number of houses on those sites, then within the plan we hope to be able

to define the density of housing on any site in the future.

It is obvious that the community prefer small development sites rather than large rural type sites.

The final policies associated with the plan drawn up from the evidence base collected over the past 12 months will be presented in draft form to the Parish Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in early November. After a meeting with Planning Aid, the members of the Steering Group are touring the village and putting together a character assessment of the village. This is looking at the layout of housing, topography, amount of open spaces, landmarks, building details, streetscape features etc. This will be all part of the neighbourhood plan which future developers will have to take notice of such that it is all in keeping with the village character.

As said before, once accepted by the Parish Council and Basingstoke and Deane, the draft plan will be made available to all residents for comments. The plan is based on the comments made by the community via the questionnaires and from the open forums that have been held throughout the last 12 months. The policies will not please all the community but are based on the views of the majority.

When the plan goes to referendum, we need more than 50% to vote in favour of the plan to make it a legal document, so we have to get it right as a true reflection of the majority of the community. A considerable amount of work is going into the Neighbourhood Plan by volunteers who have an interest in seeing the plan put together for the benefit of Bramley in the future. Thank you for your responses to our questionnaires.

Malcolm Bell, Chair

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## Exploring autumn at Butter Daisy Nursery

Our babies have been enjoying sensory baskets full of autumn produce, with the staff secretly hoping the huge amount of conkers rolling about the floor would discourage the spiders (I can report this is an old wives tale as the cobwebs are multiplying daily!). These discoveries have inspired some interesting weaving activities at our pre-school.

The Indian summer has delayed our seasonal explorations but the children have used the abundance of fallen leaves to count and sort according to size and colour. During

one of the many trips out within the village the pre-school children decided that our next 'Rolling Role

moon and the stars but the fare is jolly good value at ten pence. I don't think Richard Branson has anything to worry about.

November will bring a change of pace as we gear up for Christmas preparations. Shh! This is supposed to be a secret for the parents but the staff team have been inspired by the 'Great British Bake Off' and are planning lots of festive cooking activities.

Lastly I would like to welcome all our new families who have been settling in

during recent weeks and the increased staff team who support our ever growing numbers.

Claudia Padfield



Autumn Painting

Play' should be transport related and we now have a full size zebra crossing in the room. The open top bus has taken some very exotic trips to the

## Settling in at Little Apples Nursery

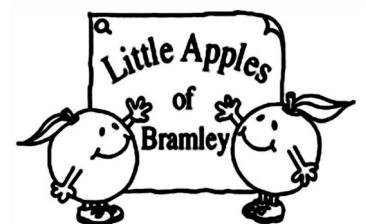
We have had a very busy start to the autumn term with welcoming lots of new families to Little Apples. Our 'stayers' from last year have helped them to settle in and seem to have grown up a lot!

We kicked things off with the theme of 'Me and My World' to introduce the children to all of the different areas of learning, starting with their own bodies. We looked at hands, feet and eyes – printing, drawing, measuring and comparing sizes and colour. This is a fun way to introduce and develop mark making, the precursor to writing and maths skills. The children also thought about where we live through making models of their houses – how many windows and doors, what colour is my front door, what number is it? We talked about how we get to Little Apples which lead on to road safety. We made a zebra crossing and

practised stopping and looking both ways and holding an adult's hand – our drivers were very considerate and stopped to let people cross!

To help our new children settle in, our music and circle time has focused on games involving names, helping them to learn the names of their new friends. We have a new song board which gives a visual aid to songs we can select which empowers all children to be involved in choosing a song, even if speaking in front of a group is difficult.

We enjoyed making vegetable soup for Harvest Festival, all the children took some home and it tasted delicious! This is a fantastic sensory activity – cutting, smelling, feeling and tasting – as well as being a great opportunity to talk about what we like to eat and developing fine motor skills.



We are still managing to play outside – dodging the showers! The children all love balancing and climbing, playing games such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' which develops both physical and mathematical development, as well as being great fun! Another attraction of the garden is checking out the mini-beasts hiding under the tree stumps, watching the wriggly worms, woodlice and ants tunnelling.

Did you know that from this term, more two year old children are entitled to receive 15 hours of free Early Years Education per week?

Sian Davis

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## CONVERSION OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS TO MARRIAGE

Since 2007 many civil partnerships have been entered into. If you are already in a civil partnership you may feel a little disgruntled, having spent out on the big day already when, if you'd have had the choice, you'd have married instead. However, it has been announced that, from 10 December 2014, there will be no fee payable for converting a civil partnership to a marriage as long as your civil partnership was entered into before 29 March 2014 (the date you could legally marry) and the conversion is registered before 9 December 2015.

The process for conversion will be:

- You must both attend an appointment, in person, at a register office, not necessarily the one where you registered your civil partnership
- You will need to have with you, proof of identity and of your civil partnership registration.
- The conversion happens when a couple signs a declaration that they've not dissolved their civil partnership and both want to convert it to marriage.
- The declaration must be signed at the register office.
- The conversion will be registered and a marriage certificate back dated to the date of your civil partnership will be issued
- There is no formal ceremony necessary

It may seem a little unromantic, but on considering a conversion from civil partnership, it would be wise to consider financial matters at the same time and think about making a post-nuptial agreement. If one was already entered in to before the civil partnership then this would be a good time to review it.

So much can happen in a few short years. Perhaps, you now have a child, career change, or an elderly parent has moved in with you. Changes can occur at any time, which mean you may want to look again, or for the first time, at your financial arrangements, and what you would want to happen if, in the unlikely event you were to separate.

In the same way that we never think that our houses will burn to the ground, we still insure against this; most of us never think that our relationship will fail. Most won't. But some do. Why not have a similar insurance which will prevent the potential for huge dispute in the event of separation? Both of you will know where you stand and you can simply do with the document as you would an insurance policy – throw it in the back of a drawer and forget all about it – until the need arises!

Contact Julie Gallimore, accredited family specialist in cases involving substantial assets and/or pensions, to discuss further and please have a look at the full article on our website – [www.rowberrymorris.co.uk](http://www.rowberrymorris.co.uk)



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## An update on Bramley Village Hall

### Repairs and improvements:

A great deal of work has been done on the Village Hall over the summer following the break in and resulting damage. PSC Services have worked very hard, often late into the evening, doing major repairs to the heating system which was severely damaged by the thieves. Thanks to a generous grant from Bramley Parish Council the heating system has been upgraded and users are already reporting great improvements – easily adjusted, no longer rattling and noisy, and the rooms warm up quickly – so an

excellent improvement for the benefit all users and visitors.

There was some disruption to regular users of the Village Hall and their patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. The repairs could not be delayed as the work needed to be done and the facilities ready and usable for the cooler months. There are still a few repairs to be completed and the Village Hall Trust have also organised the upgrading of the security alarm system and fire exits.

### Website

A new website is under development which will have information about events and activities at the Village Hall, and provide a direct link to the online booking system.

### Christmas Tree and Lights

Plans to have a Christmas Tree lighting event at the Village Hall have now moved back to the Bakery (see church diary page 5 for details)

Janet Grieve, VH Trust

## New classes at Clift Meadow Park

Thank you to all of you who joined us for the Coffee Morning at The Pavilion in the summer; it served to remind the Trustees of the need for more facilities and organised activities in the village.

There were a lot of ideas, encouraging the Trustees to be ambitious on your behalf. With that in mind we have been scouring north Hampshire for new clubs to set up in Bramley so stand by for Martial Arts and Fitness

classes for the teenagers (and adults too).

We are keen to hear from people who are interested in hiring either of the buildings on Clift Meadow Park; so if you're travelling far and wide to take children to clubs and would benefit from having a more local option then send us the details and we shall approach the relevant clubs to see if they will relocate.

We're always interested in hearing from villagers who are keen to help create a community spirit - perhaps you would like to help organise a regular Quiz night, or possibly a one-off evening such as Burns night? If so please get in touch with Eileen via our website

Simon Gill, CM Trust



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2 & 30 November and 7 December

9am-1pm - drop in any time.

£5 per person per session to cover the hire of the venue and refreshments.

Contacts: Facebook group: Stitch Together Bramley

Email: [stitchtogether@outlook.com](mailto:stitchtogether@outlook.com)

Telephone: **Jennifer 01256 881213.**

Jennifer Edwards

## New Youth Facilities Building opening soon

The new Youth Facilities Building is on track to be completed in mid-November. The building will be handed over to the Clift Meadow Trust in the presence of representatives of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Community Development Team and the Parish Council.

Opening Saturday 6 December at 7pm: the new building will be formally opened followed by an event

for young people in Bramley who are expected to be frequent users. Details will be publicised on the Clift Meadow Park website at [www.cliftmeadowpark.co.uk](http://www.cliftmeadowpark.co.uk)



Bramley Youth Club will be re-starting in the New Year. It will be possible to re-join or join as a new member very soon.

It is hoped that other youth groups will also hire the specially designed facilities for their meetings and activities. Clift Meadow are already taking bookings including sessions for Martial Arts training.

The new venue will be available for hire by all members of the community. Book via the website or ring the Booking Secretary on **01256 881125.**

Janet Grieve, VH Trust

## Bramley & Romans Floral Society Christmas lunch & demonstration

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## Wildlife Walks

### Wednesday 5 November

Fungi and Winter Wildlife Walk in Basing Woods 10.30am - 12.30pm. A walk from Basing Woods to Sherborne St. John to see fungi and other winter wildlife. Park at **Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenter's Down, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9AE** (Map ref. SU 645 547). Contact Ruth Cairns 01256 326364. Suggested donation £2. Dogs on leads welcome.

### Saturday 29 November

Basingstoke Wildlife Watch "Fun in the Woods" 2 - 4 pm. Outdoor activities for families and young people. Please come prepared with a waterproof coat and wellies. Contact **Laura Wilcock 07905 256966, Clare Lloyd Williams 01256 782665 or Peter Hutchins 01256 770831**

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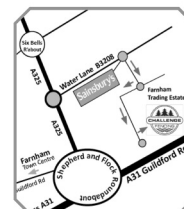


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Basingclog offers music, fresh air, dancing, laughter and friendship in equal measure, plus a chance to be part of something worthwhile. We're actively seeking new members and welcome both male and female dancers and musicians. Now is a great time to try us out as we are into our winter practice period. Tuesday nights at 8.00 pm. Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall  
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### Autumn Concert

**15 November 2014, St. John's Church, Hook**

Mozart – Mass in C Minor

Bach – Coffee Cantata

Mozart – Exulte Jubilate, Veni Sancte Spiritus and Ave Verum Corpus

### Christmas Concert

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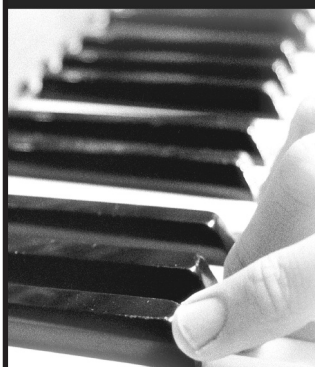


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<b>Thursdays</b>  <i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, Sherfield on Loddon V Hall <i>WI</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Village Hall <i>Lunch Club</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday Cross House <i>WI Lite</i> 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, Village Hall  <i>Legs, Bums &amp; Tums</i> 9am Clift Meadow Pavilion <i>Dance Club (Petite)</i> Village Hall <i>Dance Club</i> Primary School Hall	<b>Fridays</b>  <i>Fitball</i> 9.15am Clift Meadow Pavilion   <b>Saturdays</b>  <i>Dance School</i> Village Hall	<b>Sundays</b>  <i>Church services at St James's Bramley &amp; St Stephen's Little London</i>  see Church Diary on page 5

### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
<b>Parish Council</b>	Lucy Marshall	07810 692486	www.bramleypc.co.uk parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk	Not for bookings
<b>Clift Meadow</b>	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@btinternet.com	Bookings
<b>Cross House</b>	Pam Luck	882687	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
<b>Village Hall</b>	Eileen Gulston	881125	Bramleybookings.org.uk	Bookings
<b>School Hall</b>	Julie Francis	881339		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Bell ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Brownies	Suzanne Cox	07920 822221	suzanne-cox@hotmail.com	Now Weds only
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	communications@bramley-scouts.org.uk.	
Community Choir	Dorian Edwards	07825 616759	www.singhealthy.co.uk	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Dance Club (Petite)	Louise Onslow	883568		
Exercise classes	Caroline Sherlock	07845 217901	caroline@this2thisfitness.co.uk	
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Emma Seal Patrick Croombs	07867 550399	emma_seal@waitrose.co.uk patrick.croombs@hp.com	
Lunch Club	Pat Jones	882441		
Royal British Legion	Chris Holland	883486	bramleyrbl@gmail.com	
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
WI	Anne Porter	881691		
WI Lite	Sarah Spencer		k_srah@hotmail.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	886408	manager@littleapples.org	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Zumba	Julie Spencer	07765 066651	info@ca-boom.co.uk	





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Energy Window	
<small>Mission UK Windows Group Ltd Duraflex Diamond Safe PVC-U Casement Technology</small>	
	<b>A</b>
<small>Energy Index (MJ/m<sup>2</sup>/year) Energy Index certified by BRC, achieved on all installed windows. The above energy index is a guide only. The actual energy index may vary depending on the installation and the local temperature.</small>	
<small>The climate zone is:</small>	
<b>0</b>	
<b>UK</b>	
<small>Thermal Transmittance (U-value)</small>	1.8 W/m <sup>2</sup> K
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