

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 20 / August 2023

Dear Residents,

Welcome to another bumper edition of your newsletter. It started as just 4 pages in 2018. This demonstrates how the Allbrook community is developing, with contributions from both Scout groups and the Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust. If you belong to a local group you wish to promote, and with activities to report, please send your contributions to the clerk. This is your local newsletter after all.

Browsholme Close borders the parish. Its residents run two community street parties each year, at Halloween and Christmas, to raise funds for charity. Do support them.

What's On

10th Sept Family Food & Crafts Festival,
12 -5 pm Attwoods Drove Farm, Compton

17th Sept Mini plant/farmers' market,
10.30 -7pm Highbridge Farm.

23 & 24 Sept OTC Murder Mystery
7pm Otterbourne Village Hall

7th October Jumble Sale,
2pm Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

28th Oct Halloween Street Party,
Browsholme Close

9th Dec Christmas Street Party,
Browsholme Close

Organising a local event? Tell us about it to promote it in our newsletter.

clerk@allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are held monthly on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane.

Please check our website for the latest information in case of any change at short notice.

The next Parish Council meetings dates are:

Tuesday 26 September

Tuesday 24 October

Tuesday 28 November

For information on local planning applications, or to find useful links visit our website:

www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Footpaths

We are lucky in this area to have some wonderful footpaths. Some are official public rights of way, marked on the definitive map. Others are permissive and only available through the landowners' consent. Some are unofficial and evolved as shortcuts used for many years. Some are stoney, sometimes muddy, tracks and others are tarmaced. One thing they all have in common at this time of year is overhanging vegetation. With the rain in recent month growth has been rapid.

So who is responsible for maintaining these paths? Hampshire County

Council's Countryside Service aims to cut paths at least yearly but, with financial cut backs, has to give priority to the most frequently used paths. The footpath from Knowle Hill to Boyatt Lane is prioritised.

If you are a user of these paths please help to keep them clear. If you find yourself being scratched or stung arm yourself with a stick to whack nettles back or secateurs to snip brambles off. This will benefit not only yourself but other users too. Children particularly enjoy nettle bashing as hitting things with sticks is usually frowned on.

Vandalism

Over the past year Allbrook has been suffering from vandalism. It seemed to start last year with graffiti being sprayed on the railway bridge, cable junction boxes and road signs. Thankfully much of that is becoming less obvious due to weathering. That was followed by the starting of a fire on the meadow. Thanks to the swift intervention of residents the damage caused was limited. It could have been much worse.

In April the plaque adjacent to the horse trough on the meadow was removed and thrown into the long grass some way away. This was deliberate vandalism as it had been unscrewed. Since then black paint has been used on a road

sign and on the newly installed nature information board on the meadow. Councillors have taken time and trouble to repair the damage.

The most recent incident is the damage to the 'Tommy' silhouette which has been snapped off its base. This had to be welded to be ready for remembrance in November.

Who is responsible for all these incidents? Bored young people? Whoever it is, a single person or a group, they seem to go armed with a screwdriver and black paint. Please stay alert and report incidents to the Police on 101.

Allbrook Meadow Update.

The transfer of the meadow to the Parish is slowly progressing. The Borough Council has carried out some works to trees which will ensure the Parish is not faced with a large bill for tree maintenance on taking ownership.

The nature board was installed in May and shows many of the insects to be found on the meadow. The PC would like to thank BAM Site Solutions for their assistance with the installation. Unfortunately, the board was recently vandalised with black paint although this has now been removed thanks to Cllr. Wilkinson's efforts.

The working party met on 26th September and received the results of a survey of the meadow by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust along with a proposed maintenance plan. If adopted, the maintenance plan would help minimise the fire risk to neighbouring properties which was an issue raised by a concerned resident.



Allbrook in Bloom

Sadly there were only 10 entries for Allbrook in Bloom Awards this year. Judging took place on 4th August. The standard was very high with 4 gold, 4 silver gilt and one silver award being given. The 10th entry failed to gain an award which is very sad having previously achieved silver gilt. The organisers would like to thank Mrs Sue Ward for

her expertise in judging. With so few entries the future of Allbrook in Bloom is in doubt. It may not run next year. Are residents more focused on their back gardens? Judging back gardens is not feasible but would a produce show be welcomed? This could include fruit, flowers, vegetables, preserves and baked goods with a children's section included. Please feedback your thoughts on this to the Parish Clerk.

Foraging

Do you forage? Foraging can be defined as “going around in search of food or other supplies”.



The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 says that foraging the 4 F's from common land is acceptable so long as it is for personal consumption only. The 4 F's are fruit, foliage, flora and fungus, this means moderate amounts for you and your family only, and most obviously not for commercial foraging purposes. The rules on common land are basically; 'take what you want for personal consumption' but to pick with respect. Respect the trees, plants and mushrooms, the surrounding environment, wildlife that may have a

dependence on with what you are taking, other people and their property. The act also states that you shouldn't uproot any plant from common land. In addition, there are often localised Bylaws relating to picking in a specified area such as parks and reserves. These should be displayed.

Allbrook has plenty of food resources to be foraged. It is vital, however, that you are sure of what you are using. If in doubt leave it alone. Take no chances.

As we go in to autumn fruits are plentiful. Blackberries are filling the hedgerows and there are windfall apples to be found to accompany them in crumbles and jam. Crab apples make an excellent jelly and can be varied with the addition of rowan berries or elderberries both of which go well with venison or lamb. There are also bullace, damsons, wild plums and sloes to be had if you keep your eyes open.

See back page for a Blackberry Jam recipe!

RTAs and large wild animals

Several roads in the area have signs showing deer as they are known to cross these roads. Unfortunately, deer do not look both ways and can seem to appear from nowhere giving drivers no time to avoid them. Should you be involved in a collision with a deer leaving it injured but not killed outright, the Police and Crime Commissioner gives this advice.

Hampshire Constabulary retains a list of individuals covering all the county and the Isle of Wight trained in humane dispatch. If such an incident should occur individuals should call 101 (999 if the location of the deer poses a risk to others) the control room will arrange officers and a humane dispatcher to attend.



Young parents

The Point have partnered with Home Start to launch a new group for young parents and parents-to-be aged 14 to 24. The Young Parents Hangout is a relaxed and non-judgemental space to hang out with your baby or toddler. Food and drink is available along with entertainment. Friendly professionals are also on hand to offer advice and support. It operates in term time only 10.30-12.00. It is free and no need to book. More information from: info@home-startwinchester.org.uk

Breakout Youth support service

Breakout Youth offer a confidential support service for young people aged 11 to 25, who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or unsure of their sexuality or gender identity.



They run a Southampton group for LGBTQ+ young people, staffed by trained youth workers, to support young people to feel less isolated and alone with their sexuality or gender identity, meet others, and socialise safely.

Acknowledging that many young people are not able to attend a face to face youth group, Breakout Online is a weekly virtual LGBTQ+ youth group for young people age 11-25 who live in Hampshire.

To find out more, please email: hello@breakoutyouth.org.uk

Food & Crafts Festival
10th September
12pm to 5pm

Sorry, but no dogs allowed

Hiltonbury Jerseys Affwoods Drive Farm, Compton, Winchester, SO21 2AY

A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!

Outreach radio station	Face painting
Food & craft stalls	Live music
Pony rides	Wildlife trust
Jersey ice cream	Bar & refreshments
Climb aboard our tractors	Play area
Free animal petting area (meet our farm animals)	Tractor rides
Entry: £1 per person Children go free.	Meet our vet & nutritionist

And so much more...

15th Chandler's Ford (Allbrook and Otterbourne) Scout Group, Summer 2023

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were able to make the most of the lovely weather we had earlier this summer, by getting out and about as much as possible.



We enjoyed being part of the wonderful Coronation Big Lunch and putting on free activities for children of all ages. Our young leader, Merlin, was selected to represent

Hampshire Scouts and gave a reading at the Service Of Thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III held at Winchester Cathedral.

Our Beavers have had lots of outdoor fun and went on a 'Coronation' treasure hunt around the local area. Meeting at the fabulous Cranbury Park also gave us lots of opportunities for other outdoor activities: bug hunts, natural art pictures, tracking and, of course, fire lighting and toasting marshmallows to name just a few!



Our Cubs have been kayaking at Lakeside, learning both the theoretical and practical aspects and enjoyed a joint meeting with the 14th Eastleigh Cubs at Cranbury Park, and improving their backwoods cooking skills. They also took part in a litter pick around the village.

Our Scouts have been out camping – once as a troop, and again as part of our Group Camp. We managed to choose the first wet weekend of

July, but we didn't let a shower or two spoil our fun! Many thanks to the District Scout team, who constructed an aerial runway for the Group to use. In addition to this, we did some traditional camp activities including pioneering, fire lighting and cooking and making rope. No camp would be complete without a roaring campfire, where we shared old songs and learned some new ones!

Our Young Leader Merlin was lucky enough to be part of the contingent that travelled to South Korea to take part in the World Scout Jamboree. We look forward to hearing all about his adventures when he gets back.

We are always looking for adults to join our team. If you would like to be part of our adventure and help us to help our young people develop #SkillsForLife please contact me at gsl@15thcscouts.com. There are a number of roles available – not all at



section meetings and not all in uniform, and we offer flexible volunteering to fit around your busy lives. At present, we are particularly looking for adults to join our Cub and Scout teams. No prior experience is required, as training will be provided.

Our next Jumble sale will be held on Saturday 7th October at 2pm.



Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust

This new charity has formed a partnership with HCC to create a volunteer scheme which will benefit all users of the Navigation. HCC are responsible for the rights of way which includes the footpath and any vegetation overhanging it, along with gates, styles etc. The Countryside Service manage the work which can then be split between their staff and the volunteers, depending on the nature of the work.



Everyone who reports a problem assists in this process as the reports form the basis of their activity schedule. Everyone is encouraged to report problems as soon as they arise. Reports can be made here: www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

The charity is now looking for volunteers to be Itchen Navigation Path Wardens within this scheme. Volunteers will be given training, small hand tools and insured under the HCC scheme. It will be managed using an App after enrolment in the scheme. Volunteers will only be asked to work along the Itchen Navigation and may indicate the area in which they prefer to work, and how often they are available to help. HCC will allocate tasks, which have

been identified through the reporting process, to either volunteers or their own staff. There is a progress report online, but it is a little out of date at the moment, but it will be improved.

The INPT also intend to set up ad hoc volunteer days to deal with other work, but these opportunities will be irregular as various permissions have to be gained and fundraising is needed to pay for materials.

If you would like to help the charity with a financial contribution, please use the Just Giving page at <https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3466759>

If you are interested in the joint venture with HCC please send your contact details to itchennavpt@gmail.com .

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

With hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation. A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. Hedgehog shaped fence surrounds raise awareness to the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to take part in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.



The Parish Council is considering purchasing a box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for residents. If we have enough enquiries, we can purchase a box of 50 to distribute to anyone who would like one. Please register your interest with the Parish Clerk.

Villany at the Vicarage Murder Mystery Night

Join us for a night of suspense and intrigue at Otterbourne Village Hall as the theatre group presents “Villainy at the Vicarage,” a thrilling murder mystery evening that will keep you guessing until the very end! Watch the drama unfold, guess whodunnit and win prizes. Get your ‘team’ together (between 2 and 8 people) and book your tickets. There are only 2 performances (7pm on 23rd and 24th September) so numbers are limited - please do book early.

Our online box office can be accessed via facebook or otterbournetheatre.com. Tickets are £15 per person (all proceeds to the Village Hall) which includes a fish 'n' chip-style supper, with veggie or sausage options. The bar will be open and takes cash or card payments.



Squirrel Scouts!



Recently, the Scout Association has opened a new, even younger section. Now, young people aged between 4 and 6 can enjoy Scouting, and learn more incredibly valuable Skills for Life, from an even younger age. This is a fantastic opportunity for Scouting all over the UK to do more, share more and be more.

Arrow District, covering Allbrook, Chandler's Ford, Otterbourne and Eastleigh already have over 4 Squirrels Drays open, and our young people have had a great time. So far we've had Squirrels doing Canoeing, Climbing, Soft Archery and Soft Tomahawks and hiking, and that's just some of the fantastic experiences that Scouting can offer for young people in Allbrook.

How can you get involved?

The 14th Eastleigh, in Allbrook, are looking to open a Squirrels Dray, so Scouting can reach everyone! There are loads of ways you can get involved as an adult, from Scout HQ maintenance to volunteering occasionally as an adult leader, so more and more young people can have the same fantastic experiences, learn skills for life, have friends for life and make memories for life. There is always a way for you to get involved in whatever way suits you, so what are you waiting for? You don't have to be Bear Grylls to volunteer, we already have him, we need you!

If you would like to get involved, please contact the Group Scout Leader of the 14th Eastleigh by emailing gsl@14theastleighscouts.co.uk.

Flower towers

The Parish Council would like to thank BAM Site Solutions for their sponsorship of a flower tower this year. Four towers are placed around the Parish from June to October.

Our thanks also to the volunteers who help with the watering of the flowers throughout the summer period.



Land behind the bungalows, Allbrook Hill

The land has been cleared and the site is now accessible thanks to the removal of shrubbery allowing a clear path to the public open space. Following residents enquires on how the space should be managed, we took advice from the Borough Council on how to proceed. We were advised that although we had permissible rights to install a boardwalk on the open space, there were a number of factors to be taken into consideration as it was adjacent to a Site of Specific Interest (Itchen Canal).

The cost of the number of surveys and expertise needed to pursue the project was over budget. The Parish

Council had to take into consideration that further sites and projects were forthcoming and did not want to jeopardise these by overspending on the boardwalk installation. Therefore, Councillors had an opportunity to reconsider the layout and agreed to install a permeable path to enable the site to be accessed in all weathers.

What's in a name?

The open space behind the bungalows in Allbrook Hill needs a name. We did have a couple of suggestions from a previous edition of the newsletter, but would like a few more. Please submit your ideas to the Parish Clerk.

D-Day 2024

The 6th of June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944 Operation Overlord saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 130,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

It is hoped that Allbrook and Otterbourne parishes will come together to commemorate the event with a beacon lighting ceremony on the common. Planning is in the very early stages.



Bramble jam

650g foraged blackberries, washed and stalks removed.

350g foraged apple, peeled, cored and bad bits removed

1kg granulated sugar.

First place a saucer or small plate into the freezer to cool.

Wash 3 or 4 jam jars and lids thoroughly and place the jars in a low oven to sterilise.

Place the blackberries into large pan, add a little water and cook gently till very soft.

Cook the prepared apple in the microwave till a pulp, no water needed.

Add to the blackberries in the pan. Add the sugar and stir until dissolved. Boil rapidly for around 10 minutes giving an occasional stir to prevent it 'catching' on the bottom.

Place a teaspoonful on to the cold saucer and leave for a few minutes. Take the jam off the heat while you wait. Push a finger into the side of the jam. If wrinkles appear on the surface, then the jam has reached setting point. If no wrinkle continue boiling for a few minutes and retest. You could use a jam thermometer 104°C or 220°F.

Leave the jam for 10 minutes, skim off any scum and pour into the warm jars being careful not to burn yourself.

Put the lids on, allow to cool, label and enjoy.



Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 31/10/23

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Allotment Officer: Andrea Leitch allotments@allbrook-pc.gov.uk