

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 19 / May 2023

Dear Residents,

Judging by the turn out for the Coronation Big Lunch on 7th May the Parish Council's aim to build a community has been met. Residents and their families came and enjoyed the sunshine and the music. Many joined in the tug o'war pulling against Otterbourne in friendly rivalry. Full report in the centre pages. It is hoped to have another community event in 2024 for the D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations.

Without being able to promise an outcome the Parish Council has begun discussions with the Scouts regarding the possibility of a joint venture to extend the scout building and incorporate some rooms for use by the parish and residents. It is early days but gives a glimmer of hope for the longed for community building.

What's On

10 & 11th June NGS Open Garden,
2-5pm 5 Oakfields, Allbrook

17th June Scout Jumble Sale,
2pm Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

23rd July Eastleigh Mela, Leigh Road
11am-6pm Recreation Ground

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 27 June

Tuesday 25 July

No meetings in August

Tuesday 26 September

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

www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The annual parish meeting took place on 25th April at the scout hut in Boyatt Lane immediately following the monthly PC meeting. 13 residents attended and enjoyed light refreshments of cheese and wine. The Chair, David Betts, spoke about the achievements of the PC in the preceding year, what was hoped to be achieved and some of the obstacles to success. Representatives from both scout groups based in the parish, the 14th Eastleigh and 15th Chandler's

Ford, gave reports on their activities and work in the community. Both groups are seeking adult volunteers to assist them. A representative from Brendoncare also gave a report on their Community Hub which has now reopened with many clubs running. Residents then had the opportunity to ask questions of the PC and raise issues before finishing off the delicious refreshments and chatting informally with councillors.

Allbrook in Bloom: call for entries

Allbrook in Bloom was started in 2019 as a means to recognise residents' efforts which enhance the area in which we live. It will return this year with the same categories: front garden with a lawn; front garden with no lawn; containers and hanging baskets.

Entry is free and open to all residents of Allbrook. You can even nominate a garden belonging to a neighbour if you would like to show your appreciation of their efforts. Simply send details of the address and which category you wish to enter to either clerk@allbrookpc.gov.uk or nancy.palmer@allbrookpc.gov.uk or by post to AiB, 32 Allbrook Knoll, Eastleigh, SO50 4RX.

There is no official closing date but judging will be late July or early August.



Village signage

The Parish Council has been working with Hampshire Highways to improve the village signage. As part of the programme, a new gateway feature has been installed in Highbridge Road, just before the railway bridge. The attractive gateway indicates that you are entering a village.

Great British Spring Clean

The annual parish litter pick took place on 25th March. Once again there was a good turn out of residents, and the uniformed groups, to help spruce up the area. Meeting at The Meadow to collect litter pickers, plastic bags and hi-viz jackets the volunteers spread out across the parish clearing different areas.

Sadly, once again, a large amount of litter was collected and some larger, dumped, items found. These have been reported to the borough for collection.

The Parish Council thanks all who gave their time and effort to help.



You never know what you may find...



During the spring litter pick an eagle-eyed resident spotted a splash of bright red amongst the leaf litter in a wooded area. On investigation, expecting to find a crisp packet, this turned out to be a clump of Scarlet Elf Cap toadstools. Although widespread throughout the world they are scarce and not often seen.

Purple toothwort is another uncommon plant to be found in Allbrook. Totally parasitic, this plant has no leaves, no chlorophyll and can not photosynthesise. It takes all its nutrition from the roots of certain trees on which it is dependant. Flowering in spring there are carpets of it to be seen if you know where to look. Please do not attempt to dig it up to transplant to your own garden. It can not be transplanted.



The Coronation Big Lunch





We could not have asked for better weather for our community picnic on Otterbourne Common, held in conjunction with Otterbourne Parish Council and The Otter pub. Our grateful thanks go to:

The 15th Chandlers Ford Scouts for providing some tents and tables, and for bringing and supervising the children's activities.

Otterbourne Brass for playing a wonderful selection of music

Otterbourne Theatre company for singing.

'**The Charitable Baker**' for stepping in last minute with the wonderful cake stall when the coffee trailer withdrew with days to go.

The Otter for bringing back their coffee hut to fill the void for hot drinks and for hosting the portaloos.

Daniella's Ices for staying all afternoon.

Winchester City Council and **Hampshire County Council** for grants.

And finally, our thanks to everyone who turned up, joined in (especially with the tug o'war) and who took their rubbish home afterwards.

THANK YOU ALL

Funny looking piles of white powder

Have you ever seen odd looking piles of white powder on the pavement or footpath? Have you seen posts on social media speculating some ne'er-do-wells have been marking out properties to burgle, or it is poison for dogs?

Well don't be alarmed. The powder is usually flour or sometimes chalk or sawdust and it has been placed by the 'hare' laying a trail for the 'Hash House Harriers' to follow. Sometimes described as a drinking club with a running problem it was founded in Kuala Lumpur in 1938 by a group of ex-pats and based on the traditional British game of Hare and Hounds. Hence the name 'Harriers'. A full history and description can be found on Wikipedia. The club now has more than 2000 branches worldwide and there are several based in Hampshire. Ham Farm and The Brambridge Arms are occasionally used as start and end points for the runs. A recent run by the Southampton HHH started from an Allbrook resident's house.

Young people's groups and services

A new youth club has launched at the YMCA Community Centre in North Stoneham.



Open to young people aged 11-16, the club runs every Thursday, 4.15pm - 6.15pm. Trained youth workers are on hand to offer support and advice, and activities include games, and arts and crafts. No need to book, just turn up!

Safe Haven is an out-of-hours crisis support run by Southampton charity No Limits. It provides support for children and young people across Hampshire aged 11-25 who are experiencing difficulties with their mental health and who need access to emotional and practical support.

Safe Haven Southampton currently provides an online, telephone and face-to-face service. Find out more at <https://nolimitshelp.org.uk>

New Bollards

New short bollards have been installed to the lychgate entrance to Allbrook Meadow. They look much smarter than the previous dragon's teeth. 2 are able to be dropped to enable vehicle access when the meadow is cut.



Brendoncare update

With the Community Hub now fully open the clubs are in full swing. Volunteers to help are always needed. Training and a DBS check are provided. Clubs aim to bring people together to make new friendships and try new things. There are a variety of clubs on offer throughout the week, from Tai Chi and Zumba for exercise, to singing groups and purely social clubs. They combat loneliness and improve well-being.

The Men's Matters club based at Chandler's Ford Central Club has now been renamed Chandler's Ford Mustangs. No horses or Ford cars involved.

On Mondays 17:00 – 18:00 the club is Zumba Gold. Zumba was originally introduced as a cardio fitness programme that involves Latin-inspired dance. Zumba Gold was developed as a lower intensity version more suitable for older people and the less fit. If you find yourself toe tapping during 'Strictly', and want to improve your energy and fitness levels, this fun and friendly exercise club is open to all and could be just right for you. Give it a try – first class is free. Enquire on 01962 857099

Did you know ?

Rookwood Close, Torre Close and part of Lewes Close were once part of Boyatt Lane.

Allbrook Meadow

The meadow has now been transferred from the developer to Eastleigh Borough Council. This means the Parish Council can now start legal proceedings to acquire the meadow from EBC.

We are grateful to the residents who have joined Councillors to create the Allbrook Meadow Working Group. The group have put forward ideas on creating an open space for everyone to enjoy. The group recently met with the Biodiversity Officer to discuss some of the features of the site to be retained. The working group have also engaged with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust to carry out a study of the site at

the end of June. Once the information has been collated, the group can then start planning the layout of the site ready for consultation with residents.



