

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 22 / Spring 2024

Dear Residents,

Another year over for the Parish Council and it is a time of change as our highly valued clerk leaves us to be able to devote more time to her family. Thank you, Cheryl, for all you have done for the council and the community. We will miss you.

Thanks are also due to residents who have done things to make Allbrook a better place:

- Planting bulbs in the horse trough on the meadow – it looked lovely this spring
- Decorating ugly concrete bollards for special occasions.
- Mending the broken fence by the Lych Gate to the meadow before the council were aware it had been broken.
- Building a container for autumn leaves on Chartwell Close to give the grass a chance to grow.
- Litter picking both on the organised day and on other occasions.
- Clearing fly tipping and cleaning graffiti.

What a wonderful community Allbrook is becoming.

Thank you.



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 28 May

(Please note change from Christmas card)

Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 23 July

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

www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

What's On

Thurs 6th June 6 -10pm	D-Day 80 Beacon Lighting Otterbourne Common
Fri 7th & Sat 8th June 7.30pm	A 2nd Night at the Musicals OTC, Otterbourne Village Hall
Sun 23rd June 12 -3pm	Otterbourne Summer Festival Otterbourne Recreation Ground.
Fri 28th June 7.3pm	Spitfires Scout & Guide Band Concert Thornden Hall
Sat 29th June 2pm	Scout Jumble Sale Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane
Sun 21st July 11am – 6pm	MELA Leigh Road Recreation Ground.

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

Email: clerk@allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Defibrillator number 2

The Parish Council has purchased a second defibrillator which has now been installed at the headquarters of the 14th Eastleigh Scouts at the top of Allbrook Hill. It is visible from the road and easily accessible. With 2 defibrillators in the parish it is felt that the area is now well covered.



Annual Meeting of the Parish

A pleasing number of residents attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 23rd April and enjoyed light refreshments of cheese and wine. The Chair spoke about the achievements of the PC in the preceding year, what was hoped to be achieved and some of the obstacles to success. A representative from 14th Eastleigh Scouts also gave a short report. Residents then had the opportunity to ask questions before the closing address when the Clerk, who is leaving, was thanked for her service to the council and presented with gifts from the councillors. Residents were then invited to finish off the refreshments and chat informally to the councillors.

Allbrook Meadow Working Group report

Sadly ownership of the meadow has still not been transferred to the Parish Council. We are waiting for Eastleigh Borough Council to progress this.

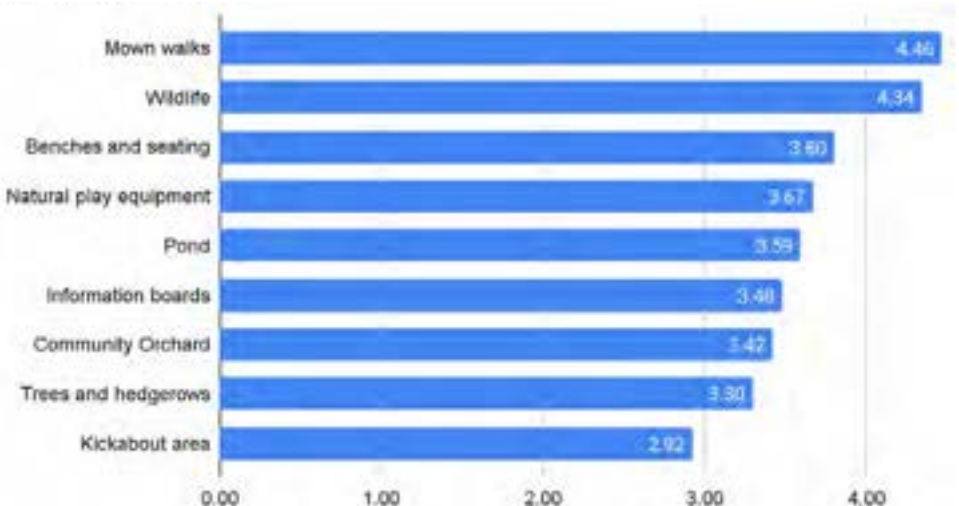
Whilst we are waiting the AMWG has surveyed residents to find out what they would like to see there in the future. Thanks to the 92 respondents, almost all of whom live in Allbrook or a neighbouring parish. A summary chart of the results is shown below and full details are on the PC website at www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Planting of wildflowers has not yet taken place. A lot of preparatory work is required to ensure the plants can establish and it is important to know the species being planted for.



It would be helpful if residents would join in with the Big Butterfly Count organised by www.bigbutterflycount.org and butterfly-conservation.org and share their results. The count is between 12th July and 4th August and only takes 15minutes. This can be done daily if you wish and gives a lovely excuse to visit the meadow.

Survey results showing average votes



Scouting Springs Ahead!

Over the Easter weekend the 14th Eastleigh Scout group on Allbrook Hill, held it's first ever whole group camp! Young people as young as 6, spent two nights under the stars, experiencing the great outdoors.

Scouts joined up with our fantastic Scout and Guide Band "The Spitfires", who held their annual camp over the same weekend. Friday was a hive of activity; setting tents up, sorting equipment and getting instruments ready. The group enjoyed a session of tomahawk (a kind of axe throwing) followed by a caving bus. The band then left us for a rehearsal, and their music was enjoyed by us back in our tents. We joined up again in the evening for a 'wide game', a game outside in the dark.

Bright and early Saturday morning we started with a climbing session for the band, who then left for a Monopoly session in Winchester, while the rest of the group did climbing, archery and made our own woggles. In the afternoon our newest section for 4-6 year olds, the Squirrels, turned up and had a session of climbing, then a spot of special archery, and special tomahawks, designed especially for younger children.

The highlight of any camp is the campfire, and on Saturday evening the entire group joined together for an evening of

marshmallowy, singing fun. A high point was when we renewed our Scout (and Guide) promise as a group, to mark the upcoming St. George's Day, a key date in our calendar.

Sunday morning was very chilled out, with an Easter Egg Hunt and a joint session with our Band, where they taught us some music.



All in all, it was a fantastic weekend, and a true pleasure as a leader to see young people under my care to flourish, and have a range of experiences they wouldn't have had otherwise. That's the best bit of Scouting for me, teaching Skills For Life to young people, and watching them grow.

If you want to get involved with our group, please contact our lead volunteer by emailing gsl@14theastleighscouts.co.uk Arthur Hide - Young Leader - Squirrels and Cubs, 14th Eastleigh Scout Group

Exploding coke and indoor caving

Recent wet weather hasn't daunted the Otterbourne and Allbrook Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Beavers have been decoding messages and making up codes; learning to tie shoelaces; and visiting Otterbourne Brass Band. They especially enjoyed a visit from Lieutenant Colonel Rhys Davies, an anaesthetist in the Royal Army Medical Corp. They heard about his job, saw some of his equipment, tried on some of his kit, and even tasted some field rations.

Highlights for the cubs included lateral thinking puzzles, a pancake flipping night, and a very popular pizza making event. For British Science Week, the cubs completed experiments including sucking an egg in to a bottle, and their firm favourite, exploding coke with mentos. The Beavers and Cubs also enjoyed an amazing indoor caving experience – thank you very much to Damien who set this up.

The Scouts have focussed on crafting skills – learning to safely use knives, saws and hot glue to construct a series of miniature toy weapons. From catapults and small paperclip launchers all the way to mini-crossbows.

We are lucky to have some very experienced leaders in our group, and two of our leaders received their Long Service awards recently. Congratulations to Lesley (20 years' service) and Daniel (25 years' service).

In the summer the children will be

enjoying activities at our wonderful outdoor venue, Cranbury Park. Cubs hope to do a night hike and enjoy a sleepover – cooking on fires, pitching tents, and hopefully, sleeping. Cub Camp in September will offer some incredible activities such as abseiling, archery, tomahawk throwing and low ropes. Beavers will be clocking up some skills badges and having a visitor to talk about recycling. Scouts are about to start a cycling programme including road safety, bike maintenance and on-road and off-road trips.

A couple of current Scouts and some Explorer Scouts who have recently moved up from our group, are included in a week's camp to the International campsite in Kandersteg, Switzerland, this summer. We look forward to supporting them as they prepare.

Join in the fun as an adult volunteer

Whether you can help every week, once a month or just occasionally, we'd love to hear from you. Also if you have a special skill or profession you think the children would like to learn about, do get in touch, so we can arrange for you to visit!

Contact Group Scout Leader Susan at gsl15thcf@gmail.com



Above: The horse trough in the Meadow was replanted with bulbs by a mystery resident: thank you!

Great British Spring Clean

Many thanks to the residents, and a few non residents, who came and helped spruce up the parish on 16th March. Hi-vis, litter pickers and gloves were issued and after a safety briefing 35 Wombles set out. Less litter was collected than in previous years although a few large items were found and these were reported to the Borough for collection.

Allbrook In Bloom

Sadly it has been decided not to run the Allbrook In Bloom awards this year. With only 14 properties put forward for judging last year, out of over 800 in the parish, there seems to be little enthusiasm. If anyone would like to take over running the award scheme in the future please contact Councillor Palmer or the Parish Clerk.

Footpaths

Hampshire Countryside Service has now installed a new finger post sign at the Knowle Hill end of the footpath to Boyatt Lane. They cut this path once a year, as it is registered as a priority path.

Now the warmer and drier weather is here all the footpaths around the area, including along the Itchen Navigation, are being well used. The nettles and the brambles are growing fast and liable to encroach without control. This is where everyone using the paths can do their bit for the community. If you walk the paths please take something with you to cut back a few brambles or a stick to bash down a few nettles as you go. If everyone using the paths did this it would really help. Children love to wield a stick and bash nettles so



Do you enjoy walking?

I have always enjoyed walking but didn't always have a friend or family member to walk with; I didn't feel confident to walk on my own and further, I lacked knowledge about the routes available and how to navigate them safely.

This is where the Ramblers came in, I joined in January 2022 and since then I have had access to a wealth of walks both locally and further afield, and the company of other like-minded people. My local group is Eastleigh Ramblers, who organise walks mid-week on a Thursday and at weekends, but there are lots of groups throughout Hampshire. Membership of Ramblers means I can join walks organised by any Ramblers Group, so there is a walk on somewhere almost every day of the week. I have



discovered lots of different paths and places I did not know of, and I love being out in the countryside or in beautiful woodland, with new friends with which to enjoy wonderful views and discover the richness that nature has to offer.

Ramblers work tirelessly to keep the countryside open and accessible to all, preserving and improving paths across England, Scotland and Wales, so by being a member you help to support the work of the Ramblers as well.

Go to ramblers.org.uk for information about upcoming walks and becoming a member or contact Eastleigh Ramblers direct on 07749 186173.

Theresa Lovett Publicity Officer

D-Day 80

In line with the national format for commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings there will be a beacon lighting ceremony on Otterbourne Common on the evening of 6th June.

This event is organised jointly by Allbrook and Otterbourne Parish Councils and everyone is invited to attend. The event will start at 6.00pm.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Otterbourne Brass and the Otterbourne Theatre Company leading up to the beacon lighting at 9.15pm. The beacon will be lit by Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery, former 2nd Sea Lord, who will also read the citation. Fish and chips will be available to purchase and The Charity Baker will be selling cakes. Daniella's Ices may also attend. Food and drink will also be available from The Otter and toilets will be located in the pub car park.



The Land Behind The Bungalows

At the PC meeting on 26th March councillors chose a new name for this amenity space. Requests for suggestions for a name had brought a number of responses from residents and these were circulated to councillors before the meeting. After a short discussion the name Allbrook River Garden was chosen. A sign will now be made and installed to promote increased use of the space. The Community Payback team will be visiting regularly to keep it tidy.

It is hoped that the new hedge, new path and seating area will be completed this year. If any residents would like to assist with the hedge planting please let the clerk know.

The Community Payback team will be visiting regularly to keep it tidy and have already done a good job this year.



Local Beat Bobby

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Donna Jones, fulfilled her promise to bring back local police with every area being allocated a local bobby who will listen to residents' concerns and follow up on reported incidents.

Eastleigh North's Local Bobby is Scott Graham and he can be contacted via 07554 775488 or scott.graham@hampshire.police.uk



THE 14th EASTLEIGH
SCOUT AND GUIDE BAND

THORNDEN COMMUNITY WIND BAND

and

THE 14th EASTLEIGH SCOUT AND GUIDE BAND "THE SPITFIRES"

"IN CONCERT"

*Featuring traditional wind band pieces, military marches, music from the stage and screen
rousing joint items, and "The Spitfires" Corps of Drums"*

FRIDAY 28th JUNE 2024 7:30pm

THORNDEN HALL, CHANDLER'S FORD, SO53 2DW

TICKETS £10 Adults, £1 16s and under
available from www.thorndenhall.co.uk



Find us on
social media:



[@thorndencommunitywindband](https://www.facebook.com/thorndencommunitywindband)

[@14thspitfires](https://www.youtube.com/@14thspitfires)

www.tcwb.co.uk

www.14thspitfires.co.uk

Otterbourne Theatre Company presents

A second night at the

MUSICALS



7.30pm on 7th and 8th June

Tickets: £12

otterbournetheatre.com

or: 0754 279 6184

at Otterbourne Village Hall, SO21 2ET



Animal welfare

Sadly Allbrook has not been immune from animal cruelty and neglect. Last summer it was reported that a dog had been left to bark incessantly in its owner's garden whilst they were away on holiday. Adequate provision had not been made for it. This was distressing for the neighbours.

For several years a number of horses were not being adequately cared for. Too little forage in winter and having no water in summer. These have now left the area and we hope they are now being provided for. The new occupants of the field appear to be happy and healthy.

If you are concerned about an animal what can you do? Firstly, if you are able, try to speak to the owner and find out if there is a reason. The animal may just be very old and thin, or the owner struggling in some way.

For dogs, the dog warden at EBC is the first point of call and environmental health can deal with incessant barking: www.eastleigh.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/animal-welfare/dogs

World Horse Welfare are good for equines and will involve the RSPCA if they deem it necessary. Photographic evidence helps and can be submitted via their website: www.worldhorsewelfare.org/what-we-do/in-the-uk/worried-about-a-horse

Allbrook Rec. Ground

Residents may be wondering why all the delays in transferring assets from the Borough Council to the Parish Council. The transfer of the recreation ground at the top of Allbrook Hill was progressing but it turned out that EBC no longer owned all of it! Part had been requisitioned by the Ministry of Transport for use as a compound when the A33 was upgraded to become the M3, and Allbrook Way and Junction 12 were constructed. This strip of land should have been transferred back to the Borough when no longer needed. However it was transferred to Hampshire Highways instead. Now it has to be transferred back to the Borough before it can come to the Parish Council. You couldn't make it up!

Safety at the bus stop

One of the bus shelters at the bottom of Allbrook Hill had a broken panel. Although reported to the Borough it had not been repaired. A concerned resident noticed two small girls using the shelter as a climbing frame and was worried that the smaller was about to fall out into the road. A brief video was sent to the Parish Council. The Borough Council was reminded to repair it and although we have waited for many more months this has now been done. Please, if you are waiting with your children for the bus teach them how to behave and not to endanger themselves or cause an accident. Thanks go to the resident whose evidence helped.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Join in the nation wide D-Day 80 event

Otterbourne Common
Thursday 6th June 2024
6pm to 10pm



Lighting the Beacon
will be the centrepiece
of the evening's event

Event features:

Otterbourne Brass band
Wartime songs from OTC
Fish & Chips
Tribute Reading *
Beacon lighting (9:15pm) *

(* performed by a senior military figure)

Please note:
Car parking is very limited in the vicinity
Bring your own seating
Portaloos facilities available in Otter car park
In the interests of safety please do not bring
glass items

The D-Day 80 event marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed.

For more info: www.dday80beacons.co.uk

Event organised by Otterbourne and Allbrook parish
councils with support from Hampshire County Council.

In association with The Normandy Memorial Trust, The Royal Naval Association, AEF The Soldiers Charity, RRF Benevolent Fund & The Merchant Navy Association

Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 24/07/23

Parish Clerk: 07394 063916 clerk@allbrook-pc.gov.uk

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