

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 21 / Autumn 2023

Dear Residents,

As winter approaches and thoughts turn to the festive season it is pleasing to look back at the highlights of the past year. There was an increased turn out for the Spring Clean and the Coronation Big Lunch was a huge success when councillors were able to meet many residents face to face. You have an opportunity to renew the acquaintance by attending the 19th December meeting when Christmas refreshments will be available.

What's On

9th Dec evening	Christmas Street Party, Browsholme Close
14th Dec 6.30pm	Scout Christmas Fair, Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane
12th Jan 7.30pm And also...	The Little Mermaid Panto Otterbourne Village Hall 13th Jan 14.30 and 19.30 14th Jan 11.00 and 14.30 19th Jan 19.30 20th Jan 14.30 and 19.30 21st Jan 14.30
3rd Feb 2pm	Scout Jumble Sale, Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

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 19 December

Christmas refreshments will be available

Tuesday 23 January

Tuesday 27 February

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

www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

The Land Behind the Bungalows

This public open space is starting to look cared for and is being used. The Community Payback team paid their final visit for the year and worked extremely hard. They cut back unwanted growth, especially of bramble; cut the grass; cleared the weeds from the entrance pathway and swept it. Finally, they used the soil, compost and leaf mould remaining after the fly tipping was removed to fill in some of the many deep ruts in the grass. This will make mowing

it easier in future.

The Parish Clerk regularly visits the area to change the rubbish sack and update the noticeboard. She is grateful to the person who recently did a litter pick of the site. She found the rubbish sack overflowing but had nothing to pick up. Thank you to whoever it was.

A name has still not been chosen for the site and the Parish Council would welcome some more suggestions.

Grants available

Covid Recovery grants: Eastleigh Covid-19 Community Recovery Grant that will provide local community groups and organisations with the chance to apply for funding to help local people who are still recovering from the mental and physical effects of Covid.

www.eastleigh.gov.uk/latest-news/eastleigh-covid-19-community-recovery-grant

Hampshire County Councillor grants: More information available on the County Council's website. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Parish Council grants: Applications are invited from community groups within the Parish for assistance with projects. https://www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk/Policy_documents

Your award-winning newsletter

The Parish Council was delighted to receive the runner-up entry for the Best Newsletter Award at the Hampshire Local Councils Annual Meeting 2023. The newsletter won the category in 2021. We are very proud of this achievement since the re-launch in 2018. Our thanks go to local resident Rebecca Lee-Potter for her time and skills in producing the artwork.



The Broomhill Allotment Site Work Party

The Parish Council own two allotment sites, at Broomhill off Boyatt Lane and at Lincolns Rise, bordering on a larger Otterbourne PC site.

The Broomhill site is extensive, with some 117 plots. Plot holders look after their individual holdings, but there is a great deal of work that goes on in maintaining such a large site.



Fabric maintenance and repairs on the storage buildings and toilets, pruning of the various communal fruit trees and shrubs, mowing of access ways, repairs and upkeep of the range of tools and powered equipment. The list is unending and also includes the clean-up and preparation of vacated plots ready for the next tenant.

Some tasks are done by contractors but the majority is done by The Work Party! The group meets every other Wednesday morning to carry out work that the Site Reps have identified. The squad is mainly comprised of long-

standing plot holders who also continue such work throughout the week in various ways. Two members are also site reps with further responsibilities!

At the end of a work party session Sue Ward provides coffee and home baked cake – a powerful incentive.

The Work Party came into existence 10 years ago and a small celebration was held to mark this anniversary. The event was enhanced by a special cake, again provided by Sue Ward.

There is no doubt that members of the work party greatly enjoy the activities, but the Parish Council are anxious to express their appreciation as, without their involvement the Broomhill site would not function effectively, as it does, without significant impact on the allotment budget!

The photos show an example of work carried out, in this case relocation and erecting of a shed, and The Work Party celebration.



15th Chandler's Ford (Allbrook & Otterbourne) Scout Group

After a great summer involving kayaking at Lakeside, backwoods skills at Cranbury Park and the fantastic summer camps, we've returned with a jam-packed autumn programme. Making the most of the light evenings, meetings have been held at Cranbury Park as often as possible!

The Beavers joined forces with 3rd Chandlers Ford for a Campcraft badge day. They learnt how to put up a tent and cook on an open fire, tried mini-pioneering and finished off with a campfire sing song. They have lots of exciting things planned, including making craft items to sell at our Group's Christmas Fair on December 14th.

During November we thought about Remembrance. The Cubs painted stones to put around the war memorial in Otterbourne. Do stop and have a look if you are passing.

The Scouts have practised camp cooking, with camp pot noodles and a cooking challenge, surpassed by very impressive pizzas the following week. They are currently preparing for the District hiking competitions, doing the ever

popular Chip Shop hike and our regular visit to the Southampton board gaming cafe.

We welcomed new Beavers to our Colony as older Beavers have 'swum up' to Cubs, with the older Cubs moving on to Scouts. All sections have had fun working towards different badges, including their Outdoor Challenge and Teamwork badges. We are proud of the Beavers who have completed their Chief Scout's Bronze award, the highest award available in Beavers. Bravo Beavers!

We are now seeking additional volunteers to support our Cub and Scout sections We'd love you to join our team and help make Wednesday or Thursday nights even better.



Volunteering is easier than you think.

You can give as much or as little time as you like. Give young people the skills they need to succeed and find out how Scouts can be just as rewarding for you. Why not give it a try by taking our #4weekchallenge. For more details, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Susan at gsl@15thcfscouts.com

Otterbourne Theatre Company Panto

The OTC pantomime for 2024 will be *The Little Mermaid*. This will be a pantomime production to be savoured with spectacular costumes, stunning choreography and a hilarious and fast-moving script. Hans Christian Andersen would be astounded if he could see how his original creations have developed into fully-fledged panto characters. His Danish sense of humour would surely be tested to the very limit. Despite the surrounding frivolity, the central story remains, recounting the journey of a mermaid called Mariel who ignores the advice of her father Triton (at least he got to keep his original name) and swaps her tail for a pair of legs in order to catch Prince Derek.

They are joined by a cast of colourful, funny, and not-so-funny all-singing and dancing characters. Watch out for the scheming sea-witch, Octavia. Rehearsals are in full swing. Village Hall pantomime doesn't get any better than this!

Taking place at Otterbourne Village Hall there will be 9 performances over two weekends with a special, more relaxed performance on Sunday 14th January, in the morning. Tickets are £10 for Friday performances and £12 for Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are on sale via otterbournetheatre.com and the OTC Facebook page. Telephone bookings can also be made on 07544 581331.



Southampton Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr. David Betts attended the meeting of the committee on 6th October and reported back.

A new Chair was appointed – Eastleigh Borough Councillor James Duguid.

The new runway extension is now fully operational allowing more aircraft capacity and longer routes.

Although there were 121 noise complaints from a total of 25 households the residents of Townhill Park reported quieter movements.

There were no safety issues over the past 4 months.

800,000 passenger numbers are forecast, although this is still below pre-Covid levels.

13 core routes are now operational from the airport and Easy Jet has announced new routes to Alicante and Faro.

The Airspace Change mandate has been delayed due to operational matters at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide is more commonly known as laughing gas and its use, as a recreational drug, has increased in recent years. Heavy, regular abuse of the drug poses significant health risks for users including anaemia and in more severe cases, nerve damage or paralysis. It has been identified as having potentially fatal consequences on the UK's roads from incidents of drug driving.

Earlier this year the Home Secretary urged police forces to get tougher on flagrant drug taking in local communities, with reports linking nitrous oxide to anti-social behaviour such as intimidating gatherings on high streets and in children's parks, and often leaving empty canisters scattered across public spaces. Sadly, there have been several instances of empty canisters being found dumped around the parish.

Possession of 'laughing gas' is now illegal with repeat serious users facing up to 2 years in



prison and dealers up to 14 years.

The ban, promised as part of the government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, makes nitrous oxide a Class C drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

There are still many necessary uses for nitrous oxide. For example, in healthcare, when it is mixed with oxygen and known as Entonox, and other industries such as catering. Those with a proven, legitimate reason for possessing the substance will be exempt from the ban.

Save the Date: D-Day 80 Celebrations

Allbrook Parish Council will be joining with Otterbourne Parish Council to take part in the national commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. Once again on Otterbourne Common, and starting at 1830 with Otterbourne Brass, there will be live music leading up to the beacon lighting ceremony at 2115. In keeping with the national guidelines for the event we hope to have 'fish and chips' available. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Photo: Freepik.com

Allotments

A number of plots recently became vacant. The waiting list was short and in order to find tenants for all plots some were offered to people on the Chandler's Ford waiting list. The Allotment Officer was inundated with applications and all plots are now let. If you were thinking about a plot don't be down hearted as parish residents have priority and plots do become vacant during the year. To apply for an allotment at Broomhill Way or Lincoln's Rise, complete the application form on our website www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Changes to absent vote applications

On 31 October, new postal and proxy vote regulations came into effect, and an online service for applying for an absent vote has been launched. The new regulations require electors wishing to vote by post to reapply for

their postal vote every three years. In addition, a check of an applicant's National Insurance Number (or other relevant data) will also be made. Full details are available on the EBC website. www.eastleigh.gov.uk

Otterbourne & Allbrook Climate Café

Everyone welcome

Saturday 27 January

11am – 1pm

Otterbourne Village Hall



Let's talk about climate change

We are a group of local residents concerned about climate change.

Our aim is to come together as a community to improve climate awareness and to think about how we can organise activities locally to combat climate change.



Join us!

If you're interested, join us at our first Climate Café, where we plan to chat about how we can combat climate change.

*reuse
repair
reduce
recycle*

Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 31/12/23

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

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