

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 26 / Winter 2025

Dear Residents,

Your Parish Council has never been so busy... Ownership of Allbrook Meadow was finally transferred in December and the Recreation Ground was transferred in January. It only took six years! Funds that had been set aside for these areas can now be used to increase the facilities available to residents.

You may have heard of the government's plan for devolution of powers and the reorganisation of local government. Borough, District and City councils will be merged and there will be an elected Mayor for the wider area. However smaller parish and town councils will still exist and will need to take on more responsibility for their local area.

The PC budget and precept for the coming year had been set, with a minimal increase, before the PC was advised to add something on to ensure reserves were met to deal with the additional costs the changes will bring. Although it may look like a large percentage increase it is actually still only pence per week extra.

Residents are invited to the
Annual Parish Meeting
on **22nd April**

for a review of the past year and a look to the future. Come and meet your Parish Council. Refreshments will be provided.

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:

Tues 25 February

Tues 25 March

Tues 22 April
(Annual Parish Meeting)

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

www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

WHAT'S ON

22nd March Annual Parish Spring Clean
10am - noon Allbrook Meadow, Pitmore Road

12th April Health and Wellness Day
Brendoncare, Otterbourne Hill

22nd April Annual Parish Meeting
7.30 pm Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

8th May VE Day 80 Celebration - see below
6.30 - 10pm Otterbourne Common

27th May Parish Council AGM
7pm Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

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

Email: clerk@allbrook-pc.gov.uk



VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025

A Shared Moment of Celebration

Following on from our successful celebration of D-Day 80 in June last year, in partnership with Otterbourne, the PC is now planning another event on Otterbourne Common. Similar to last year, and starting at 6.30pm, there will be entertainment, food and drink



available, and the lighting of the beacon at 9.30.

Most important is that this event is a celebration! The war in Europe was over. Please join us.

Eastleigh Local Plan Review

All Local Authorities are required to have in place a Local Plan setting out the housing and infrastructure requirements over the coming 20 or so years. The current Eastleigh Plan covers the period 2016-2036. Due to the planning inspector rejecting the original EBC plan for a huge development north of Bishopstoke, the Authority reverted to a major expansion of housing on Council owned land in the area designated as “1 Horton Heath”.

1 Horton Heath will provide some 2500 homes, but will cause a shortfall in the required numbers after 2030. There is also a new issue with the new Government where significantly increased housing number targets are being enacted. Local Plans are a “living document” and must be reviewed to ensure that they are on track to deliver as planned. The planning inspector required EBC to carry out an early plan review which is now underway.

The council asked Borough landowners to come forward with areas that would be available to the council for development and from this EBC can evaluate these and decide where to build. No decisions have yet been made, but the various areas submitted by landowners can be accessed for reference on the EBC website.

There will now be an extensive consultation process over several years and the Local Plan update should be enacted in 2029.

New land in Allbrook has not been proposed for the plan review, but housing development north of Allbrook Hill is already identified under the current plan and will yield about 100 homes and an access road that could provide relief for Allbrook Hill traffic. However this site is very challenging due to steep gradients, clay substructure and the proximity to the heavily protected Itchen SAC (Special Area of Conservation) that could be impacted by site runoff and consequent pollution.

The Parish Council will be closely monitoring the progress of the Local Plan Review and may be contacted for further information and clarification at clerk@allbrook-pc.gov.uk. Individual members will also act as a resource and conduit.

Access the Local Plan area on the EBC website here: www.eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-and-implementation/local-plan

What is this about?

This plan sets out the policies and plans to guide future development to 2036. It identifies how much development is required and key locations for this development, the infrastructure and services needed to support new and existing communities and areas which will be protected from development.

(extract from the Introduction to Eastleigh Borough Local Plan)

Brendoncare

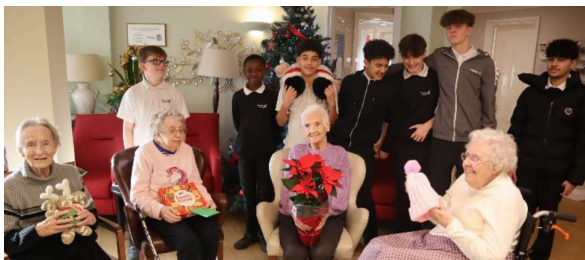
In December our Christmas Fayre raised £1700 to purchase exercise equipment for the residents to help enhance their physical abilities, keeping them both fit and healthy in body and mind.

We are now looking at different equipment options to purchase.

We had visits from Bright Horizons next door, James' place, Thornden School students and Otterbourne Primary School which was lovely. We had a visit to the nativity plays at both Otterbourne Primary school and Chandlers Ford Infants School. The residents thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children dressed up and acting out the Nativity. Mid-December 26 residents and staff enjoyed an evening outing to Hillier's Christmas lights spectacular. It was a fantastic evening, mild weather and the residents thoroughly enjoyed being out in the evening and seeing the festive lights.

Coming up we are going to be very busy this year. We have started something called the 'inside out garden' project whereby we work closely with students from Thornden School and a company called the 'Memory box foundation'. The children and residents work together to design and build garden ornaments for display around the grounds. This is a weekly project that we anticipate will take us up until April this year.

On 12th April we are holding a health



and wellbeing day as a mini fundraiser. It is to provide residents, relatives and the general public a chance to see the different alternative therapies that are on offer as well as offering tarot card readings etc. It should be a fun afternoon and we are hoping to have a lot of interest in this.

Lastly we are holding a summer fayre here on Saturday 2nd August.

Leanne Broyd, Wellbeing Coordinator

Allotment News

Winter is a quiet time on the allotments although there is always maintenance to be done and the growing season will soon be in full swing. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to our Allotment Officer. Mrs Andrea Leitch has done sterling work for the Parish Council in running the allotments but has now moved on. We thank her and wish her well. The recruitment of her replacement is underway.

The contact email for any allotment related issues remains allotments@allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust

During November the Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust and its volunteers replaced the old, dilapidated bench at Ham Farm with a solid oak bench, we are now looking for funding and other suitable locations for more of these beautiful benches. We have some tree work and dead hedging tasks around the Ham Farm area planned for February and will be looking for volunteers to help with these tasks before the bird nesting season starts. All of our volunteer days and updates will be posted on our Facebook page 'Friends of the Itchen Navigation'.

Our charity has also been working in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Angling club to repair the footpath in some vulnerable areas between Allbrook and Brambridge, this involved the delivery and storage of aggregate material at Allbrook Lock and lots of manual handling moving it up half a mile up the footpath in wheelbarrows. The artificial embankment above

Allbrook is over 600m long and perched 5-6ft above the meadows. Any major breaches here risk not only public access but they also pose a major risk of losing a substantial amount of the river into the meadows. We will continue to repair breaches here and keep the footpath open, whilst seeking funding for more substantial repairs.

We have plans for small bank repairs and tree works between Ham Farm and Allbrook later in the year and have secured a grant from Allbrook Parish Council towards funding some of this.

Any donations to our charity will be gratefully received and used for the benefit of this special place. The link is <https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3466759> or you can scan the QR code below to visit our donation page.

Charity Telephone: 07566 758413 (if we don't pick up please leave a message).

Contributed by Kieran Gillingham, on behalf of the Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust.



The Spitfires go to Windsor

This April, the 14th Eastleigh Scout and Guide Band “The Spitfires” will be performing for the National Scout Day of Celebration and Achievement, at Windsor Castle.

In 1934 King George V held the first ever Scout review at Windsor Castle, accompanied by the then Chief Scout, the Lord Baden-Powell. The annual review and parade at Windsor Castle has been the highlight in the Scouting lives of so many as it is the culmination of years of hard work. The Scout Association remains the only organisation outside of the Armed Forces with the right to parade at Windsor, and we are proud of it.

To be invited is a huge honour, given to only the best – those who go above and beyond in their support for young people. Typically this includes those who have achieved their King’s Scout Award in the previous year.

Also invited are gallantry award holders. These are Scouts recognised for their heroism, sometimes putting their own lives at risk to help others.

Invitations also go to adult volunteers who have earned the prestigious Silver Wolf Award, given for no less than 40 years of exceptional service. Scouting

would not be possible without them.

The parade and review are held in the Quadrangle followed by a service in St. George’s Chapel. The parade and review is watched by Scouting Ambassadors, Chief Scout Dwayne Fields, and a representative from the Royal Family. On parade, attendees are accompanied by 2 bands. One is a band of the Household Division (Foot Guards or Horse Guards), and the other a Scout Band. This year The Spitfires are proud to have been chosen as the Scout Band. Their drill must be exact, and their music perfect. The last time our band had this honour was 2012, performing for the late Queen Elizabeth!

For many in the Band, this will be the largest event they perform at. Practice and preparation has rocketed, with extra rehearsals scheduled for weekends - we should Be Prepared for anything! Our repertoire of marches and performance pieces has expanded, and young people are putting in hours outside even the extra rehearsals to practice. They’ve earned the right to be there and are all looking forward to it.

Arthur Hide, 14th Eastleigh Scout Group



The River Garden

The River Garden is taking shape with the old shelter removed, the new entrance arch installed and a hedge planted. The pathway down to the garden has been cleared of weeds and soil and looks much tidier and inviting.

The installation of the path to allow access to the hardstanding, where the shelter was, and the river has been delayed due to the waterlogged condition of the ground but the contractor hopes to start soon. A picnic bench will be installed on the hardstanding.



15th Chandlers Ford (Otterbourne and Allbrook) Scouts

As we jump into 2025, we're already getting things ready. Our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts are busy brushing up on skills they'll need when the weather gets warmer and we will be spending more time outside. Besides the Scout Hut in Boyatt Lane the group can use the camp facilities at Cranbury Park, accessed from Hocombe Road.

We have welcomed new members across all our sections and our team is looking forward to seeing them enjoying all that scouting offers - fun, friendship and adventure! And learning skills for life!

The search is on for new volunteer team members to support our young people. We are looking for a fun,

committed person, helping run games and supporting activities during our weekly meetings. Together with the other team members you will help plan and deliver a safe and exciting programme, helping our young people achieve badges and awards. We also need help behind the scenes and for both roles training can be given.

If you have any questions about getting involved, please do get in touch! We would be more than happy to speak to you and see how you could volunteer within our group. Just email our Lead Volunteer at gsl@15thcfcscouts.com.

Susan Deeks, 15th Chandlers Ford (Allbrook & Otterbourne) Scout Group

Join the Great British Spring Clean

Saturday 22nd March 2025

10.00am to 12 noon

Come along and help tidy up Allbrook. We will meet by the lych gate at Allbrook Meadow at 10am. Please wear appropriate clothing and heavy duty, protective gloves. Bring personal hand sanitiser and cover cuts with surgical tape or waterproof plaster. Hi-vis tabards, bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Any changes will be advertised on the PC noticeboards and website.



Browsholme Close Community Events

The Browsholme Close Christmas Street Party with their fantastic light display raised £356.59. This has been donated to Crestwood Preschool and will pay for the 'living eggs experience'. This is a 2 week experience where eggs are delivered in an incubator and the children watch the chicks hatch. They then help look after them by feeding them, watching them being cleaned out and they get to hold the chicks - lots. It's an amazing experience which the children learn so much from.

There is a newly set up Facebook group which people can follow for announcement of future events. Hopefully both the Halloween and Christmas events will go ahead in 2025



Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 31/03/25

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

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