

Bramley Parish Council

serving the community since 1894



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BRAMLEY UPDATE

March 2024

News from Bramley and Grafham brought to you by Bramley Parish Council

Welcome to Bramley Update! Something you'd like to put into the next edition, or comments about what you'd like to see in it? Email bramleyupdate@gmail.com.

Friends or family in Bramley? Think they'd like to see this email? Please suggest they subscribe (see below). Do you belong to a society or club? You can use this to publicise your events. There's no charge for subscribing or contributing to Bramley Update.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Thursday 21st March – Full Council meeting and Planning Review committee meeting 6.00pm - Bramley Village Hall Meeting Room. All welcome.
- Bramley Rhens Twinning Association – Annual Quiz – Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm for 8.00pm start- Bramley Village Hall.
- Tuesday 26th March Bramley Showcase - 8.00pm Bramley Village Hall
- Tuesday 23rd April – Bramley Village Society St George's Day Supper -Church Parish Room.
- Saturday 18th May – Bramley Village Fete 12.00 – 4.00pm Gosden Common

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Bramley Parish Council update

At the Parish Council meeting in February, a number of matters were discussed, including:

- Guest speaker Mr Wilkes from Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) explained the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, a survey is conducted every ten years, to address public concerns about paths and access.
- Waverley Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge reported that the annual budget due to be finalised in February will increase by a maximum of 2.99%.
- Councillor Jane Austin reported on the fuel leak in Bramley - please see below for a full update.
- A joint parishes meeting was held last month to discuss the numerous hardstands that have been constructed at various locations in or near these Parishes and which are in breach of planning control.
- Burglaries in Linersh Wood - Concerns regarding recent crime activities have been raised. Multiple marked police patrols have been observed in the area over the past week, indicating an increased police presence. PC Gavin Greenaway emphasised that law enforcement is actively patrolling the area, including using unmarked vehicles to address security concerns.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Open Gardens 11th May Summerpool House

Our annual Plant and Cake sale with Open Garden in aid of Holy Trinity Church will be held on 11th May at Summerpool House. When you are planting seeds or potting up plants, we would be very grateful for any extras you may have. More information in April.

Bramley Fete 18th May 2024

Plans are well underway for another excellent fete day. If you would like to advertise in our brochure or on the day itself it is not too late - please email bramleyfete@gmail.com

If you would like to book a pitch or run a stall, game or sideshow please email bramleyfetestalls@gmail.com
Finally don't forget to follow Bramley Village Fete on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

Bramley Rhens Village Twinning Association - Annual Quiz - Saturday 23rd March – Bramley Village Hall – 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

As usual please bring your own snacks and drinks.

Maximum 4 people per table, £5 per person.

To book a table call Eddie Richardson on 01483 898440

Informal Drop in Session for Patients of Wonersh Surgery

Patients of Wonersh Surgery are invited to attend an informal drop in session to be hosted by Wonersh Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG). You will be able to find out about the services offered at the Surgery and to raise any general, non-medical questions or issues.

Saturday 16th March 10.00 -12.00 hrs

The Grantley Arms, Wonersh

For any further information email wonershsurgeryppg@gmail.com

Bramley Village Society

Bramley Showcase - Tuesday 26th March, 8pm in the Village Hall

Social evening for all village residents and especially newcomers to the village to meet with and find out about local clubs and societies. Free entry and a welcome drink.

St George's Supper. Tuesday 23rd April in the Church Parish Room.

Sit down meal and social evening to mark St George's Day. Tickets will be on sale at Bramley Showcase.

Shared ownership Property Available at Webster Court, Bramley.

English Rural is looking for a local resident to purchase one of their shared ownership affordable homes at Webster Court, Bramley, which were built to meet the needs of local people.

For more details click [here](#)

News from Bramley Library.

The library has been busy during the February half term. The children enjoyed the Bedtime Stories which was a first for the library and hopefully will be repeated later in the year. Storytime found the children making beautiful paintings of Elmer, a tortoise and even a Peppa Pig, please see our Bramley Library page on Facebook.

March 9th 10.30 - 12.00

We have a children's author visiting on the 9th March by the name of Elaine Slade. Please come and meet Elaine and discover the magical world of Charlie Farley. This is suitable for 4 - 9 year olds, it's a free event but numbers are limited so please sign up at the library.

New books.

We have received lots of new books this month, please come in and browse our new titles.

Opening times

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.10.00-12.30pm & 2.00-4.30pm.

Wednesday and Saturday 10.00-12.30pm

Bramley Library can also be followed on Facebook and X (Twitter).

Bramley Crime Update

In the last week Surrey Police have been conducting proactive patrols and engagements using officers with a range of different skills. A range of actions have been taken against persons abusing the road network around including and around A281 and other investigatory operations are ongoing. PC Phil Bayman and PC Gavin Greenaway would like to thank Bramley residents for the ongoing reporting and intelligence which has enabled this work to be undertaken.

Do take a look at [this post](#) - because of work and reporting undertaken by members of the Bramley Community Surrey Police recovered a Bronze Stag statue which they were able to return to its owner.

News From Wonersh And District Garden Club.

The Wonersh and District Garden Club is a friendly club of approximately 70 members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15 for 7.30pm start, in the Wonersh Memorial Hall. We have speakers in the winter months and garden visits in the summer. We also have two Shows a year.

New members welcome please contact Hilary Goodridge.

01483 535108

Inconsiderate parking in Bramley

Please be considerate of other residents when parking. There seems to have been an increase in parking on the pavement and on some occasions completely blocking the pavement to pedestrians. Charging an electric vehicle doesn't constitute a reason to block the pavement. Please see [here](#) for the Surrey County Council's regulations on this matter.

Bramley Sports Pavilion

Bramley Sports Pavilion at Gosden Common is available to hire at very reasonable rates for anything from children's parties, sporting events and yoga to village society meetings. For more details contact Debbie on asstclerk@bramleyparish.co.uk

No more Dog Fouling in our Village

A number of residents have rightly raised concerns about the high levels of dog foul, especially on the Downslink. This area is heavily used including by families, young and elderly, it is not only disgusting but it is a health and safety issue. Please pick up your dog poo or you may be liable for a fine or prosecution, the local environmental enforcement officer is currently patrolling the area. If you see someone not picking up their dog's poo please report them:

Click [here](#) for Waverley BC's enforcement on this issue and [here is UK Law](#) on this issue.

Councillor Austin has requested more bins from WBC and is exploring signage.

News from Bramley infant School

Before half term, we have a special visit from David Johnston, the government Childcare Minister. He spent time walking around the school, meeting the children and talking to Mrs Taylor about current school life. The children behaved beautifully and gave some brilliant answers to his questions.

Since their return from half term, the children haven't stopped! Y1 have been especially busy - they had a parent come in to talk to them about Lunar New Year celebrations, they went to The Lightbox in Woking to learn more about materials, and most recently, visited Bramley library where they had stories read to them

and found out all about the benefits of having a library card and how to take out books, but more importantly, how to put them away!

News from St Catherine's School

Defibrillator

St Catherine's is pleased to report that a defibrillator has been installed to the front of the Prep School. This is visible from Station Road being positioned to the left of the red double doors and can be accessed by members of the public and the Bramley community.

Open Mornings

Prep School: Friday 15th March 9.45 – 11.45am.

Mrs Sarah Waller | 01483 899665 prepadmissions@stcatherines.info

Senior School: Wednesday 20th March 2024 9.15am – midday

Mrs Clare Woodgates | 01483 899609 admissions@stcatherines.info

Association Choir - The Music Makers by Elgar

The St Catherine's Association Choir will be performing The Music Makers on Saturday 16th March 2024, in conjunction with the Senior Choir and Middle Chamber Choir, all accompanied by our very own Symphony Orchestra.

Email association@stcatherines.info for more information or to register for tickets.

Baby Cats – Spring Extravaganza

Friday 22nd March 2024 For 2 – 4 yrs - 9.30 – 10.30am -St Cats Prep Gym.

Let us nurture your child's creative mind and join us for an arts and crafts session. Be prepared to get messy!

There is no charge but please book your place [here](#)

For more details please visit their [website](#)

News from Bramley Music Sunday Afternoon Sing-Along led Sunday Afternoon Sing-along at 3pm on Sunday 24th March in Holy Trinity Church, Bramley

Come and join in with favourite songs from the The King and I, Kismet, Mary Poppins, My Fair Lady, Phantom, Pickwick, the Sound of Music to name a few.

The singing will be led by Wintershall Singers, who enjoy visiting local care homes and dementia groups. It is amazing how much those they visit appreciate the chance to sing familiar songs, and how enlivening it can be. They thought that the general public might like to do the same, hence the Sing-along.

Even if you think you can't sing, this is for you! Everyone will have a song sheet, and you will be familiar with most if not all the songs. Stuart White will be at the keyboard directing operations, and you are guaranteed to be energised and, after about an hour's singing, ready for tea and cake!

The charity being supported on this occasion is Holy Trinity Church itself, and while tickets are free, it is hoped that you will wish to give generously at the end. They need to know how many people are coming in order to provide enough song sheets and cake, so please make sure you tell Stuart (stuartwhite2023@gmail.com / 01483 892645) if you are coming. Do invite your friends and neighbours too! For more details click [here](#).

News from South West Surrey Citizens Advice.

For help with the cost of living crisis please see [here](#)

Soroptimist International Surrey Hills (covering Bramley, Godalming, Cranleigh etc)

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working to transform the lives of women and girls, locally, nationally, and globally. Please see their [website](#) for more details and their March events.

Artventure at Gosden House.

Artventure Trust offers creative and visual art sessions for adults with learning difficulties and additional needs. For more details click [here](#).

News from Bramley Golf Club.

Are you looking to take up golf or join a new golf club?

Bramley is your answer with our fantastic 18-hole golf course, professional coaching and excellent practice facilities. It offers a great mix of social and competitive golf, along with an active social scene, all set in the beautiful Surrey Hills.

Come and find out more at our Open Day on Saturday 13th April from 10.30am

To book your place, please call 01483 892696 (option2), email office@bramleygolfclub.co.uk

Click [here](#) to find out more.

Fuel leak update report from Councillor Jane Austin

Residents continue to experience terrible fuel smells across the village and signs of fuel in our village stream - pollution made worse by heavy rainfall in recent weeks. In addition Bramley residents have faced weeks of traffic jams caused by the fuel leak; major High Street work and long delays to road / drain repairs both because of concerns about fuel in our drainage system.

Community Meeting

On 13th Feb over 110 residents attended the community information meeting. Thanks to everyone who came - the strength of feeling about this pollution was clear in the room, which I believe has contributed to Asda's decision to close the site. The Asda forecourt and store are closed for 8-10 weeks to enable extensive work to be completed, as detailed below.

In the meeting it was confirmed the amount of fuel leaked is estimated at 2,000 litres+.

Following the meeting, Jeremy Hunt MP and Councillor Jane Austin followed up with queries to Asda, EPS environmental consultants and the EA.

In a major development this week, Asda confirmed to Jeremy that they have seen reference to fuel in the ground from September 2021 via a draft geo-environmental report which mentions 400mm of petrol on the groundwater. As Chris and Steve Hardstone of the Jolly Farmer pub can attest, the first signs of this leak were way back in Autumn 2021.

As we now know, petrol is sitting under the forecourt and is travelling from the petrol station downhill, using the drainage systems as a conduit. Fuel is exiting into the village stream and contaminating it, decimating the local ecosystem. Fuel vapours continue to travel also. Further investigation is underway but we still don't know how the fuel leaked into the ground.

It is however now clear that for many months Bramley residents were not listened to - they were repeatedly told that the smell was due to a failed tank on the forecourt or run-off from the road. It is a scandal that it has taken 2 ¼ years for us all to reach this point.

Asda employed remediation (clean-up) consultants EPS last year and have been complying with their environmental responsibilities. EPS have put in place a comprehensive clean-up programme. The first phase of this was in January when extensive work was undertaken on the High Street by Thames Water to install an impermeable barrier water pipe so two houses no longer have a fuel-contaminated water supply.

The petrol station forecourt was closed on 12th Feb 24 in order to install equipment for the next phase of clean-up. EPS took this opportunity to undertake testing on the tanks and fuel lines - a pipe fuel line leading to Tank 2 failed the pressure test. This same pipe was tested a year ago and passed.

Following confirmation of this failed test Asda has now requested further analysis of the 'test and fuel' data held by the testing company, GVR. Asda say "This further analysis will identify if there are any losses between the point of discharge from the petrol tanker into the underground fuel tank. By analysing the volume discharge by the tanker versus the detected volume change in the tank, GVR can detect any losses during the fuel's passage through the inlet pipe" (i.e. the pipe which failed the test). "GVR commenced this analysis last Monday."

In addition to the planned remediation (clean up) work, there will be major forecourt refurbishment and renewal work undertaken. This includes replacement of all pipework, inspection and potential replacement of all pumps, tanks cleaned and checked for defects and replacement of gauges, chambers and valves. The clean up element of the work should remove the majority of the contamination on the petrol site itself and I believe Bramley residents will be relieved to learn of the additional work Asda is undertaking.

We know there is sadly no quick fix to getting this fuel out of the ground - it may take months / over a year to be finally resolved.

Turning now to the investigation and potential prosecution by the Environment Agency the EA responded to say "we continue to progress our investigation into the significant groundwater pollution incident at Bramley which is examining potential offences under the Environmental Permitting Regulation."

It is important to note that under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the responsibility for cleaning up contaminated land is generally the person who caused the contamination. However, if the individuals or companies that caused it cannot be identified, then the responsibility will fall to the current owner or occupier of the land.

I will of course keep you updated on any developments including meetings arranged with Asda and the EA.

Thank you for your continued support and patience; please do let me know of any other issues or if the adsorbent barriers need replacing so I can make WBC's environmental team aware.

News from Holy Trinity, Bramley

We are in Vacancy now as our Priest has moved to another Parish.

Our services continue as before:

8am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am - Sung Holy Communion

The church remains open from 9am to 5pm every day for quiet prayer and silence contemplation.

For any information please email the office at office@holytrinitybramley.org.uk (please note that our offices are not manned continually). If you need to contact someone urgently please ring our Churchwardens

Sue Oldrey Tel: 07831 488037 or Catherine Smith Tel: 07772 697699

Do have a look at our [website](#), for all church and community information.

News from St Andrew's Grafham

There is a service every Sunday morning at 10.45am.

10th March Mothering Sunday Holy Communion with the distribution of posies.

Observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter.

24th March Palm Sunday – 10.45am Morning Prayer and distribution of palms.

28th March Maundy Thursday – 8pm Liturgy of the Last Supper followed by Vigil until 10.30pm (service shared with Holy Trinity Bramley – no service at Holy Trinity)

29th March Good Friday – 2pm A Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity Bramley (no service at St Andrew's)

30th March Easter Eve – 8.30pm Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

31st March Easter Day – 10.45am Family Communion Service followed by Easter egg hunt.

On Easter Monday the church will be open from 11am – 4pm and you are warmly invited to drop in to see the magnificent Easter flower arrangements and to enjoy tea and cake! Parking at Woodyer House.

Everybody is always very welcome at any of the services.

Please see the [website](#) for more details or contact the Revd Camilla White on camillaezwhite@gmail.com or 01483 892645.

Bramley Update is usually circulated between the 4th and 7th of each month. If you have a contribution to the content of a future issue, please send it to bramleyupdate@gmail.com by the end of the preceding month.

Details about future events taking place in Bramley and its immediate vicinity are welcome, as are news items that would be of interest to residents of Bramley. Adverts for job opportunities and information about events outside of our area will not be published.

Best wishes

Bramley Parish Council
www.bramleyparish.co.uk

If you wish to SUBSCRIBE, email bramleyupdate@gmail.com including your name and address in the email.

If you wish to discuss any matters with a parish councillor, their full contact details are available on the parish website www.bramleyparish.co.uk.

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