

Bramley Parish Council

serving the community since 1894



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BRAMLEY UPDATE

March 2022

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 17th March 2022 - Bramley Parish full Council Meeting and Planning Review committee meeting 6.00pm, Bramley Village Hall. All welcome.
- Tuesday 29th March 2022 - Bramley Village Showcase 8.00pm at Bramley Village Hall.
- Thursday 31st March 2022 - Bramley Parish Council Planning Review committee meeting at 5.00pm via Zoom. All welcome (please email the Parish Clerk for joining details).
- Thursday 21st April 2022 - Annual Parish Assembly 7.30pm, Bramley Village Hall. All welcome.
- Saturday 21st May 2022 - Bramley Village Fete at Gosden Common.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Bramley Parish Council update

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

- At the invitation of Waverley Borough Council who is carrying out a Community Governance Review of parish boundaries in the borough, Members agreed proposing a number of small changes to the boundary of Bramley parish. The proposals are to move various small communities around the fringes of the current parish to parishes which are both closer and with which they potentially have more affinity. If you'd like to see the details of what the Parish Council has proposed, please contact the Parish Clerk. We await feedback from Waverley on the proposal.
- There is a vacancy for the role of Treasurer of the Bramley Sports Pavilion Trust. The current Treasurer, who has never lived in Bramley but has been a member of Bramley Cricket Club for more than 50 years, now lives on the south coast and feels it's time for him to retire from this volunteer role. Would you be interested in taking over? It's not an arduous task and you would work with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk on the upkeep of the Sports Pavilion on Gosden Common and liaise with those that hire the facility. If you're interested in helping out, do contact the Assistant Clerk at asstclerk@bramleyparish.co.uk.

The minutes of the meeting can be viewed at www.bramleyparish.co.uk.

Approval of Waverley's 2022/23 Budget

Waverley Borough Council's 2022/23 Budget was approved at Waverley's Full Council meeting that took place in February.

The Budget sets out how, despite the pandemic's continued impact of on the council's finances, it has balanced the budget for the coming year, while maintaining services at current levels and continuing to provide financial support to the voluntary sector. The Budget includes a £5 per year increase in Waverley's share of Council Tax for a Band D property, equivalent to a 2.6% increase.

Councillors recognised that rising household bills, inflation and the removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift were all expected to have a significant impact on the lowest income households in the coming year and have agreed to extend the council's discretionary Council Tax Hardship Fund, adding an additional contribution of £50,000 to the fund this year. The council also agreed to continue the existing Council Tax Support Scheme at the current level.

Increases in fees and charges have been kept broadly below inflation, except in commercial areas such as planning pre-application services, where a new approach will see fees for developers increased, so that they more closely reflect the actual costs to the council of providing the service.

Concerns about housing development in Bramley

The Parish Council has noted a number of concerns from some residents about the building of new houses in Bramley. We thought it may be helpful to set out what the Parish Council is currently aware of.

- In early February, the land agent acting for Lord Hamilton attended a Parish Council Planning committee meeting to present initial draft plans to build a boathouse alongside Bramley Millpond, situated at the end of Mill Lane. Lord Hamilton is the owner of the Millpond and was interested to hear the thoughts of the Parish Council as well as those of a number of residents who live in the vicinity. Following the meeting, the Parish Council sent a number of questions and comments on the proposal to the land agent and we should receive responses from the land agent by the end of this week. No formal planning application has been submitted to Waverley Borough Council for this new dwelling. Should any of these plans develop further, a detailed planning application would need to be submitted to Waverley Borough Council, and the Parish Council would ensure that the local community is aware of such an application and considerable consultation activity is carried out. It is anticipated that prior to any planning application being submitted, the Parish Council will arrange a public meeting at which the full plans are presented by the land agent and we would ensure that all members of the local community, and in particular those who live in the vicinity of the lake, would be made aware of and invited to such a meeting.
- Some Bramley residents have noted that a line of trees has recently been planted along the boundary of the "Bonfire Field" at the end of Park Drive. This seems to have lead to concerns that there are plans to build houses on the field. The Parish Council can confirm that they are not aware of any such plans and no planning application for new houses on the field has been submitted to Waverley Borough Council. The site is not included as an allocated site for housing in the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan, the field is outside of the settlement boundary, is Green Belt land and is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. So, it would be very difficult for planning permission to be granted for any new housing on this site. The land agent has confirmed to us that the trees have been planted simply to provide a bit of screening.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Bramley Village Hall

The hall is available for private hire at reasonable rates, with a discount for residents of Bramley parish. The main hall has tables available for use and provides seating for 130. There are 37 car parking spaces. Wheelchair facilities have been installed, there is a toilet for the disabled, and the main hall has been fitted with a hearing loop.

Hire fees include use of the main hall, annexe, large well equipped kitchen, stage and toilets.

Many activities take place in the hall, such as yoga, keep fit, etc. The venue is ideal for children's parties, dances, quiz nights, jumble sales, etc.

A separate meeting room, with its own toilet and galley kitchen facility, is also available for hire.

If you would like further information, check availability or make a booking, contact our Village Hall Booking Officer, Dennis Lordan on 01483 898682.

Bramley Village Society

The BVS Committee is seeking new members to help with planning and running Village events, and to keep a watching brief on local Planning issues.

Committee membership is a good way to become involved in the village community, with a time commitment of a monthly evening meeting lasting about an hour.

We will be at the Bramley Showcase event (see below), or just come along to one of our meetings in the Village Hall meeting room at 8pm on the first Thursday of each month.

Contact: BVS Secretary, Richard Farr 01483 893905, email: bramleyvillagesociety@gmail.com.

Bramley Showcase, Tuesday 29th March at 8:00pm in the Village Hall

Bramley Showcase is an annual event run by the Bramley Village Society to publicise the varied selection of local clubs and societies to both recent arrivals in the village and more established residents.

We think Bramley is a wonderful place to live, and one of the major reasons is the interaction of people with one another through such organisations.

As many local clubs and societies as possible are encouraged come and set out their wares in the Village Hall, so that people can see what is available.

All organisations need to recruit new members if they are to continue to thrive, and you can expect to be made very welcome, whether simply as an interested participant in their activities or by eventually getting more involved in helping to run things.

To help the evening along, we provide a free glass of wine, Bramley cider, or a soft drink on your arrival.

Everyone is welcome to drop in, so why not come and socialise with other residents.

The Village Society is particularly keen that new residents find out what is available in Bramley, so if you have new neighbours who may not have signed up to the Bramley Update, please encourage them to attend the Bramley Showcase - it's a fun evening, and an easy way to get integrated into village life.

If your local club, society, or voluntary organisation hasn't attended the Showcase evening before and would like to this year, please contact the Village Society by email, bramleyvillagesociety@gmail.com or phone Joe O'Connell on 01483 893905.

News from Bramley Library

Bramley Library volunteers are delighted to be running the book stall at the fete in May. We will be eagerly accepting book donations, but please, not until April. In the meantime, do please gather up your books into manageable-sized boxes or sturdy bags-for-life (most of our volunteers are not power-lifters!) ready for delivery to Bramley Library during opening hours in April.

The library is planning some Easter activities, starting with a craft session making Easter hats on Tuesday 29th March from 3.15-4.15pm. We will also be holding a Storytime on Tuesday 12th April from 10.30-12. Both these activities are aimed at 4-8 year olds and no booking is required.

Rhymetime continues every Friday at 11am. Bring your little ones and make use of our song sheets and instruments. If you would be interested in leading a session then do get in touch.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and took part in the SCC census at the end of February.

The Villages Wednesday Club for senior residents

We are looking for new members to join our club, so if you would like a sociable day out each week with good food and good company why not come along and give us a try. We meet at Blunden Court, Bramley every Wednesday for morning coffee, followed by a quiz or exercises, then a tasty home cooked lunch. There is entertainment afterwards, and afternoon tea. For those of us who can't get out and about as easily as we used to, it's a nice friendly day to look forward to. Transport can be provided if need be, and the day costs £5. If you would like to come along for a taster session then please do get in touch with the manager Nicola Mendelssohn on 01403 372747 or 07711 043665. We would love to meet you!

Bramley History Society

The next meeting is on Saturday 26th March at 2.30pm. The title of our next talk is 'Behind the Image - Victorian Portrait Photos and Beyond'.

This illustrated presentation by Janet Blaver will feature old family photographs from the 1860's to the 1920's and will give clues to dating them as an aid to family history research '

The meeting is in St Catherine's Prep School Hall and begins at 2:30pm, followed by tea and a chat. Everyone is welcome, entry is £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

Bramley Music

On Sunday 10th April at 3pm there will be a special teatime concert in Holy Trinity Church – a piano recital by Sarah Pickering combined with tea and cake! It is in support of the charity Compassion UK, which fights child poverty all over the world by linking each child with a sponsor. Sarah, who teaches at the Royal Academy of Music, has chosen a delightful programme including music by Chopin, Debussy and Gershwin – just the thing for a spring Sunday afternoon! We are finalising the details of ticket prices, which will be no more than £10 for adults, so in the meantime to register your interest please email Stuart White on stuartwhite@waitrose.com, and Stuart will then contact you as soon as tickets go on sale. To keep track of numbers for catering, all tickets will need to be bought in advance.

Harlequin Chamber Choir in the United Reformed Church, Guildford, on Saturday 26th March at 7.30pm. Please see https://mcusercontent.com/f13cbe86b42db670ac32283a6/files/f5c0949a-88bc-7939-3e70-fedf48efb5da/Harlequin_26th_March_flier.pdf for details.

Door-to-door salesmen

From time to time, residents of Bramley are visited by so-called "Nottingham Knockers", trying to sell a variety of wares. We are aware that a group of these salespeople were active in Bramley last month, some of whom apparently became quite aggressive when asked to leave.

If door-to-door salesmen ever knock on your door and you are not interested in buying, the Parish Council's advice is to:

- Politely tell them that you do not buy at the door
- Try not to get into any conversation with them
- Display a Surrey Trading Standards sticker at your front door saying that you do not deal with uninvited traders (contact the Parish Clerk for a sticker if you want one).
- Telephone Surrey Police on 111 to let them know that such salesmen are active in your area.

Fallen trees?

Now that the recent storms have thankfully passed, Surrey County Council has been working hard to clear all of the resulting tree debris across the county. Most of Bramley seems to be reasonably clear by now, but if you notice any tree that is causing an obstruction, or is in danger of falling, you can report it directly to Surrey County Council at www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/reporting-flooding-trees-and-power-cuts.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

I'm sure you will have seen in the national media that plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June are well in motion. With the Jubilee weekend being only 2 weeks after the Bramley Village Fete (which will have a Jubilee theme), the Parish Council is not planning to co-ordinate a large-scale village event.

We do however encourage the local community to hold street parties where suitable to participate in the Big Jubilee Lunch. Waverley Borough Council has confirmed that they will be waiving road closure fees for such parties and some useful information on how to arrange a street party can be found at www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch. If you need any assistance in applying for a road closure for your street party, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Surrey (<https://walkinginengland.co.uk/surrey/>) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said "There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Surrey (part of the Walking in England website <https://walkinginengland.co.uk/>) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to 12+ miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Wonersh Jubilee Fair-Sunday 3rd July 12:30 to 4:00pm.

Wonersh are planning a special Fair this year to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and to raise funds for the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. To get involved, to volunteer to help or to apply to run a stall please contact us at wonershfair@hotmail.com.

News from Bramley Infant School

Playground Improvements

We are thrilled that the new fence was installed over half term, it has greatly decreased the noise in our front playground. The next phase of our playground project is planting trees in planters which will happen in March. If anyone would like to help us prepare for this we are looking for volunteers to help out with a bit of manual labour, please do get in touch.

World Book Day

The children are all very excited about World Book Day next week, please do check out our Facebook page facebook.com/bramleyinfants for some pictures of the amazing outfits our children come up with!

News from St Catherine's School

OPEN MORNINGS

Prep School : Thursday 10th March | 9.45-11.45am

Mrs Sally Manhire | 01483 899665 | prepadmissions@stcatherines.info.

Senior School : Friday 11th March | 9.15am-midday
Mrs Clare Woodgates | 01483 899609 | admissions@stcatherines.info.

BABY CATS - SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday 25th March | 9.30 - 10.30am | St Cats Prep Gym
Spring themed creative & musical activities for your 0-4 yrs
No charge but please register: prepoffice.junior@stcatherines.info.

CAT CLASS

Every Tuesday until 22nd March 2022 | 1.30 – 2.45pm
Let us guide your 3-4 yr old daughter on her journey to starting school by booking a term of Cat Class.
Activities will be led by our early years team inc. arts & crafts, and messy play to inspire exploration and discovery. For more information on costs and to register, email: catclass@stcatherines.info.

SWIM SCHOOL

Saturday Mornings | 8.45 – 11.45am
Run by qualified swim teachers, classes for a wide range of abilities & ages.
Half or one hour lessons depending on ability. £9 per half hour lesson | £15 per 1 hour lesson
Email for more details & to register: swimschool@stcatherines.info.

News from Holy Trinity, Bramley

Please feel free to contact the Revd Andy Davis revd.andydavis@gmail.com, 07709 919602, 01483 892109.

Do have a look at our re-vamped Website, for all information: www.holytrinitybramley.org.uk.

....or find us on Facebook!

Services continue in church, or you can join online, via Zoom. The Zoom details (which are the same for all services) can be obtained by emailing Revd Andy (see above).

We are continuing to hold the people of Bramley in our prayers.
Love and blessings to everyone.....

News from St Andrew's, Grafham

There is a service every Sunday morning at 10.45am.

On each Monday during Lent there will be a short reflection followed by Compline on Zoom starting at 8pm.
Please contact Camilla (details below) if you would like to receive the link for this.

27th March Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday with the distribution of posies.

3rd April Blessing of lambs. A special service giving thanks for new life in the countryside. Although dogs are usually welcome at our services, we would suggest that for the well-being of the lambs in church you leave them at home on this occasion.

Everybody is always very welcome at any of the services.

Please see the website www.standrewsgrafham.org.uk for more details or contact the Revd Camilla White on camillawhite@waitrose.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.

Bramley Update is intended to be as accurate as possible but readers should satisfy themselves before relying on the information, not least because dates do change. The content does not necessarily represent the views or policies of Bramley Parish Council unless specifically identified as such.