



# BRAMLEY UPDATE

## February 2020

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 [bramleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyparish@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

- Tuesday 11th February – Children's Craft session in Bramley Library. 3:15pm to 4:30pm.
- Friday 14th February – Tea Tree Café at Gosden House School, hosted by the school's Year 10 girls. 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Tuesday 18th February – Storytime in Bramley Library from 10:30am to 12:00pm.
- Tuesday 18th February – Bramley Parish Council Planning Review committee meeting. 7:30pm in the Village Hall meeting room. All welcome.
- Thursday 20th February – Bramley Parish Council meeting. 7:30pm in the Village Hall meeting room. All welcome.
- Tuesday 3rd March – Bramley Parish Council Planning Review committee meeting. 7:30pm in the Village Hall meeting room. All welcome.
- Wednesday 4th March – "All there is to know about Fuchsias", Wonersh & District Garden Club talk in Wonersh Memorial Hall at 7:30pm.
- Saturday 7th March – Traidcraft Sale and Coffee Morning, Grafham Room from 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Monday 30th March – Bramley Showcase, Village Hall at 8:00pm, all welcome, details below.

You can also view local events in the Village Diary at [www.bramleyvillagesociety.org/village-diary/](http://www.bramleyvillagesociety.org/village-diary/). If you would like to add your society, club or organisation's public events to the Village Diary, you can now do so by filling in a simple form (see the link on the website).

## WHAT'S HAPPENED?

### Bramley Parish Council update

The Parish Council meeting planned for 23rd January was cancelled due to the unavoidable unavailability of a number of Councillors. The majority of the business due to be discussed at this meeting will be carried forward to the meeting taking place on 20th February.

Despite this cancellation, the Parish Council has been busy over the last month:

- Neighbourhood Plan  
Finishing touches are currently being made to the draft Neighbourhood Plan and we plan to submit it to Waverley Borough Council for formal review towards the end of February. Following this, it will be sent to The Planning Inspectorate for their review, after which time a public referendum will be held in Bramley.

Should more than 50% of those who vote at the referendum approve the plan, it will then be formally “made” by Waverley Borough Council, meaning it will become part of the statutory development plan for Bramley. Once it has been sent to Waverley, we will publish an up-to-date draft on the Parish Council website.

- **Stone Barn**  
We issued an Invitation to Tender for the conversion works to the Stone Barn during December with a closing date of 31st January 2020. Three tenders have been received and we will be working over the coming weeks to review them all in detail. We plan to have a full discussion on this project, with a view to making a decision, at the Parish Council meeting taking place on 20th February.
- **Village Hall meeting room**  
Our meeting room has been redecorated. In addition, we now have a large fixed projection screen that can be pulled down for use by users of the room.
- **Noticeboards**  
A new noticeboard is now in place on Gosden Common. Unfortunately, the board at the end of Birtley Rise was demolished by vandals in January. We plan to replace it soon as well as carry out some necessary repairs on some of our other noticeboards around the parish.
- **Surrey draft Tree Strategy**  
The Parish Council was invited to comment on Surrey County Council’s draft new Tree Strategy. They are planning to plant 1.2 million new trees by 2030 (one for every head of the population of Surrey). Our Councillors reviewed it during January and we have submitted our comments back to Surrey County Council. We hope some, if not all of our comments will be considered. An outline of the draft strategy can be viewed at [www.local.gov.uk/surrey-county-council-facilitating-planting-12-million-new-trees-2030](http://www.local.gov.uk/surrey-county-council-facilitating-planting-12-million-new-trees-2030).

The next Parish Council meeting is taking place on Thursday 20th February. The public are very welcome to attend the meeting and will have the opportunity to discuss any matters of interest with Councillors. The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Parish Council website one week prior to the meeting.

#### Councillor resignation

Sadly Councillor Martin Foley tendered his resignation from the Parish Council in January. Martin was a very active member of the council and his valuable input and attention to detail on all matters concerning Bramley will be greatly missed. Chairman Richard Seaborne urged him to reconsider, but Martin feels that his current and upcoming workload means that he will not be able to spend as much time as he would like on Council business. So with regret his resignation was accepted.

So we now have a vacancy on the Council that we are keen to fill as soon as possible. Would you consider joining us? Or do you know someone who would be interested? Attached here is some information on what being a Parish Councillor involves. If you are interested, we would urge you to either contact the Parish Clerk at [bramleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyparish@gmail.com), or even better, contact one of the current Councillors for a no obligation chat. Their contact details on our website at [www.bramleyparish.co.uk/community/bramley-parish-council-15042/councillors/](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk/community/bramley-parish-council-15042/councillors/).

We have informed Waverley Borough Council of the vacancy. As a resident of Bramley, you have the right to request an election to fill this vacancy. An election will be called if ten residents, who are registered to vote in Bramley, write to the Returning Officer at Waverley requesting that an election be held. Your request must be sent **by 26th February** to the Returning Officer, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming, GU7 1HR. If less than 10 requests are received by Waverley, the vacancy will be filled by co-option, meaning that a candidate will be elected by the current members of the Council.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Update from Bramley Library

Our junior library is looking great, come and see! New boards, new clock and for our really young visitors, there is a changing table in the accessible loo.

After the success of the after-school craft sessions before Christmas, we are trialling monthly sessions on the 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning 11th February from 3:15pm until 4:30pm. No pre-booking required ... just turn up.

During half-term we are holding another Story Time event on Tuesday 18th February from 10:30am until noon. We would ask you to reserve a place by popping into the library (or phoning). And advance notice for our next BrilliantBricks event which will take place the morning of 7th April.

On an admin matter, regretfully we are no longer a collection point for recycling coffee pods but thank you to all who donated theirs in the past which raised money for the region's Air Ambulance service.

### Bramley Fete ... Save the Date!

The 2020 Bramley Fete is taking place on Saturday 16th May from 12:00pm to 4:00pm on Gosden Common. Put it in your diary now so you don't forget!

The Fete committee would welcome new members to help organise this fantastic event. No previous experience is necessary, you just need to be willing to give up a little bit of your time between now and the event and work with our merry team. If you can't join the committee but would like to volunteer on the day ... that would be welcome too!

If you're interested, please drop an email to the team at [bramleyfete@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyfete@gmail.com) and someone will get back to you.

### Thinking about a holiday?

Bramley-based travel agent Travel Dreams, in partnership with Kirker Holidays, are hosting a private dinner at the Grantley Arms in Wonersh to discover Europe's Hidden Treasures.

The event is taking place on Thursday 26th March from 7:00pm and there are a few places available at no charge. If you are interested, you can book your place by telephoning Jo or Pam on 01483 865970 or email them at [holidays@traveldream.co.uk](mailto:holidays@traveldream.co.uk).

### Gosden House School

Gosden House School is a Surrey maintained special school for children and young people with learning and additional needs, set in extensive grounds, on the edge of Bramley. The wonderful school is located in the house where the Sitwell family used to live and in December 2019, received yet another Ofsted Outstanding rating.

Arts, drama and music are a big part of the curriculum for students, linking with Rocksteady, the Guildford Shakespeare Company and G Live. They run annual Festivals called Gosfest during the summer months and have various PTA events that the public are invited to.

This year they celebrate their Centenary and will be having events to mark this historic date coming up in the diary soon.

### Dates for your diary

- Year 10 girls will be running a Tea Tree Cafe on 14th February from 10:00am till noon and the Horticulture Group will be selling their produce. Do pop along if you would like to buy some fantastic home grown produce.
- Guildford Shakespeare Company are due to be running As You Like it in the Gosden Grounds on 10th to 25th July.

Staff at the school welcome and value local people who would like to help to support the school, whether that is with helping maintain the extensive 44 acres of land, to our poly tunnel horticulture area, to helping support reading in classes. They also welcome any support in terms of donations and are very happy to show you around the school.

They firmly believe that children facing the toughest challenges every day deserve the best chance to improve their life outcomes. The children are lively and enthusiastic about every opportunity they are offered and this excitement empowers them to try new things and engage with learning.

If you would like to visit the school or offer to volunteer or help support them, email Anna Chapman at [achapman@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:achapman@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk).

### **Bramley Showcase, Monday 30th 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.

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](mailto:bramleyvillagesociety@gmail.com) or phone Joe O'Connell on 01483 893905.

### **Holy Trinity Bramley welcomes our new Vicar**

We are delighted to announce that the Rev. Andrew Davis will be the next Vicar (Priest-in-charge) of the parish of Holy Trinity, Bramley. His formal induction will be on Thursday 23rd April at 6:00pm at Holy Trinity church. He will be joining the St George's Day celebrations following the service and he looks forward to meeting villagers on that, and many other, occasions.

Andy has been ordained for 30 years and is married to Chris. He has held five clergy appointments in the Diocese of Portsmouth and has been Vicar of two churches, Christ Church and Holy Trinity in Gosport since June 2007.

For a fuller biography and all other details of Holy Trinity's many activities, please visit the website at [www.holytrinitybramley.org.uk](http://www.holytrinitybramley.org.uk).

### **News from St Andrew's Church, Grafham**

Please note that the service on Sunday morning now starts at 10:45am.

On Ash Wednesday, 26th February, there will be a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at 6:00pm.

### Traidcraft Sale and Coffee Morning, Saturday 7th March

Grafham Room from 10:00am to 12 noon

The focus of Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from 24th February to 8th March, this year is on women in the cocoa and coffee industries across the world. The campaign will highlight how many cocoa farmers, particularly women, are underpaid and exploited, and the scandal of unfair trade.

Traidcraft food and goods including Easter eggs and Easter cards will be on sale at this event. There will also be a chance to browse the catalogue and to place orders.

Coffee and tea (fairly traded, of course) will be available.

### **Wonersh U3A**

This month's coach outing is on 12th February to a matinee of 'Once - The Musical' at Woking Theatre, with the usual two pick-up points in Bramley. Other February sessions in Bramley include Mah Jong at the Library Room on Thursday 6th, plus Woodcarving & Craft on Friday 21st, and Art on Friday 28th, both at the Village Hall.

The very popular fitness sessions continue with Pilates on Mondays, and Tai Chi at beginners, improvers and intermediate levels on Tuesdays, Table Tennis on Wednesday 19th, and a country walk starting at The White Horse, Hascombe, on Tuesday 18th. General sessions include Big Band Music, Book Club, Bridge, History, French, Latin at intermediate and advanced levels, Listening to Music, Mah Jong, Music Making, and Opera for All. There is also a pub lunch at the Bricklayer's Arms, Shamley Green.

New members from all local villages are welcome. Information on the full list of Wonersh U3A activities for the retired and semi-retired can be obtained from Cilla Morris on 01483 892348 or by visiting <https://u3asites.org.uk/wonersh>.

### **Wonersh & District Garden Club**

Meeting at 7:30pm in Wonersh Memorial Hall, the next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March when there will be a talk from Carol Gubler on 'All there is to know about Fuschias'. So come armed with questions about this favourite garden plants. Carol will also have cuttings for sale.

Looking ahead, Wednesday 1st April is the date for the Spring Show – with a variety of classes to show off your daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers. Show schedules are now available – see contact below. There will also be a quiz to keep everyone entertained while the Show is judged by horticultural expert John Negus.

We are a small, friendly Club – new members and visitors are all warmly welcome to any of our meetings. If you would like any further information, contact Louise Healy on 01483 898539 or follow the club on Facebook: Wonersh and District Garden Club or just turn up!

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](mailto: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](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk)

If you wish to SUBSCRIBE, email [bramleyupdate@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.



# Bramley Parish Council

serving the community since 1894



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## What is a Parish Council and why become a Parish Councillor?

### **What is a Parish Council?**

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority (Waverley Borough Council) above it in the hierarchy.

As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason, they are a vital part of any community.

### **Why become a Parish Councillor?**

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall. If, however, you live in a community where something 'big' has happened, you'll know that when people in the community need support and guidance, it is sometimes the parish council that is turned to.

By becoming a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support; a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

### **What decisions do Parish Councils make?**

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It's true to say that on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the borough council, health authorities, police etc).

In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

### **How much time does it take up?**

The Council usually meets once a month for the full council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. These meetings last approximately 1½-2 hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting to discuss. Some councils have committees to deal with specific subjects, such as Planning matters or particular projects. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors are occasionally required to attend other meetings representing the council; for example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

## **How long does a parish councillor serve for?**

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to remain in the post they can stand for re-election.

## **Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?**

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen.
- be at least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for Bramley parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

You don't have to be connected to a political party.

If you do become a parish councillor, you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

## **What powers do parish councils have?**

They have a wide range of powers which essentially related to local matters, such as looking after community buildings, open spaces, play areas, street lighting and much more. The council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, the district council, which collects the tax for the parish council.

## **Parish Duties**

Bramley Parish Council has 9 Councillors who stand for election every four years. The duties and functions of a parish council are many and varied.

The Council meets monthly (excluding August) to discuss progress on current projects and any other matters referred to it by local residents. Two further short meetings to discuss Planning applications are scheduled each month. Depending on the number of applications that need to be reviewed, these tend to last around 15-30 minutes. From time to time, and depending on the complexity of the applications to be discussed, these meetings are cancelled and planning applications are reviewed online. All meetings are open to the public and there is a forum during the meeting at which members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions. There is also an annual meeting which all parishioners are invited to attend. All meetings take place in the evening are advertised on the council notice boards and on the Parish Council website. Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

## **Don't take our word for it!**

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to a parish council meeting or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job. Their contact details can be found at:

[www.bramleyparish.co.uk/community/bramley-parish-council-15042/councillors/](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk/community/bramley-parish-council-15042/councillors/)