

Bromley Bulletin

Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter

APRIL 2024 - Issue 80



Parish news and updates
ABSA FEST 2024
Writing and drawing competition
Doctor's notes
Neighbourhood Plan Review

SPRING IS HERE!



Village News



Writing/drawing Competition 2024

The Parish Council is organising a competition for our young parishioners and invite writers and artists to submit their fabulous entries!

Aged 4-9

Submit a drawing related to Abbots Bromley. Give your drawing a title.

Aged 10-13 and 14-18

Submit a piece of writing of no more than 500 words related to Abbots Bromley, e.g. a poem, a short story, or a factual piece.



Email your entries by 01 JUL 2024 to Cllr. Keith Baker at kbakerabpc@gmail.com, or pop it in the letterbox of School House, School House Lane. Good luck!

Abbots Bromley Village Hall news and updates

Gallimore's Field

At the end of February 2024, the total raised stood at £38,346.51. This represents money cleared through the bank, but does not include promises or grants still to come.

Please continue to help us get to our target of £50,000!



Christmas Fair

We had a very successful Christmas Fair with good support from the village and a wonderful, Christmassy atmosphere helped by the Abbots Bromley Community Choir and the Uttoxeter Town Band. We raised slightly over £1,000. Thank you to the Choir and the Band, and all who came to buy and sell beautiful Christmas gifts.

Farm Boy

This production by the Lichfield Garrick Touring Theatre of Michael Morpurgo's follow-up to War Horse was excellently supported by so many in the village: almost standing room only. It was a lyrical, moving but never heavy performance, and evoked the era of farming in the years of the First World War, and of today. At the time of writing, final figures are not in but we will let you know in the next issue. We'd like to thank all the helpers, everyone who came, and especially Andy Knipe, Miss Salt, and the Richard Clarke School choir who sang so beautifully before the main performance.

Remembrance Sunday 2023

Martin Godfrey, *vice chair*

As many of you will be aware, Sir Michael Fabricant MP, laid a wreath on behalf of Parliament at our Memorial on Sun 12 NOV 2023. As always, people of Abbots Bromley and surrounding areas turned out in great numbers, despite the threatening weather, to Remember the Fallen.

I received a letter of which we should all be proud. On behalf of the Abbots Bromley Branch, Royal British Legion, thank you for your continued support.



BROMLEY BULLETIN

Did you know that the Bulletin as well as news and information about the parish is available on our website?

www.abbotsbromley.com

We're now considering more cost-effective and environmentally-friendly ways of getting this publication to you and are planning to reduce hard copy printing by Autumn 2024. However, we recognise that some parishioners prefer the hard copy edition, so we will be printing some copies, and these will be available for pick up at designated places in the village.

More information will be available later.



Michael Fabricant MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

November 2023

I very much enjoyed – if that is the word on such a solemn day – my visit to Remembrance Sunday in Abbots Bromley.

The size of the parade and the large turnout from the Village showed that 'We will Remember them' – those who died for the future of our nation.

Abbots Bromley can be rightly proud of maintaining this tradition with such professionalism and involvement from the community.

Sir Michael Fabricant

from the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Lichfield
including the City of Lichfield, Abbot Bromley, Alrewas, Astone, Burnwood, Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Colton,
Fradley, Hammerwich, Handacre, Kings Bromley, Loughdon, the Rybavies, Streetway, Whittington, and Yoxall
website and email form: www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk

Young Guest Writers (secondary school/university age)

Fancy writing an article for the Bromley Bulletin? It could be about any topic (e.g. as school/university life; social media; mental health; interests/hobbies; village life).



For more info, contact Keith Baker
(kbakerabpc@gmail.com)

Richard Clarke First School

Kay Hanson, Headteacher



The term at Richard Clarke First School has been short but filled with engaging activities. Exciting design and technology projects, such as making vegetable soup, cooking flatbreads and scones, and designing recycling trolleys, have been undertaken school-wide and have been a real hit with the children. In a creative endeavour, the Reception class embarked on a make-believe flight to the Antarctic to return Dave the Penguin to his family.



Importantly "Safer Internet Day 2024" was celebrated with various educational activities and awareness campaigns to promote online safety and responsible digital citizenship among our whole community. Additionally, an Easter fair was held to raise funds for the school. The term concludes with the traditional spring sing to celebrate the season and mark the end of term. We pack in so many wonderful experiences at Richard Clarke and would like to thank the children and staff for their hard work and the governors and parents for their unwavering support. We are proud to be at the heart of our community.

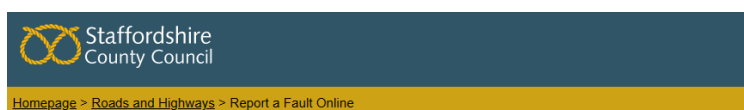
Although the deadline for applications for school places for September has passed, we still have places available, so please spread the word .If anyone would like to come and have a look at what we offer, then please do come and visit us as It's not too late to apply to come.

Reporting a roads highways fault

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

Did you know you can report a fault with roads and/or highway online?

It's simple, easy and quick. Visit the following website and create your report. You can even check the status of an existing report.



Report It

I would like to...



OR

Please note: Only road fault references (7 characters beginning with 4) can currently be checked here.

What's On

Village Events Calendar



Women's Football

Mondays from 08 APR 2024

The adult female football session is back at the Abbots Bromley Sports Ground from Monday 08 APR 2024. The session provides participants of all abilities the opportunity to;

- take part in 60 minutes of physical activity
- build confidence and self esteem
- create new friendships

APR 2024: 6:30-7:30pm

MAY 2024: 7:00-8:00pm

Email Scott.taylor@sportingpb.co.uk for more information



Youth Cricket

14 MAY to 02 JUL 2024

All Stars Cricket provides boys and girls from 5-8 years old with non-stop fun. The activity and game based programme is suitable for all skill levels, providing your child with the foundations to begin a lifelong love of physical activity and cricket, while making friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Time: 6:00-6:45pm

For more information:

Email: abbotsbromleycc@googlegroups.com

Tel: 07794 969251



Abbots Bromley Ladies Club

Members from AB and local villages

MEETS:

Normally the third Thursday of the month 7:30PM, Church House

CONTACT:

Karen Hill, Chair

Tel: 01889 586 379

Email: mksm.hill@googlemail.com



Abbots Bromley Historical Society

Like-minded individuals with a passion for history



MEETS:

Last Wednesday of the month 7:30PM, Church House

CONTACT:

Janice Rea

Email: janrea@hotmail.com

Abbots Bromley Community Choir

Fun, friendship and singing

MEETS:

Second and fourth Thursday of the month 6:30PM

St. Nicholas Church

CONTACT:

Jane Morris

janermorris@yahoo.co.uk



Abbots Bromley Women's Institute

Gatherings, activities and talks

MEETS:

Second Monday of the month 7:00PM

Church House

CONTACT:

Alison Bramley

Email: aabramley@hotmail.com



Village Clubs & Societies

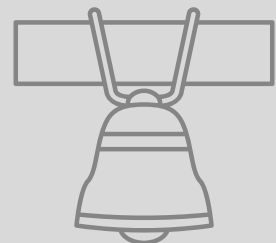
Abbots Bromley Bellringers

Since the last bulletin, our practices have been busy with sometimes 20+ locals and visitors coming to hone their skills and enjoy each other's company in The Bagot Arms afterwards. Sheila rang her first quarter peal (40 minutes continuous ringing) during the February Challenge Month. Andrew conducted Stedman Triples and Clare refreshed Superlative Surprise Major. Meanwhile Simon, Simon, Gilly and Andy have practiced copious courses of Plain Bob Doubles and made really good progress. Our ringing on Sunday mornings has improved in terms of accuracy and also always managing to ring all eight bells. Our newest recruits - Richard and Dorin - are handling well and ringing solo on Sundays so we are ready to train the next recruits if you are interested? Joining us couldn't be easier; just turn up at the Tower on Tuesday evening sometime after 7:30.

More recently, we entered the local association Striking Competition, where each team rings for about ten minutes and an expert judge awards faults for any mistakes, clips or gaps in your ringing. For the first time we had enough strength in numbers to enter two teams so we decided upon one team ringing call changes and a slightly more experienced team ringing Plain Bob Doubles.



The contest was at Rushall, a smaller ring than AB that sound very different. After a few nerves, both teams rang their socks off with the Plain Bob Doubles team coming a very close second overall (to Lichfield Cathedral) and the Call Change team winning the Call Change shield! A very pleasing result after many weeks of practicing and so nice for the newer members who were competing for the first time to come away with some silverware, which is now proudly on display in the ringing room.



MEETS:

Tuesdays
7:30PM, St. Nicholas Church

CONTACT:

Stuart Hutchieson
shutchieson@btinternet.com
Facebook: Abbots Bromley Bellringers

Nature Corner

Cllr Keith Baker

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was introduced in the 2021 Environment Act and came into force on 12 FEB 2024. Its aim is to ensure biodiversity is in a better state after development than it was before, and the responsibility for ensuring this is the developer's.

New housing, industrial or commercial developments that are built from January 2024* will have to show a minimum of 10% increase in natural habitat. (*BNG will apply to small sites from April 2024)

Before any development can take place, a "biodiversity baseline assessment" must be carried out in order to calculate the number of Biodiversity Units present on the site (there is a Biodiversity Metric to calculate this). If a developer is unable to achieve a 10%+ BNG on their site then they will need to create this somewhere else.

DEFRA has overseen the Biodiversity Metric, and if you visit their website you will be able to see the type of things that can be done by developers to achieve the 10%+ net gain - things like ponds or wildlife areas. Another useful website is:
<https://netgainstaffs.com>.

A study found that that UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, with on average about half its biodiversity left - far below the global average of 75%. It means the UK is in the bottom 10% globally for biodiversity.

Several developments are planned for our parish - some large and others small - and if you wish to have an input into what you think would be beneficial for BNG why not contact a member of the parish council?

Doctor's Notes

Lyndsey Hinton



I'd like to introduce myself to you and give you a little bit of information with regard to some of the things that are currently going on at the surgery.

My name is Lyndsey Hinton and I've recently joined the team as the Social Care Co-ordinator. My role is to signpost patients to services that are available to them, therefore enabling them to make the right connections, with the right teams at the right time.

Are you a carer?

I'm currently trying to raise awareness of carers in our community. There are many carers who don't see themselves as a carer as they're unpaid and often a relative/friend. A carer in this instance is 'just' somebody that is in a caring type role - supporting someone close to them that would otherwise not be able to cope.

In the UK alone, there are an estimated ten million unpaid carers, which is the equivalent to the size of another NHS! These carers in England and Wales contribute a staggering £445 million to the economy every day. If you'd like to register as a carer, please ask for a registration form at our reception desk. There are many things that carers are entitled to but may not be aware of.

We need you!

I'm also currently searching for patients who'd like to be part of our Patient Participation Group (PPG). This group should ideally consist of a diverse range of patients - various ages, backgrounds, ethnic origins etc. and people experiencing such health issues as diabetes, Parkinsons, autism amongst many others. The aim of the group would be to meet quarterly to discuss ideas and issues, feedback (both positive and negative) and hopefully find a solution that reflects and supports our patients' needs. If you'd like to be a part of this group and help us to be the best we can be, please email lyndseyann.hinton@staffs.nhs.uk or call the surgery and ask for me! I would love to hear from you!

FUNDRAISER

JUNE
8TH + 9TH

**ABSA
FEST
2024**

Sponsored by
Friel Homes

Bring your family
to this year's music,
arts and CAMRA beer
fundraising festival!

ABSA sports ground
Mill Green
Abbots Bromley
WS15 3DR



Saturday 8th June:

A day of music, entertainment, food and a full bar including local CAMRA ales.

Tom Morgan Band

Performing a set of old and new jazz classics

Deja vu

5 Piece Band, playing the greatest melodic rock anthems you all know and love

Radio Murphy

Irish Music to get you up and dancing

Landslide

Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band - so many great hits!

More information and tickets available online at:
www.absasport.co.uk/upcoming-events

Sunday 9th June:

Illyria Theatre performs Dr Dolittle at 2pm

Fantastically talented and funny roving theatre group, Illyria, playing Dr Dolittle. Perfect for children and adults. Food and drinks available or bring your own picnics.

**Tickets available online or
scan the QR code:**

www.ticketsource.co.uk/illyria/t-yampreo



Parish Council

News and updates



Richard Love, Chair

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bromley Bulletin! At the time of writing there is huge amount on the agenda for the PC; the Best Kept Village competition commences shortly and we are determined to finish in the top three this year. More frustratingly, issues with traffic and parking continue to challenge our Highways Group. We have purchased a mobile Speed Indicator Display (SID) which needs to be set up at different sites within the village and hope that this will go some way to reducing speeding, but this is a problem we continue to wrestle with.

The quality of our infrastructure has also raised concerns; the flooding down Seedcroft Lane and in the centre of the village are understandably causing frustration and distress. A lack of willingness from Staffordshire Highways, Severn Trent and South Staffordshire Water to work together and or take responsibility is unacceptable, and the PC spend hours each week chasing up issues. Our community deserves better and we are doing our best to hold them to account.

On a positive note, there has been movement with the Friel Homes development at last. Following final meetings with conservation and planning officers, Friel Homes has some amendments to make to their final planning submission and expect to put their application before ESBC's Planning Committee in mid-Summer.

Section 106 Requests

Since the sale of Abbots Bromley School was first announced, there has been speculation regarding section 106 monies that might be made available. A section 106 agreement is a legal agreement made between the developer and councils in question, in which the developer agrees to provide contributions to offset negative impacts caused by a development. These vary greatly from community to community. The developer, in this case Friel Homes, does not have the power to dictate or influence where the section 106 monies are spent. And the amount is calculated by a strict formula, which is in place.

Until planning is granted, section 106 requests are not formally taken into consideration. We as a PC, however, feel that we should lodge the requests and wishes of the community as early as possible with ESBC in order to try and obtain any benefit that we can. This is based on advice from ESBC Planning. A number of suggestions were received when we first asked the community some time ago. We are writing to ESBC with details of these requests presently. Should there be any further ideas or requests, please email the parish clerk as soon as possible and we can forward them on in a supplementary letter. This is possibly our only opportunity to influence where the S106 monies are allocated.

Abbots Bromley's Neighbourhood Plan Review

Any new development, whether residential, commercial or industrial. will have an impact on things in our community such as demography, environment, education, public health and transport.

The government has planning laws to control this, published in a document entitled "The National Planning Policy Framework" (NPPF). Local planning authorities can modify NPPF to suit local needs if they produce a "Local Plan". Our authority (East Staffordshire Borough Council) has one that can be viewed on their online planning portal. A Local Plan can be further modified by a parish council to meet localised needs if a "**Neighbourhood Plan**" (NP) is successfully produced. The Abbots Bromley's NP, drafted almost two years ago, was adopted last year. It states what type of housing is needed to make the village sustainable, and also has policies relating to the impact housing development will have, e.g. Design and Heritage; Dwellings, Employment and Community; Natural and Green Environment; and Transport and Infrastructure. A few key policies are presented below. Please access the entire policy from: www.abbotsbromley.com/council/planning/neighbourhood_plan/

Sustainable Design and Character

1. New development must be well-designed, sustainable and maintain the distinctive identity of Abbots Bromley, meeting the following requirements of this policy proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposed development:

- a) In order to create a satisfying relationship between built and open areas, the existing character of the village and the immediate context of the development site must respect the surroundings in terms of scale, massing, height, distance of setback from the road, design and character, and materials.
- b) "Active" frontages (elevations with windows and doors) must be provided to road facing elevations, to provide natural surveillance.
- c) High quality and durable materials, in keeping with the surrounding built environment, must be used. Use of locally sourced materials is highly encouraged, as is use of reclaimed materials.
- d) Public realm designated areas should be complemented through effective 'placemaking' schemes that ensure high quality streets, with traditional landscape as an integral part of the design, and the creation of an inclusive, safe and convenient environment for residents to undertake a range of social activities.
- e) Design accounting for the specific site and context is required. Layout and form must respond to local features within and adjacent to sites including local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants, views, wildlife habitats, existing buildings and microclimate.
- f) Front boundaries comprising hedges or historic brick walls or railings should be retained as part of any new development. New front boundary treatments must complement the existing character of the area, based on the use of low brick walls or hedges.
- g) All designs for new homes or commercial premises must include features and materials which actively reduce the impact of carbon emissions.

2. Development on the edge of the village must incorporate planting and landscape design to create a natural transition between urban and rural areas. Hard boundary treatments such as high walls and fences must be set back and be screened by suitable landscaping.

3. Creative and innovative design solutions will be considered, especially where they incorporate high environmental protection performance.

Abbots Bromley Conservation Area

1. Development should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Abbots Bromley Conservation Area, including:

- a) avoiding harm or loss of mature trees and hedges;
- b) in the main street, complement the predominant townscape characteristics based on the strong sense of enclosure and definition created by building frontages;
- c) avoiding harm or loss to buildings and structures that contribute to the special architectural or historic interest of the area.

2. In exceptional circumstances, where the removal of trees or hedges is justified, replacement trees or hedges must be provided to create a similar level of amenity and to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Former Abbots Bromley School Site

1. Any development on the former Abbots Bromley School Site must be based on the following principles:

- a) New housing and employment development as part of the scheme must be within the settlement boundary, but associated open space could be outside the boundary.
- b) A mix of uses must be provided. This may include housing that meets the requirements of Policy DEC1 (Residential Development), but must also include the retention or replacement of community use facilities within the site, as well as the creation of new employment opportunities, which could include new small independent retail uses.
- c) The listed school buildings and other buildings of townscape merit must be retained and refurbished as a key element of development, thereby maintaining their contribution to the special architectural or historic interest of the conservation area.
- d) Existing open space, including recreational space, must be retained, or replaced by a similar or better level and quality of provision elsewhere in the site.
- e) Trees and hedges should be retained in the interest of development being in keeping with the village environment.



The Parish Council feels the time is right to review our NP policies.

What works? What needs amending? What needs adding? What needs deleting?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document agreed by the majority of the parish. We are therefore asking you for your thoughts about any changes to our NP. Please note: We have been informed that relatively minor changes to existing policies will not necessitate another referendum. Because of cost implications, the Parish Council will not, at this time, seek to add new policies.

Please read the current policies which are accessible from www.abbotsbromley.com/council/planning/neighbourhood_plan/ and email the parish clerk, parishcouncil@abbotsbromley.com, with your suggestions. Alternatively, you can make your views known to any of the parish councillors.

Planning Matters

In this edition, we examine at two topical items that may need planning consent: uPVC windows and solar panels

Permitted Development rights allow householders to improve and extend their homes without the need to apply for planning permission where that would be out of proportion with the impact of works carried out. Householder permitted development rights are set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 ("the Order") as amended.

The rules on permitted development, set out in Schedule 2 of the Order, are sub-divided into a series of Parts. Part 1 specifically deals with development within the curtilage of a house. Part 1 is then sub-divided into Classes covering various types of development:

- **Class A:** the enlargement, improvement or alterations to a house such as rear or side extensions as well as general alterations such as new windows and doors. There is a neighbour consultation scheme for larger rear extensions under Class A, paragraph A.1(g).
- **Class B:** additions or alterations to roofs which enlarge the house such as loft conversions involving dormer windows.
- **Class C:** other alterations to roofs such as re-roofing or the installation of roof lights/windows.
- **Class D:** erection of a porch outside an external door.
- **Class E:** provision of buildings and other development within the curtilage of the house.
- **Class F:** provision of hard surfaces within the curtilage of the house such as driveways.
- **Class G:** installation, alteration, or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe.
- **Class H:** installation, alteration, or replacement of microwave antenna such as satellite dishes.

However, if you live in a Conservation Area, or a Listed Building, Permitted Development rights may not apply, in which case you would have to make a planning application to ESBC.

uPVC windows

In a Conservation Area you are only allowed to make like-for-like alterations to windows and doors. If you wish to replace wooden windows with uPVC ones then, strictly speaking, you would need to apply for planning consent. There are many properties within our Conservation Area that have uPVC windows. If you maintain the appearance (size of extrusions, bars etc) then a phone call to the planning office may result in a positive outcome. uPVC windows can now be almost indistinguishable from wooden ones.

Solar panels

In a Conservation Area, or for a Listed building, Permitted Development rights do not apply if the solar panels front a highway. In addition, A1 development rights may not apply irrespective of whether your house is in a Conservation Area if:

- the solar PV or solar thermal equipment would protrude more than 0.2 metres beyond the plane of the wall or the roof slope when measured from the perpendicular with the external surface of the wall or roof slope;
- it would result in the highest part of the solar PV or solar thermal equipment being higher than the highest part of the roof (excluding any chimney);
- in the case of land within a conservation area or which is a World Heritage Site, the solar PV or solar thermal equipment would be installed on a wall which fronts a highway;
- the solar PV or solar thermal equipment would be installed on a site designated as a scheduled monument; or
- the solar PV or solar thermal equipment would be installed on a building within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse or block of flats if the dwellinghouse or block of flats
- is a listed building.

Rural Parish

Cllr Catherine Brown

The rural community as we start 2024 face political, financial and climatical challenges like never before. Current issues are diverse, from animal disease, government legislation and incentives, crime and the appalling weather.

Amongst the diseases are Schmallenberg Virus that affects sheep, cattle and goats. This is devastating not just to have animals being born diseased and deformed, but distress and financial implications for the farmer. Current lambing in the parish is being affected.

The second midge carrying disease from Europe that is likely to affect sheep and cows, has been located in Norfolk and Kent is Bluetongue. At an NFU/Glenhorne Vets meeting last week, a government vet warned 65 farmers about the devastating disease that they are afraid will sweep the country. There is no detrimental effect on meat or dairy products for either disease.

Farmers are currently battling with the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) with the associated Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). On paper they seem like a sensible approach to farming, but for the average sheep, beef and dairy farm these schemes are impacting significantly with very little financial benefit. Things like re-wilding and major tree planting are largely for 'the big boys', large companies or rock stars, so to off-set their carbon footprint or to claim the current financial initiatives.

So how wet is your garden? At the end of February as I write, floods have been seen in places never seen before. The autumn food producing arable crop fields have largely, if planted at all (a lot haven't), become so wet that germination is unlikely. The consequence may be financial hardship and more work for the farmer, high food costs for the consumer and farmer's animal feed costs. The lack of more costly straw for winter animal bedding is likely to be coupled with high horse hay prices.

Special mention needs to go to the residents of Seedcroft who continually endure the non-resolving flood issue that does not seem to have an ending. The cost and lack of resources of SCC Highways, with similar pressures elsewhere can't help. Significant lobbying by residents, ABPC councillors and Philip Atkin County Councillor have not proved fruitful as we go to press.

It may sound basic but farmers, along with lorry and van drivers are encouraged to drive to the conditions conscientiously keeping to the tarmac roadway, while maintaining the verges. This will assist with the maintenance of the roadsides and drainage.

Rural crime has been a significant issue since the last Bulletin. Animals stolen or butchered

in fields, burglaries, with a spate of village thefts are alarming. A meeting organised by the NFU at Admaston in January with the Police and Crime Commissioner, local policeman and PCSO was a very useful evening to spell out the concerns of farmers. Everyone was encouraged to ring 999 or 101 when necessary for every event.

On a more positive note, today the sun is shining, no rain for 48 hours, mild temperatures for lambing, with the abundance of vibrant green fields surround us! Long may it last!

Top tips this Spring

1. Please don't let your dog's chase lambs- risk of injury and stress to lambs.
2. Yep- dogs on leads are welcome! If you don't understand please get in touch with your kindly farmers.
3. Dog poo pick up please- the dog poo puts the cows at risk even if they are not in the field, as the grass will become winter food which may become a carrier for the dog poo diseases leading to abortions.
4. If you see a lamb on its own, its highly likely that it will not come to any harm. It's probably enjoying the space on its own.
5. If you see a sheep on its back. You are most welcome to literally pull or push it over so that it can get up. It's just got stuck!

Down Memory Lane

Cllr Keith Baker

For this edition, Keith Baker continues Swan Lane resident John Dace's recollections of his childhood memories of Abbots Bromley shops. We pick up where we left off in the December "Bulletin" at Crown Bank, moving east towards Lichfield Road.

Mr England ran the garage (which became R&D Motors) next to the vicarage. He also ran a taxi business. On Crown Bank, at what is now The Bakehouse, Mrs Wilson rented a sweet shop from Joan Meadows. John remembers gob-stoppers and sherbet dips. The shop also sold Castrol Oil from a doorway that has since been bricked up. Next door to this was Joan Meadows' paper shop, which also stocked sweets, ice creams, Ever Ready batteries and paraffin. Next to The Crown was a cobblers run by Tom Wheeldon's father. He was also a tailor and sold hats. John remembers him sitting by the open door talking with a mouth full of tacks.

On High Street was Taswell's filling station with filling hoses that swung out on arms from the house wall. Mr Taswell also sold bicycle spares, and there was a bakery at the rear of the shop. The Taswells had owned the business for over 150 years. Opposite Taswell's was the Dolphin Cafe; it eventually became a book shop and is now part of a private home. On the other side of what is now Dolphin Lane was Mrs Thredgold's shop which sold woollens, cottons and needles. What an appropriate name!

Further up High Street, between Hall Hill Lane (formerly Manor Lane) and Ivy Close, Mr and Mrs Arthur Kent sold cigarettes, cards and the like. It subsequently became the village's post office and was run amongst others by Sue and Harry Burrows after Harry's footballing career came to an end. On the corner of what is now Ivy Close was another hairdresser's and this was turned into an antiques business. Hammersley's occupied land where Ivy Close is. Mr Hammersley was a builder, undertaker and decorator. Finally, at the top end of the village, "Top Shop" was run by Mrs Pitcher.

In addition to all these shops, John remembers Mr Bates the coalman coming in his lorry, the "Mother's Pride" bread van delivering from Stoke, a knife-sharpener on a bike that when turned upside down acted as a grinding wheel, and a rag-and-bone man with his horse and cart who, on a good day, gave balloons to children. One other character worth a mention is Sammy Cross. Sammy was a Romany gypsy who lived for many years in his caravan at The Croft. John recalls he had long plaited hair and sold pegs.

It's amazing to think all these shops could be supported by a community considerably smaller than it is today - but then people tended to work in the village and saw no reason to travel to nearby towns.

If you enjoy learning about our parish's history, why not attend some of the Nostalgia Group's events this year?

27 APR 2024 | 10am-4pm

405 years of Church House, also information on the Almshouses
Richard Clarke School.

11 & 12 MAY 2024 | 11am-4pm

Celebrating 150 years of the School of St Mary and St Anne.
Abbots Bromley School

22 & 23 JUN 2024 | 10am-4pm

Wedding Dress event plus refreshments
St Nicholas' Church and Church House.

JUL 2024 (TBC)

Evening history walk weather permitting

14 JUL 2024

Mr Brown's cine film, Summer Fayre
Village Hall

AUG 2024 (TBC)

Games and Cakes afternoon

09 SEP 2024 | 10am-4pm

Horn Dance photographic display
St Nicholas Church

OCT 2024 (TBC)

Information of the War Memorial and RAF
Abbots Bromley

NOV 2024 (TBC)

Pubs and shops

DEC 2024 (TBC)

Holiday snaps



Useful contacts

www.abbotsbromley.com/pc

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Mr Keith Baker (Councillor)

kbakerabpc@gmail.com ★★☆☆

Mr Richard Beaumont (Councillor)

rbeaumontabpc@gmail.com ★★☆☆

Mrs Catherine Brown (Councillor)

brownabpc@gmail.com ★☆☆☆

Mrs Teresa Froggatt (Councillor)

tfroggatabpc@gmail.com ★☆☆☆

Mrs Rachel Garth (Councillor)

rgarthabpc@gmail.com ★☆☆☆

Dr Helen Lockey (Councillor)

helenlockeyabpc@gmail.com ★☆☆☆

Mr Richard Love (Chair)

rloveabpc@gmail.com ★★☆☆

Miss Laura Parsons (Clerk)

parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Mr Peter Pratt (Councillor)

peterprattabpc@gmail.com

Mr Edward Rodway-Bowden (Vice chair)

erodwaybowdenabpc@gmail.com ★★☆☆

Working groups

- ★ Community engagement
- ★ Competitions
- ★ Finance/grants
- ★ Neighbourhood plan
- ★ Recreation/village property
- ★ Traffic/parking/highways

Representatives

- ★ Almshouses
- ★ Schools
- ★ Village Hall
- ★ ABSA
- United Charities (Mr Philip Charles)

East Staffordshire Borough Council

ESBC Waste Management

Information about bins, rubbish and recycling

0800 269 098

ESBC Enforcement Team

Report dog fouling, improper parking, etc.

01283 508 576

enforcement@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

ESBC Planning Support Enquiries

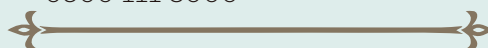
01283 508 606

dcsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Highways Hotline

Report problems with highways, lighting, signs, etc.

0300 111 8000



Ms Bev Ashcroft

Borough Councillor

bev.ashcroft@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mrs Vicki Gould

Borough Councillor

vicki.gould@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mrs Jacqui Jones

Borough Councillor

jacqui.jones@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mr Phillip Atkins

County Councillor

01889 590 922



Police

Non-emergency calls: 101

Police Community Engagement Team

PCSO Christopher Edwards

christopher.edwards@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

PC John MacDonald

john.macdonald@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Helen Kirkland

helen.kirkland@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk



Editor: Helen Lockey

Our next newsletter will be published in Summer 2024. For comments on this publication, or if you'd like to include your news or publicise your organisation/events, please contact helenlockeyabpc@gmail.com by 18 JUN 2024.