

Bromley Bulletin

Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter

SEP 2024 - Issue 81



Horn Dance 2024
Parish news and updates
Section 106
What's On

Village News



WINNERS!

Writing/drawing Competition 2024

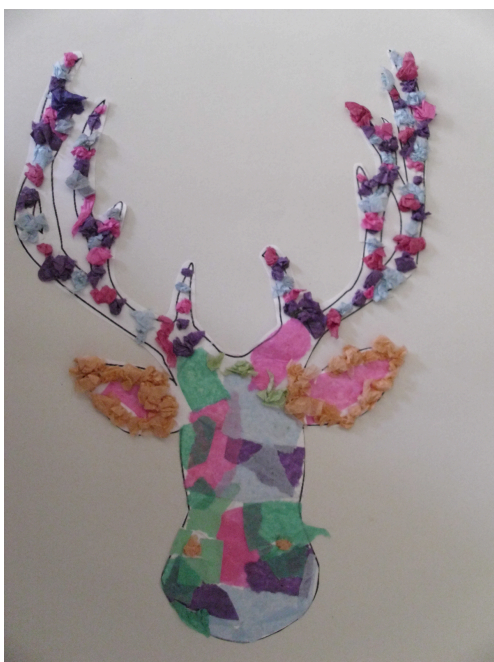
We received an excellent range of artwork from over seventy entrants, and are very grateful to Richard Clarke School and to Ms Salt in particular. Congratulations to all who took part! The parish council will be presenting prizes at the school at the beginning of the new term.



Winner of Y3 category
Claudia, High Street houses.



Winner of Reception category
Nancy, The Buttercross



Winner of Y2 category
Margot, Horn Dance Antlers



Y1 category
Charlie, collage of Blithfield Hall

Getting the most out of your medical consultation

Abbots Bromley Surgery

The way in which our surgery books appointments has changed since COVID-19. All the information on how we book is on our website, but we appreciate that many of you do not access the internet. Therefore, we wanted to summarise this for our patients.

Many of you will have fond memories of our Open Access system; we do too. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made it difficult for us to return to this way of working. Nevertheless, we have worked hard as a team to preserve the spirit of Open Access wherever possible.

When calling the surgery, our reception team is trained to guide you to the member of our team most suited to your needs. This could be a care co-ordinator, nurse, GP, dispenser or administrator. This change of approach has meant that patients can, in most cases, secure an appointment or telephone call with the right person on the day!

Another new improvement is the 'Pharmacy First Campaign' which encourages people with a minor illness such as impetigo, sore throat, insect bites, and so on, to visit their local pharmacy for advice on treatment—and if it is a prescribing pharmacy such as Morrisons, they can issue the prescription.

We are all here to support you with your health needs and by working closely together as a team, we can ensure that we provide care in the best possible way. Thank you for being part of our surgery!

www.abbotsbromleysurgery.nhs.uk

Gallimores' Field update

Abbots Bromley Village Hall

We're hugely grateful to the village for continuing to support our fundraising efforts to buy the field behind the village hall. As of the end of June, the money in the bank, (excluding grants and pledges not yet received), stood at **£41,346.51**. Please do continue to support our shows and events as these are important sources of income that we vitally need.



Wedding Dress Event 22-23 JUN 2024

Tom Wheeldon

Abbots Bromley Nostalgia Team

Thank you to everyone who attended our exhibition at St Nicholas Church, Abbots Bromley. A steady flow of visitors throughout the two days ensured that our efforts were well rewarded.

Thank you to the Abbots Bromley WI who supported us by providing light refreshments in Church House over the two days.



The ABNT also gratefully acknowledges the support from Helen Johnson and Sophie Harris of the Staffordshire History Network for providing us with mannequins. Thank you to our regular helpers who support us in everything we do.



The Almshouses

Established in 1705, Abbots Bromley Hospital is a charitable trust, providing permanent secure and well-maintained homes in the village for those who need them. Those appointed are beneficiaries of the charity and pay a Weekly Maintenance Contribution, which is equivalent to an Affordable Fair Rent.



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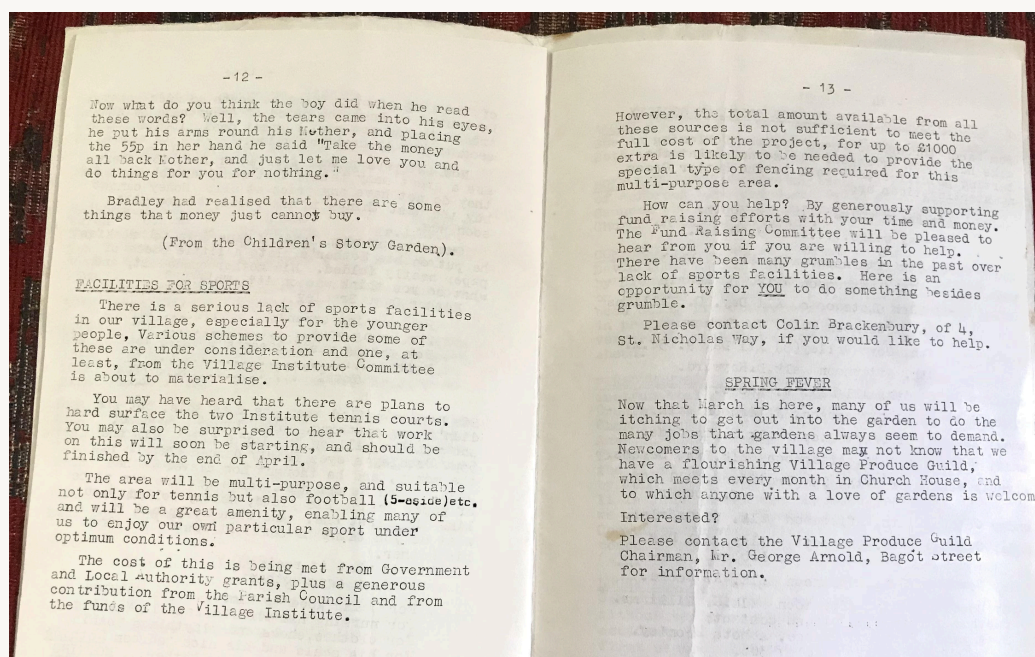
Before appointment, a financial assessment is undertaken with the applicant to ensure that the trustees are appointing residents who are genuinely "in need". Preference is given to those from the parishes of Abbots Bromley, Dunstall, Newborough and Yoxall, and residents remain in their property as long as they are able to live independently.

Please contact Claire Collier on 07966 637044 for more information.

Sport Facilities

Tom Wheeldon

Whilst carrying out some 'Nostalgia' research, I came across this article from a 1970's Parish News. It makes for interesting reading, but I'm unsure why the 1970's project wasn't fully completed in accordance with the intentions. In order for present and future generations to enjoy the benefits of a first-class multi-use sporting and leisure facility, the latest ABSA project needs to come to fruition. All that's required is for sufficient funds to be raised through the ABSA fundraising campaign. Fifty years on, I am sure those from the 70's would have approved.



New Burial Ground: A final resting place?

Abbots Bromley churchyard is almost full and within a few years there'll be no space for coffin burials. The burial of ashes may still be possible for longer. The church is not obliged to provide burial space—this is the role of local authorities. Once the churchyard is full, any coffin burials will most likely take place at Uttoxeter Cemetery which is, of course, at some distance from the village.

The parish council is applying for funding, through the Section 106 Agreement to try to secure a new burial ground in the village. If you can suggest a good space which might be purchased for this purpose or farmers/landowners can offer a suitable plot of land, please contact the PC, which is also considering the feasibility of a non-denominational burial ground for the parish.

Support, location and cost will be major factors. We'd be very interested to hear your views on the above. Please give your response to any parish councillor or email the parish clerk.

Reflecting on a Successful Year at Richard Clarke First School

Kay Hanson, Headteacher

After another very busy but successful year at Richard Clarke First School, we have much to look back on and be proud of.



In June, we had our OFSTED inspection, and we are delighted to announce the outcome. Because the inspection was the short, ungraded inspection (section 8), HMI wasn't allowed to change the school's overall previous judgement of 'Good'. However, the evidence gathered on the day suggested that the inspection grade might be 'Outstanding'; if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. Therefore, we will be getting another graded inspection within 12-18 months, which will be a full inspection to establish if we are indeed, as we think, an outstanding school. Please read the report online, which is full of lovely comments such as *'We are a small school with a big heart'*.

Congratulations to the whole team—staff, governors, parents, and of course, our wonderful children. We couldn't be more proud, and it is a validation of all the hard work and care we all put into our wonderful school. A big thank you to all the external partners who also support us, and in particular, huge thanks to Ms Rochester, our new CEO, for her amazing support this year. Everyone must share in this success. Please share our report with family and friends, as we hope it will encourage new families to come to Richard Clarke. Our numbers are currently low, and the future of our brilliant school depends on attracting new children.

In other exciting news, from September, we will be starting our own wraparound care, taking this over from Tom Thumb nursery. Our very own Clarke's Club will run a breakfast club before school from 07:45-09:00am, and then 3:30-6:00pm after school. We will be providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities to enrich the school day. Have a look at our website for all the details, it's going to be great.

Towards the end of the school year, we celebrated our Year 4 learning journeys with their special leavers assembly and 'Richards' awards ceremony and prepared them for their onwards journey into middle school. We will also be welcoming in our new Reception children with transition visits to get them school ready for September. It really is the circle of life.

I personally am coming up to my thirtieth year at Richard Clarke. I started back in September 1994, so this time thirty years ago, I would have been visiting the school, getting to know everyone and preparing to start my career. How time flies!! We now look forward to a new school year and can't wait to see what it brings! The motto *'Together, Everyone Achieves More'* embodies the togetherness and sense of collaboration that permeates throughout the school. If any new families want to see what's on offer, then please give us a call and we will happily show you around.

THE MEYNELL CHURCH TRUST Education Grants

If you're concerned about the costs of further education, either at university or with vocational studies, and would appreciate receiving a small contribution, the Meynell Church Trust (a registered charity) may be able to help. To qualify you need to reside in the Diocese of Lichfield and be under 25 years of age. Please contact Claire Collier, the clerk, for an application form and submit by 18 SEP 2024.

Tel: 07966 637044

Email: themeynellchurchtrust@gmail.com

ACT NOW
to continue receiving a printed copy of the
Bromley Bulletin

Over the last few editions of the Bromley Bulletin, we've mentioned our intention to create an e-BB and making it available online. The reasons are primarily to observe best practice in minimising our use of paper. However, it is also a way to divert much needed funds to other more pressing needs in the parish such as playground repairs and road safety enhancement. We recognise that some parishioners may have difficulty accessing the internet and would prefer the hard copy edition. If this is you, please email the parish clerk (parish.council@abbotsbromley.com) with the subject "**Hard copy BB**", and include your full name and postal address. Alternatively, complete the form below and drop it off at Top Shop.

If we don't hear from you by **31 NOV 2024**, we'll assume that you don't wish to receive a hard copy.

The Bromley Bulletin is available on our website
www.abbotsbromley.com

To the parish clerk,

I am unable to access the Bromley Bulletin online and would like to receive a hard copy.

Full Name:

Address:

Drop this form off at Top Shop by 31 NOV 2024.

ABBOTS BROMLEY SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Chris Wood

Before I give an update on the charity's progress I would like to send to every resident and parishioner in Abbots Bromley and the nearby villages our most heartfelt thanks for supporting the creation of a multi-court to be built at the Lichfield Road ground.



Your support of the crowdfunding appeal has truly exceeded our expectations. Since the end of May, you have donated over £13,000 and this is still rising. With gift aid we have £14,700! Staggering! Once we get to £15,000 we will receive match funding from Sport England of a further £15,000. When added to the £10,150 raised at the ABSAFest weekend and the £75,000 pledged offer from HS2, it is enough to start building the court.

Abbots Bromley Netball will have a home again, as will five-a-side football and women's football training, walking football, basketball, and a place for school activities, youth club activity. It will be a real community asset ... so thank you. And I must thank Julie Wheeldon and Sarah Chapman for setting up the crowdfunding in such a fantastic manner, and the parish council for their continued support.

ABSAFest24

This was a great weekend event despite the unseasonably cold weather. The bands were excellent and everyone seemed to have a great time on the Saturday and the family event on Sunday. All profits from the weekend, £10,150, went to the multi-use court. We will do it all again in 2025.

The cricket season is well underway and the club is targeting promotion this year. We are thankful for the clubs officials in helping us to maintain the wicket at the early season and with their help in getting funds to purchase a permanent sail covering for the social area outside the bar.

The football season starts in earnest very soon with the exciting Stags looking for more success on the well prepared pitches. We wish them, the Junior Football Club and the Women's Football Team all the best.

We have submitted our fully audited 2022/23 accounts to Companies House, which are accessible to any person wishing to see the charity's financial situation and state of going concern. The charity is still seeking volunteers to help with all aspects of the ground and the project. Please get in touch if you can help us in any way at all.

Village Clubs & Societies

Abbots Bromley Community Choir

Jane Morris

I thought it sensible to give our readers a half yearly update on the movements of the ABCC rather than try and recall a year of events in the busy month of December.

Our year started on a positive note as forty members gathered in January at Marsh Farm Tea Rooms for our annual Awards Lunch. Thirteen members were awarded certificates, which included ten MABs (Members of Abbots Bromley); two OABs (Order of Abbots Bromley) and the prestigious DAB (Dame of Abbots Bromley), awarded this year to Clare Shaw as part of the Florence Foster Jenkins Fellowship.

Fortnightly rehearsals in the church began in earnest as we started to prepare for our first gig, a return visit to Hoar Cross Nursing Home in April. Before this concert, there had been much talk about how we could unify the look of the choir when performing. It was decided we should purchase some vibrantly coloured material and have stoles made up. Material purchased; we located a wonderful lady in Rocester who was prepared to make fifty items. These made their debut at our concert at the nursing home. The stoles looked resplendent and certainly unified our look as a group. The residents were entertained by songs from The Sound of Music, Les Misérables and four popular hits by ABBA. It was also an opportunity to give the first public outing to our newest song – a two-part arrangement of the classic song Bohemian Rhapsody. The concert was well received by residents and relatives and more importantly we got through the Queen!

In June, we were invited to sing at the ABSA Festival. The weather was horrendous, wind and rain but thirty brave souls turned up to entertain the audience for half an hour before Dr Doolittle took to the main stage. It was a test

of both endurance and commitment and remarkably when playing back the phone recording in The Bagot a couple of hours later, a jolly good performance. 'Thunderbolt and Lightning, very very frightening me'!

It was also our pleasure to make a £100 donation to ABSA as they continue to raise enough funds to build the all-weather court for the community. The more time goes on, it is clear to me that the Choir really is about community, not only in that it brings many different people together twice a month to sing, to laugh and to have fun but that we seek to support not only our own community but that of the wider community too. Only last week another £150 of food was purchased and taken to support Rugeley Food Bank, something we try to do at least three times a year. Our own church in the village receives regular payments for the 'room hire' and this weekend eight members of the Choir offered their time and support to man stalls and refreshments at the Nursing Home Fete. The event itself raised £800, which will go towards providing entertainment for the residents.

Looking at the coming six months, we have a busy schedule ahead. On 05 OCT ABCC is joining A Cut Above (gents barbershop group) to perform at Hoar Cross Church at 7.00pm. If you enjoy songs from the musicals, close harmony, folk songs and sea shanties with a bit of Queen and Handel thrown in, that night is for you! We'll also be taking part in the Remembrance Service at the war memorial in November and to round off the year, we've been invited to enhance the festive period by singing carols at The Goat in Abbots Bromley and at The Meynell in Hoar Cross the weekend before Christmas.

In the meantime, if there is any lady who would like to join us, please come along to the church on a Thursday night (second and fourth Thursday in the month) at 6.30pm where you will receive a warm welcome and hopefully have a great time.

Abbots Bromley WI

Highlights of 2024

Alison Bramley, President

***We started 2024,
as most of us do,
trying to improve
our bodies and
minds.***



Debbie Warner gave us a beginners' lesson in Tai Chi which was active, enjoyable and informative.

In February, March and April, we welcomed respectively Alex Hunt from Abbots Bromley's Cheese locker, Kim Nash, a well-known author and Christine Shaw, a very well-established apiarist. They enthralled us with their knowledge and expertise and we all went home determined to read more and improve our diets with cheese and honey!

In May, it was our annual meeting and I was delighted that we were able to recruit a new secretary as the previous post-holder had moved away from Abbots Bromley. As president, I have one more year in this role and we're very lucky to have an experienced treasurer on our Committee as well as an extremely enthusiastic events organiser. The other Committee members carry out all the vital tasks that go towards ensuring we continue to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

In June, our members enjoyed a talk by a pet house-sitter and in July our village firefighters explained their work and we were shown the highly sophisticated equipment they use and the protective clothing they wear when dealing with fires. In August, we enjoyed a communal walk followed by an evening meal at Barton Marina, where friends and family joined us for supper at the Waterfront.

We do not confine ourselves just to our monthly meetings. Members visited Lichfield for a treasure hunt and lunch, took part in a quiz and had an evening meal at Antlers as well as enjoyed afternoon tea and a canal boat excursion from Penkridge. We also visited a wonderful garden in Barton-Under-Needwood, which is part of the National Garden Scheme. We were "royally" entertained by Lesley Smith when we visited Tutbury Castle for a tour and afternoon tea and members had a fabulous lunch at the Mulberry Bistro in Burton College. Many more outings are planned but our regular breakfast get-togethers continue as does our fortnightly craft club, which is also open to non-crafters, who can enjoy a coffee, cake and a natter. The bridge club also continues and new members are welcome. Bridge keeps our brains active and it's nice to meet up for tea and a chat.

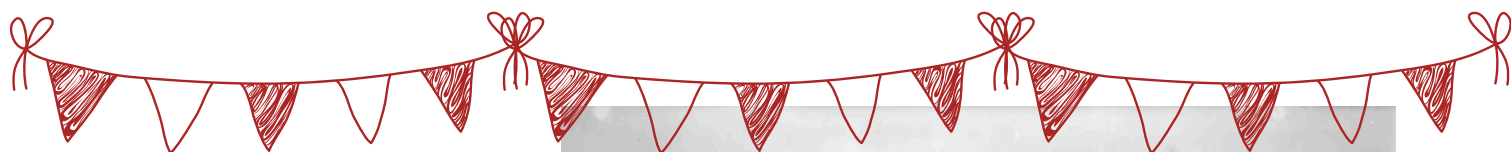
We're holding our usual cake and book stall on Horn Dance Day and plans are already in hand for the village Christmas Tree Festival on 08 DEC 2024. We hope residents of Abbots Bromley will join us and help to organise this wonderful festival, which is always a lovely start to the festive season. More trees would be welcomed, perhaps to celebrate your parents' special wedding anniversary or a special birthday. Remembrance trees are also welcome to remember a loved one.

I joined the WI when I came to the village and through this organisation I've made many new friends. WIs often suffer from an outdated stereotype but here in Abbots Bromley we've moved on from just baking and knitting! I always tell ladies asking about our organisation that we focus on friendship and fun with a little bit of inspiration thrown in! Do come and try us out! If you want to know more do get in touch.

Email: aabramley@hotmail.com
Tel: 01283 841067

What's On

Village Events Calendar



Abbots Bromley Horn Dance

Mon 09 SEP 2024



- 07:00 Service of Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church
- 07:45 Collect Horns from Church
- 08:15 Dance on the Village Green
Goose Lane
Yeatsall
- 11:00 Admaston Village
- 12:00 Blithfield Hall
- 13:45 Little Dunstal Farm
- 14:15 Rugeley Turn
- 15:30 The Bagot Arms
- 16:15 Infinitii
- 16:50 The Goat's Head
- 17:30 The Crown Inn
- 18:30 Schoolhouse Lane
Bagots View/Swan Lane
Radmore Lane
Lichfield Road
- 19:15 The Coach & Horses
High Street and Village Green
- 20:15 Horns returned to the Church
Ancient service of Compline



A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel Performed live by Tim Chu and Ian Bailey

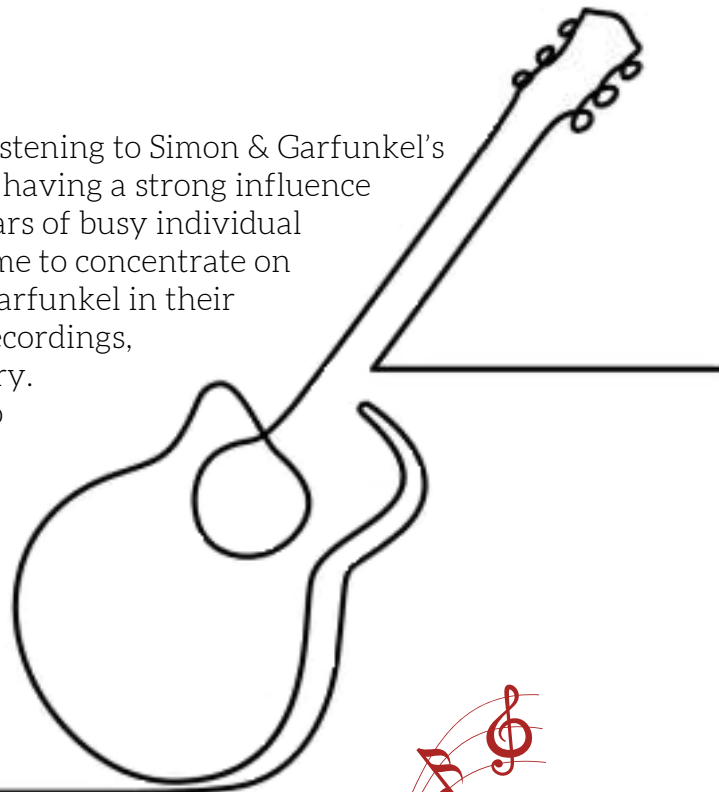


Doors open: 18:45
Performance: 19:30
Tickets: £15 (at The Pie Shak,
High Ash; Top Shop and
Sian Morgan 07790 912255)

Licensed bar

FRI 20 SEP 2024, 19:30
Abbots Bromley Village Hall

Singer-songwriters Tim and Ian have grown up listening to Simon & Garfunkel's music with both the composition and vocal blend having a strong influence on their respective professional careers. After years of busy individual touring schedules they've have now found the time to concentrate on this venture delivering the music of Simon and Garfunkel in their own unique way that also honours the original recordings, without falling into the regular tribute act category. There are no costumes, wigs or make up. Just two great musicians producing an ambient collection of Simon & Garfunkel's much loved hits.



Musical evening with Abbots Bromley Community Choir and A Cut Above

SAT 05 OCT 2024, 19:00
Holy Angels Church, Hoar Cross

Abbots Bromley Community Choir will perform works by Handel, Claude-Michel Schoenberg and Queen alongside some contemporary classical and folk music. A Cut Above will perform a range of songs in the barbershop style.

Tickets: £10 (includes a glass of wine) from Top Shop in Abbots Bromley (from 01 SEP) or on the door on the night.



Alas! Poor Yorick Ridiculusmus Theatre Company



Doors open: 18:45
Performance: 19:30pm
Tickets: £15 (early bird £13, if booked by 04 OCT 2024)
Suitable for older teenagers and adults
Further details: Liz Lampard 01283 840567

FRI 25 OCT 2024
Abbots Bromley Village Hall

Hamlet meets Ridiculusmus. The gravediggers get a Stoppardian makeover in this expansion and exploration of five-hundred-year-old jokes in a largely silent physical comedy suitable for indoor or outdoor performance with or without local guests. This is a two-man production, retelling of the story of Hamlet from the point of view of the gravediggers.

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



Parish Council

News and updates



Planning Report

Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) referendum took place in May 2023, and the Plan was supported by the vast majority of the community.

Underpinning the NP was the Housing Need Assessment (HNA), which concluded that for the community to be sustainable into the foreseeable future, the following types of housing units were needed: one and two-bed affordable homes; three-bed affordable homes for young families; and a range of housing types for the elderly.

It recommended three-bed (or larger) market-value homes should not be built until the HNA figures have been achieved. The need for these affordable homes is already apparent. Our village school is undersubscribed and approximately half of the children who attend do not live in the village. Our junior sports teams are struggling to recruit locally. Our Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs numbers are down - some into single figures. If we cannot increase the number of young families living in the community then—as the HNA concludes—our village will not be a sustainable one.

Although our NP has only been in force for a year, it was drafted two-and-a-half years ago. As outlined in the spring Bulletin, the parish council is undertaking a review and your input into any changes to existing policies would be most welcome, as would your responses to any planning decisions.

Finally, the construction of a footway on the Lichfield Road to form a contiguous path from Town End Farm to the ABSA site may be a little closer to realisation. We have been informed that Staffordshire Highways has produced engineering plans, but that things are being held up because Highways needs to convene a meeting with utility providers (presumably to establish where pipes and cables are).

Please be aware that our NP can only directly influence development within our settlement boundary. ESBC's Local Plan is the document which contains planning guidance for development outside our settlement boundary, and should contain an updated section about the recently relaxed national laws relating to the development of agricultural buildings.

Departure

Due to ongoing work commitments Cllr Peter Pratt has made the difficult decision to step down from the parish council. We're sad to see Peter go, especially as he contributed greatly to the work of the PC, but we wish him all the very best.

Farming Life

Cllr Peter Pratt

It's that time of the year again when the harvest is upon us. With the wettest season on record it has also been the most challenging. The crops have been drowning in the fields due to flooding which has meant the animals that are normally outside grazing in the early spring have not been able to go out until later in the summer. With the current poor prices for our produce, it's definitely not going to be a rewarding year.

The impending harvest season will inevitably mean a large increase in agricultural vehicles passing through the village and surrounding areas. There will be tractors from out of the area that at times do not exercise the appropriate speed or courtesy towards the village.

Please bear in mind that the PC does spend a good deal of time speaking to local farmers about the issue. A little thought and courtesy from everyone can help farmers manoeuvre their large tractors through the village safely. Finally please join the farming community in praying for some sunshine!



Nature Corner

Cllr Keith Baker

My nature articles have sometimes given a rather gloomy picture. Yes, it is true that the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. It is true that, since the 1970s, almost half of our wildlife has disappeared and one in six of our species is at risk. Also true is that, in the last fifty years, 150 of our native species have become extinct and the numbers of farmland birds have declined by 58%.

Climate change has not helped, but the "State of Nature Report" cites the main drivers as being habitat loss, development, and the intensive way our land is managed.

Sir David Attenborough has said, "Butterflies are a key indicator species of the health of our environment". How encouraging, then, to see small tortoiseshell butterflies thriving in the uncut grasses on Gallimore's Field, along with countless insects. The small tortoiseshell's numbers are down by over 80% since the mid 1970s, but given the right environment (nettles in particular) they can thrive.

Also encouraging is the decision by some in the community to leave a part of their garden to grow wild. Without local meadows and uncut verges, it is now down to our gardens to create an environment that will encourage biodiversity.

The importance of preserving our footpaths

Cllr Keith Baker

Although I studied History to “A”-level, I never really appreciated its significance. After all, what had the Repeal of the Corn Laws to do with The Beatles latest hit?

However, when you get to the age where there are far more years behind you than in front, you do begin to see connections. I am a big fan of our village Nostalgia Group, and their May exhibition in Church House (memorabilia from AB School to coincide with a Guild reunion) illustrated many links with the past and how our present has evolved from them. Sometimes, as I sit in my 17th century house, I imagine who has lived there before me - what they wore, what their beliefs were. It's the same when I walk some of the lanes: people walked those same lanes over four-hundred years ago (and probably before that).

I came across an article recently about the origins of footpaths. People have always needed to travel for survival, whether for local movement or long-distance journeys. Walking was the primary mode of transportation for most ordinary people. Over time, paths naturally emerged based on the routes people used to get from one place to another. These “evolutionary desire-lines” became established as public rights of way under common law, with the public's right to use them firmly established. These early footpaths were typically short, direct, and used exclusively by pedestrians. For horse-drawn carts, wider routes were necessary. These cart paths were less direct but easier to travel.

Over time, a network of tracks developed naturally, reflecting the practical needs of both pedestrians and horse-drawn vehicles. Many paths were once drover roads. In 1663, 19,000 cows were recorded as passing through Carlisle. Daniel Defoe recorded 150,000 turkeys traveling from Norfolk to London in 1724, and a tollbooth in Wiltshire registered 14,000 pigs passing through in 1830. In Abbots Bromley, Goose Lane probably began life as a drover path for locals to herd geese to the common land just to the south of the church. Some of our modern footpaths possibly began in medieval times as corpse roads, along which coffins were carried to churches. In the 18th and 19th centuries, significant changes occurred due to land enclosure. Open fields and common land were privatised, leading to the creation of new paths and roads.

Approximately 4,000 local Acts were passed, granting Inclosure Commissioners the power to divert existing paths and roads and establish new public routes. There are currently over 144,000 miles of bridleways and footpaths recorded in England and Wales. The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act compelled councils to create definitive maps so footpaths could be preserved and legally protected. However much of the recording and mapping was done by local people and it is believed about 50,000 miles which have been walked for centuries are still unrecorded. If they remain unrecorded by 2031 they will be unprotected. The Ramblers has a project entitled “Don't Lose Your Way” where you can alert them to any footpaths you believe to be unrecorded. And this is my point: Footpaths, like ancient trees, are an important link with our past. To lose them is to lose some understanding of why the parish is as it is. That in turn may lead to a loss of a feeling of belonging to, and subsequently a loss of caring about, our parish. Walk them to preserve them.

Section 106: Your ideas, please!!

Once a planning application of a notable size has been submitted, the local planning authority will contact various bodies responsible in the county for things such as affordable housing, highways, education and open spaces.



These bodies will use a formula to work out the sums they will be requesting the developer to pay as S106 contributions. S106 payments are a form of tax levied on a developer to compensate a local authority for impacts resulting from the development. For example, a new housing estate may put increased demands on school places and so the developer and local authority will reach agreement about the cost of this, with the developer contributing towards that cost. (This is a simplified explanation but hopefully it helps our understanding.)

S106 agreements are legally enforceable and are part of the condition of granting planning consent. It is not unusual for S106 monies to be used to help fund impacts that are some distance from the development itself. For example, Friel's development may impact upon the numbers of students at Thomas Alleyne's in Uttoxeter, and S106 money could be used for new facilities there. There is no statutory right for a parish council to make S106 requests, but we have been advised to make our community's suggestions known to ESBC. After all, if you don't ask you don't get! Two years ago, you were asked for suggestions about how S106 money could benefit our parish.

These were some of your responses:

- **New burial ground** (The current one is nearly full, and proposed development would bring additional elderly people to the village).
- **Public parking spaces with EV charge points** (Proposed development would see increase in visitors to elderly + shop).
- **Office units** (Development would see an increase in those wishing to be based in the village but not necessarily in their homes. Could utilise existing buildings not currently designated for development?)
- **Rural craft units** (Bring employment to the expanded community + visitors. Again, could utilise existing buildings not currently designated for development).
- **Public toilets**—perhaps in a retail unit? (To accommodate increase in visitors as a result of the proposed development).
- **Anglesey and Lowers to be leased to the parish** (To preserve open green spaces).
- **Refurbish children's play areas** (Increased use as a result of the proposed development).
- **Traffic calming measures** such as an additional Speed Indicator Sign (Development would lead to increase in the volume of traffic leaving/entering the village).
- **Contribution to purchase of Gallimore's Field** (Increase in population = need for more public open space).

The parish council has already urged you to submit additional suggestions for consideration, and the parish clerk has forwarded viable ones to ESBC's planning department.

Parish council responsibilities

Cllr Keith Baker

Over the past few months there have been complaints about flooding, traffic speed, dangerous driving along the reservoir causeway, and so on. The parish council will always, whenever justified, lends its support and spends considerable time and effort behind the scenes trying to achieve satisfactory outcomes for the benefit of the community.

Unfortunately, we have no control over whether the department responsible decides to act. An example of this is the flooding at Crown Bank, where the matter has been reported to Highways on numerous occasions. We've also asked our MP, the heads of Staffordshire County Council, ESBC and Highways to intervene. Additionally, we've notified the press and Historic England about damage to two listed buildings. Highways has since carried out some work to address the Crown Bank flooding.

We met similar responses to our requests, on the community's behalf, for measures to be taken to reduce excessive traffic speed through the village. Councillors have spent a disproportionately large amount of time trying to get some sort of action taken—but those who have the power to sanction some improvements have done little. In the end, as you will be aware, the parish council has purchased a mobile speed indicator device (SID) because this was the one thing we were allowed to do without relying on the cooperation of outside agencies.

Cllr Edward Rodway-Bowden has been persistently completing requests to Highways to have damage to our roads repaired. Thanks to his dogged determination there have been some positive outcomes—but not without tremendous effort.

So what is the parish council responsible for?

Well, really only the amenities it owns such as the two children's play areas, a couple of bus shelters, the Cow Lane allotment and the village green. We do, of course, consider planning applications and forward comments to ESBC's planners where necessary but, even with a Neighbourhood Plan in place, we have no control over planning officers' decisions.

Much of the work we do boils down to putting pressure on agencies over whom we have no control, in the hope they respond favourably. Being a parish councillor can be very frustrating at times, but we're always here to listen.



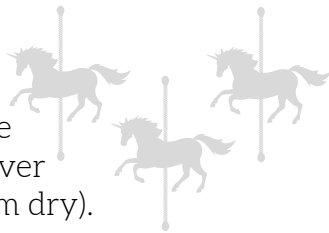
If you have suggestions or feedback about how to improve the parish, you can write to us or pop along to one of the PC surgeries in Church House. For other updates and information about the parish, please visit our website www.abbotsbromley.com.

Down Memory Lane

Cllr Keith Baker

John Dace, now living in Swan Lane, has been a resident of Abbots Bromley all his life. In this, the last of a series of his memories, John recalls village events as he remembers them.

Collins's circus used to come to the Polycroft (now the corner of Mires Brook Lane) and feature lions, performing poodles, jugglers, horses, acrobats, clowns and an air rifle shooting gallery. The acts took place in a large circus tent and music was provided by a van with a tannoy. Proctor's Field in Goose Lane (where the new bungalows now are) was another venue. A merry-go-round and bumper cars were amongst the attractions. (It was in this field that the fire brigade hung their hoses over the trees to let them dry).



The village held an annual carnival. Lorries decorated as floats set off from The Lowers and ended up at the Institute (now the site of the village hall). The lorries were owned by the likes of the Barkers, Fred Brookes, Rose cattle people from Armitage, and Bass Brewery. On the floats were the Carnival Queen and attendants, and groups representing the scouts, guides, AB School etc. Morris dancers and our Horn Dancers took part. At the Institute were lots of stalls including Bowling for Pigs (I didn't ask John for an explanation!), a coconut shy, a cake stall and a tombola. Also on offer was clay pigeon shooting, a fancy dress parade and a brass band. In the evening there was a dance in the Institute. Money raised went to village organisations. John is sad that a carnival no longer takes place. "People these days can't find the time, and Health and Safety doesn't help," he tells me.

The Institute was also the venue for the village cinema. A Mr and Mrs Butterworth from Rocester put up a screen and showed reel-to-reel films such as "Reach For The Sky" and "The Dam Busters". It was a weekly event and cost two shillings and six pence. (John's weekly wage was £7.10s).

Sunday School in the '50s was held at the chapel in Manor Lane (now Hall Hill Lane). It was very popular and lots of village children attended. Helpers were Mrs Wheeldon, Mrs Lyons and Mrs Snelson. The organ was powered by bellows and the children took turns to operate them. At St Nicholas' was Rev Sadler and before him, John thinks, Rev Addel. Autumn saw a blackberry-picking day down Lichfield Road, and sometimes picked were damsons sloes and crab apples.

In summer, picnics were often held on The Lowers whilst, in winter, Hollins's Hill at the top of School House Lane was a popular spot for sledging.



Dances were held at Blithfield Hall with Lady Bagot and there were coconut shies and other attractions on offer. A one-off event, John remembers, was the opening of the reservoir in 1953. Nearly everyone from the parish went to the opening of the causeway to see the Queen Mother. In the same year all children received a Coronation mug and a cake.

John was interviewed by Keith Baker.

Sadly, I have to report the death in February of Ivy Harley. Ivy was the first contributor to this column and will be much missed. If you have memories of life at the village school in the 1940s and 1950s please let Keith Baker know. You can contact him on 01283 840690, or email kbakerabpc@gmail.com

Useful contacts

www.abbotsbromley.com/pc

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Mr Richard Love (Chair)

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Miss Laura Parsons (Clerk)

parish.council@abbotsbromley.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

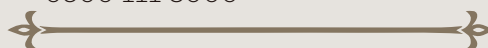
ESBC Planning Support Enquiries

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

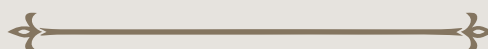
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Mr Phillip Atkins

County Councillor

01889 590 922



Police

Non-emergency calls: 101

Police Community Engagement Team

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Sgt Helen Kirkland

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Editor: Helen Lockey

Our next newsletter will be published in Winter 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 01 NOV 2024.