

Bromley Bulletin

Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter

MAR 2025 - Issue 82

Parish news and updates
Awards
ABSA News
Planning
What's On

Village News



AWARDS

House Frontages Awards 2024

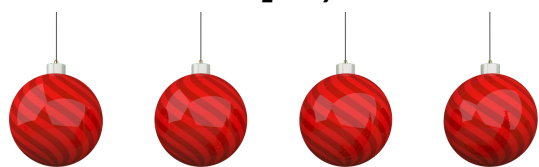
The parish looked particularly colourful this year, and the Parish Council wishes to acknowledge the efforts made by many households to make our area an attractive place in which to live. It is never easy to choose a winning frontage, especially with a diverse range of displays. However, the winning frontage this year has been chosen as that belonging to the bungalow at the corner of Lintake Drive and Goose Lane because of its interesting features and immaculate appearance. A £20 Garden Centre voucher will be presented to the owner.



Highly commended were Baden House, Ashbrook Cottage, 7 Bagots View, 10 Friary Avenue and The Bagot Arms. We hope to run the award again based on this summer's displays.



Christmas Display Award 2024



Thank you to all those households who helped to brighten up the village over the Christmas period. The area around the Market Place looked especially attractive, and there were many individual buildings around the parish that deserve praise for the time and effort spent on them.

The winner of the Christmas Display Award, though, goes to the two houses in Walnut Grange. Gift tokens will be on their way to help with the cost of electricity!



Children's Writing/Drawing Award 2025

There will again be a competition this summer (closing date : end of the summer term) for children either attending Richard Clarke First School, or living in the parish and of school age.

Richard Clarke will be invited to submit pictures of scenes from the village, whilst older pupils may submit a drawing or a piece of writing with links to the parish. Please submit entries by email to kbakerabpc@gmail.com, or by post to School House, School House Lane, Abbots Bromley.

A Busy and Brilliant Term! Richard Clarke First School

Kay Hanson, Headteacher

At the end of our last academic year, we reflected on the amazing achievements that made it all so special.



First, a warm welcome to all our new pupils who have joined us at the beginning of the 2024/25 year—you've settled in brilliantly, and it's been a joy to see you thrive as part of the RCFS family.

In the Autumn term, our school community came together for a fantastic Harvest Festival, featuring heartfelt songs and poems. Your generosity shone as we collected a wonderful amount of food for the Rugeley Food Bank—thank you! We also raised funds for important causes, including "Children in Need" and the Poppy Appeal.

Our school disco was a huge hit, and the Book Fair encouraged a love of reading while raising funds for new books.

On the academic side, the children have been engaging deeply with their curriculum work, wowing us with their retrieval skills and enthusiasm for learning. Our youngest pupils deserve a special shout out for their fantastic progress in phonics—keep it up!

Key Stage 2 children have been making a splash this term with their swimming lessons, where they've shown confidence and progress in the water.

We've introduced Freewrite sessions this term, giving children the chance to explore creative writing in their own unique styles. It's been inspiring to see their imaginations shine on the page.

Clarke's Club, our brand new breakfast and after-school club, has gone from strength to strength. Over half the school has joined in at some point, enjoying activities like art, dodgeball, technology, and even a visit from a guide dog. The variety of activities ensures there is always something exciting happening.

Our term wrapped up in true festive style. Reception pupils had a magical moment meeting Santa himself, which was a delight for everyone involved. The nativity play, "It's a Party", was a heart-warming highlight, and the school choir brought holiday cheer with their performance at the Christmas Tree Festival. Christmas dinner, class parties, and plenty of festive fun made for a wonderful send-off to the term.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE!

Finally, a reminder that applications for our 2025 Reception class are now open, and we still have places available.

Please feel free to arrange a visit—we'd love to welcome you and help you decide we are the right fit for your child.

Doctor's Notes

Rebecca Alkins, Practice Care Coordinator
Abbots Bromley Surgery

We hope you've made a healthy start to 2025. We'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued trust and support in the past year.

New doctors

We have an important update regarding our team: Dr Wells is now on maternity leave, and we wish her all the best during this exciting time. During her absence, we are pleased to welcome two experienced locum GPs, Dr Farmer and Dr Free, who will be joining us over the next six months. With their expertise, we are confident that we will continue to deliver high-quality care to all our patients.



A fond farewell to Jo Grace

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to our wonderful practice nurse, Jo Grace, who has been an integral part of our team for many years. Jo's dedication, compassion and professionalism have made a positive impact on both our patients and colleagues alike, and she will be greatly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Jo the very best of luck in her new role. While we're sad to see her go, we are excited for the new opportunities ahead of her.

Appointment update

At our Surgery, we offer a range of appointment types to suit your needs. You can book face-to-face appointments, or if appropriate, opt for telephone consultations, as not all inquiries require an in-person visit. Additionally, you can contact us online with non-urgent questions, and we will aim to respond within two working days.

To make an appointment, simply call us at 01283 840228 or visit our reception team in person. If you require an urgent or emergency appointment, these will be dealt with on the same day. For non-emergencies, our receptionists will do their best to arrange an appointment, but if a same-day visit isn't possible, we may suggest alternatives such as a telephone consultation. For certain issues, such as skin concerns, our receptionist may also ask for photos to help our clinicians provide the best care possible.

Thank you for choosing Abbots Bromley Surgery. We look forward to supporting you in 2025!

**Abbots Bromley
Royal British Legion
Tom Wheeldon, *Branch chairman***

Thank you to everyone who attended the Royal British Legion Annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10 NOV 2024 at the village memorial, and later in St Nicholas Church. Thank you also to those who gathered at the village memorial at 11:00AM on Monday 11 NOV 2024, to observe a two-minute silence in commemoration of the 1914-1918 Great War Armistice.

Appreciation is extended to the village groups/organisations, and individual residents, who laid a token of their respect at the village memorial during the Remembrance time. The positive response by everyone to this annual occasion is most humbling, and places our community in a most favourable light.



**VJ Day 80
15 AUG 2025**



As the National Custodian for Remembrance, The Royal British Legion will continue to provide appropriate Commemoration for those who have served their country, many having made the ultimate sacrifice. The Abbots Bromley Royal British Legion Branch strives to support this wider principle through its local initiatives. Closing in on 80 years since its formation, the local RBL Branch are in great need of new active members to take it forward. It is not essential to have served in the Armed Forces in order to become a British Legion member. However, it is important to embrace the principles of Remembrance, and charitable welfare for those in need within the Service Community.

If anyone would like to consider becoming a member, and feels sufficiently able to play an active role in the future of our local RBL Branch, please contact me on 01283 840096 for further details.

Abbots Bromley Community Choir

Jane Morris

This year, more than ever, I really feel that this choir has had many roles. It brings together members of all ages, twice a month to sing, to laugh and to have some fun but in addition to this, we have continued to support not only our own community but that of the wider community too.

We continue to support the Rugeley Food Bank; our own church in the village receives regular payments for the room hire and in July and December, eight members of the choir offered their time and support to man stalls and refreshments at Hoar Cross Nursing Home. These two events alone raised £1,200, which will go towards providing much needed entertainment and stimulation for the residents

In October, we were joined by A Cut Above to provide an evening's entertainment at Hoar Cross Church, our first event where the public were actually paying to listen to us! A lot of extra work and rehearsals went in as we prepared for this gig. I personally believe it was all really worthwhile. The setting was beautiful, the choir looked great and we were really on our A game in terms of performance. The compliments from the audience came flooding in and one elderly parishioner was keen to tell me that he was deeply moved by our performance of the Hallelujah Chorus. That event raised over £500.

The church had agreed in advance that half of money raised should go to St Giles and it was my pleasure to present the Fund Raising Team with a cheque for £238. As many of you are aware 2024 has not been a good year for hospices. Government funding has dwindled and at St Giles, in-patient beds have been reduced and 22 of my colleagues lost their jobs.

In November, we took part in the Remembrance Service at the war memorial, a deeply moving occasion and one that always reminds me how special this village really is. How many other villages do you know that can field a 40-piece choir, an excellent bugler and attendance by hundreds of people?



The festive period at the end of 2024 was a very busy one and somehow we managed four gigs in 12 days. The Christmas Tree Festival was brilliant this year; it had a real community feel to it and along with the money we help raise for the church, the St Giles bucket contained £200.



A week later, we were back at the Nursing Home bringing joy to the sick and elderly. I go back to my role of the choir theme at this point. It is during events like this where we witness first hand the power of music in action. Many residents struck down with advanced dementia come to life as the brain, the most complex of all organs is somehow stimulated and residents for a brief time are in the moment and having a great time.

Continued ...

To round off our busy year, we did our first back-to-back gig at the Meynell followed by the Goat. Two very different events but to raise £500 in one night was incredible! The food bank and St Giles will again benefit from our efforts.

As I revisit for the final time, my thoughts on this amazing choir and its roles. I want to share with you something two members have shared with me recently. For one member, the choir has given them much needed confidence, not only to sing, but socially and getting out twice a month surrounded by good people has really helped. For another member, the choir is much more than just singing, it's a wonderful group of people, who just accept you for who you are. Not what you look like, not what you wear, not what you drive or where you live – just because you are you!



And for me personally, the Choir holds a very special place in my heart. It's a big part of my life and I'm extremely proud of every one and I really hope that the Choir has been a positive and rewarding experience for each and every one of us.

In 2025 we will continue to welcome new members; to sing new music and to push our repertoire giving us all a challenge and to learn new things outside our comfort zone. We will continue to support our own and the wider community and I truly hope continue to be a group that brings happiness to others and at the same time, a group that supports one another. Anyone thinking of joining – see you at the church at 6.20pm. We rehearse on the second and fourth Thursday in the month. No audition, no experience necessary!

NOSTALGIA24

Tom Wheeldon, Elaine Summers, Jean Needham, Chris Ecclestone

During 2024, the local Nostalgia Team carried out a number of presentations and displays to showcase their work, and to recognise the 400th Anniversary of the Church House meeting room on Bagot Street. In actual fact the occasion of the anniversary passed five years previous without anyone noticing. To put that right we staged a number of our displays in Church House, one of which focussed specifically on the history of the building. As a small meeting room, it has provided the opportunity for great enjoyment to the residents of Abbots Bromley over many generations. The changes to the layout and function of the building over its life are also extremely interesting.

A successful wedding dress exhibition in St Nicholas Church tested our resolve. The response from AB residents far and near in loaning their lovingly preserved wedding attire was remarkable. In order to provide a quiet space for relaxation the Church house opened its doors for tea and cake, gratefully coordinated by the members of the local Women's Institute. "Thank you one and all".

Over the year we've managed to stage other events in Church House, with topics ranging from the Abbots Bromley airfield and Bagots Wood armament dump; Service personnel involved in the 2nd World War; holidays; cine film of a bygone age depicting life in Abbots Bromley; the parish cemetery restoration update and other interesting facts; Annual Remembrance of personnel including history of the village memorial and local British Legion,

Of course none of the above would have been possible without the support of family and friends. Our trusted helpers who make the tea and coffee, carry out raffles on our behalf, and make themselves available to help us at every step are very much appreciated by the whole team.

For other information on our activities visit www.abbotsbromleynostalgia.co.uk or search for Abbots Bromley Nostalgia on Facebook.

ABBOTS BROMLEY SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Chris Wood, Chair ABSA

We hope that 2025 will be another exciting year for the development, improvements and progress of the sports and community facility on Lichfield Road.



Abbots Bromley Sports Association has continued to maintain and develop the site and facilities in line with the third and hopefully, final stage of the project. In the last quarter of 2024 ABSA created a crowdfunding initiative to raise £30,000 to enable the building of a multi-use court. The overall cost of the facility was £150,000 inclusive of VAT. This overall cost included floodlights.

We had already re-negotiated the £75K disruption award from HS2, which despite the cancellation of the train beyond Birmingham, and the withdraw of tennis on the site, we managed to hold onto the award. The eventual conclusion was £18K raised through donations by parishioners, a fantastic response, £15K match funding from Sport England. £17K from ABSA, leaving us short of the figure to include the floodlights at this juncture.

The multi-use court will be the future base for Abbots Bromley Netball, particularly girls' netball, walking netball, as well as walking football, 5@side football, women's football, basketball and multiple programmes for young people and those with disabilities.

We have convened a communication meeting at the Village Hall on 09 April 2025, hosted by Sporting PB, our multi-use court partner, to discuss the court, its use and management. In addition there will be a grand opening on Sunday May 04 2025 at the Lichfield Road site.



The development over the winter period and in quite a confined space has caused considerable disruption and mess at the ground. In particular we are aware of the disturbance to the public footpath from Mill Green. I would like to assure the Parish Council and the village that we will ensure the path is resurrected and signposted once the court is completed and the contractors have left.

The court will be finished by the middle of March and as much of the site as possible, made good before the summer seasons of cricket and summer camps begin. There is much to do.

In addition to the above, we have made improvements to the changing rooms and showers and improved all the services. In addition, in partnership with ABCC the charity has installed secondary drainage on the cricket outfield, and will be erecting an outside permanent covering by the bar as an extended social area. We are in discussion with a number of organisations to improve our sanitary provision if we can raise the funds to do so, including installing a klargesters at the site.

Trustees are also aware that parking is now at a premium now that we will expect numbers using the whole facility to increase dramatically. Our prediction is up to 5 000 per annum. Future investment will be required as soon as we some available.

Maintenance and development of the site continues to be managed and executed entirely by volunteers, without whom this whole project would cease to exist or be improved.

Finally I feel I should make mention of the fact that the charity is currently struggling with its cash flow. We have, as we always have, spent the money we have received on what it has been given for. However we still are a going concern and will look to 2025 to restore our finances so as to maintain the grounds as fit for purpose.

Finally, ABSA will hold the fourth ABSA Festival on Saturday 07 JUN 2025. Our laser focus is now the Clubhouse build project which we will be putting new plans forward to ESBC as well as current environmental studies and papers by the summer of 2025. We hope Abbots Bromley Parish Council alongside our generous and supporting parishioners will join us to have some fun and to raise more money for this community initiative.

Sat 7th June 2025

TICKETS (EARLY BIRD until 31 MAR 2025)

£20.00 Adults

£12.50 Children (5-17)

Free (Children 4 and under)

TICKETS (FULL PRICE from 01 APR 2025)

£25.00 Adults

£15.00 Children (5-17)

Free (Children 4 and under)



What's On

Village Events Calendar

ABSA

Wed 09 APR 2025

Multi-court planning meeting
Hosted by Sporting PB
7:00PM, Village Hall

Wed 04 MAY 2025

Grand Opening of the Multi-Use Court
1100AM, ABSA Sports Ground

Sat 07 JUN 2025

ABSAFest25
ABSA Sports Ground

Parish Council

Wed 26 MAR 2025

Meeting
7:00PM
Village Hall

Wed 30 APR 2025

Assembly
6:30PM Refreshments
7:00PM Start
Village Hall



Abbots Bromley RBL

Thu 08 MAY 2025

VE Day 80 Commemoration

The AB Bellringers will be ringing in support of the commemoration, and the AB Nostalgia Team will host a post-commemoration gathering in Church House.

Village Hall

Thu 10 APR 2025

AGM
7:00-9:00PM

Fri 11 APR 2025

Chocolate Bingo (Organised by
Abbots Bromley Scout Group)
6:00PM (Doors open)

Sat 26 APR 2025

Quiz Night
7:00PM
Contact Sue Washbourne for tickets
Tel: 07909 785018

Sat 10 MAY 2025

**Calypso Moon Jazz and
Swing Band**

7:30PM
Call for tickets
Tel: 01283 840567 or 07790 912255



200 Club

Every month the Village Hall Committee runs a raffle for the chance to win three prizes of £25 and a grand prize of £50.

The 200 club has a maximum number of 200 participants entered into a monthly draw which takes place each calendar month at the Village Hall Committee meeting. There are four numbers drawn, three of which win a £25 prize and the fourth wins £50. One number costs £12 for a year – and there are a few numbers still available! If you'd like to take part and have the chance of winning please email us at abvillagehall@gmail.com

Winning numbers are published monthly in the Parish Magazine.




Best Kept Village Community Competition



BKV Meeting

19 MAR 2025

6:00-7:00PM, Church House

The Best Kept Village & Community competition aims to develop and highlight a sense of pride amongst local people in Staffordshire. It illustrates and emphasises how much voluntary work is undertaken to keep our counties beautiful, and how communities work together to make where they live desirable and a place, they are proud to call home.

Lots of award categories!

Spirit of BKVC Awards

These are based on how we present what happens in our area. The entry may have an environmental message, or something that celebrates the area in which we live.

Picture this competition (5-7 years)

Picture this competition (8-11 years)

This can be a drawing, painting or poster. A maximum of three entries per age group per village.

Vision of BKVC (Young people, 11-17)

Vision of BKVC (Adults, 18 and over)

A video, painting, drawing, tapestry, cross-stitch, poetry and prose or short stories.

Living Countryside Awards

Sponsored by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

Inspiring Groups

Recognises groups, leading on environmental issues, e.g. local community campaign groups fighting for better services, groups offering advice to residents on matters such as planning, groups maintaining green spaces, etc.

Trailblazer Award

Recognises individual going the extra mile to protect their local countryside, providing significant contributions to projects, or working to maintain parks or local facilities.

Made in Rural Staffordshire Award

Celebrates local businesses, who provide local produce, adding value to our local economy.

Countryside of Camera Award (Children)

Countryside of Camera Award (Adults)

Submit your best photo of the Staffordshire countryside.



Would you like to be a part of Abbots Bromley BKV 2025? Applications are open from 01 MAR 2025, and we're looking for a dedicated team to oversee the village's entry. Come along to the BKV meeting and share your ideas!

Village Clubs & Societies

★ Abbots Bromley Badminton Club

MEETS:
Wednesday mornings
Village Hall

CONTACT:
Anthea Blower
Tel: 01283 840624



★ Abbots Bromley Book Club

MEETS:
Third Monday bimonthly
7:30PM | Church House



★ Abbots Bromley Bowls Club

CONTACT:
Carol Bradford
Tel: 01283 840510



★ Abbots Bromley Community Choir

MEETS:
Second and fourth
Thursday of the month
6:30PM | St. Nicholas Church

CONTACT:
Jane Morris
janermorris@yahoo.co.uk



★ Abbots Bromley Friendship Group

MEETS:
First and third Tuesdays of the month
2:00-4:00PM | Church House

CONTACT:
M. Allaker
Tel: 01283 840936



★ Abbots Bromley Garden Club

Formerly Abbots Bromley Produce Guild

MEETS:
Second Wednesday in the month
7:30PM | Church House

CONTACT:
Kath Cadman
Tel: 01283 840606



★ Abbots Bromley Golf Society

CONTACT:
Andy Kirkland
Tel: 01283 840699 or 07960 116599



★ Abbots Bromley Historical Society



MEETS:
Last Wednesday of the month
7:30PM | Church House

CONTACT:
Janice Rea
Tel: 07484 793792
Email: janrea@hotmail.com

★ Abbots Bromley Indoor Bowls Club (18 years+)

MEETS:
Friday or Sunday
7:00-9:00PM | Village Hall

CONTACT:
Arthur Tindle: 07923 506000
John Thorndyke: 07531 191735
Barry Joynes: 01283 840070



★ Abbots Bromley Ladies Club

MEETS:
Normally the third Thursday of the month
2:30PM | Church House

CONTACT:
Karen Hill
Tel: 01889 586379
Email: mksm.hill@googlemail.com



★ Abbots Bromley Women's Institute

MEETS:
Second Monday of the month
7:00PM | Church House

CONTACT:
Alison Bramley
Tel: 01283 841067
Email: aabramley@hotmail.com



Village Clubs

For tiddlers to teens!

(4-7
years)

Abbots Bromley Rainbows

Fridays | 4:00-5:00PM | Church House

Jenny Simmonds

Tel: 01283 840887

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069851853517

(7-10
years)

Abbots Bromley Brownies

Fridays | Church House

Jo Fox

Tel: 07582 158399

(10-14
years)

Abbots Bromley Guides

Mondays | 7:00-8:30PM | Scout Hut

Emma Catterall

Tel: 01283 840358

(6-8
years)

Abbots Bromley Beavers

Tuesdays | 6:00-7:15PM | Scout Hut

Simon Wilson

Tel: 07962 401224

The Beavers are active and do activities inside our regular meeting place, go on day visits, and even have occasional sleepovers! We play games, do crafts, make new friends, explore the outdoors and create things.

(8-10½
years)

Abbots Bromley Cubs

Tuesdays | 6:30-7:30PM | Scout Hut

Simon Wilson

Tel: 07962 401224

Email: cubs@abbotsbromleyscouts.com

Cubs do a wide range of activities, including the occasional camp. Activities range from arts and crafts to climbing and abseiling to kayaking and sailing – we like to give the cubs an experience of the adventure that scouting has to offer!

(10-14½
years)

Abbots Bromley Scouts

Wednesdays | 7:00-8:30PM | Scout Hut

Rebecca Male

Tel: 07913 355072

Email: scouts@abbotsbromleyscouts.com

<http://abbotsbromley.scoutsites.org.uk/>

facebook.com/abbotsbromleyscouts

(14-18
years)

Abbots Bromley Explorers

To register interest:

Ed Bayliss

Tel: 07768 046582



The Rainbows doing activities related to The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch



Beavers learning fire safety



Cubs making and flipping pancakes!



Cubs and scouts aiming for their emergency first aid badge

Village Clubs

For sports enthusiasts



Abbots Bromley Football Club

Mark Hurst Snr
Tel: 01283 840210



Mark Hurst Jr
Tel: 07956 501364
abbotsbromleyfc.co.uk

Abbots Bromley Junior Football Club

Nigel Richards
Tel: 01283 840142
Email: abjuniorsfc.secretary@gmail.com
absasport.co.uk/abfc-junior



Abbots Bromley Cricket Club

Abbots Bromley Junior Cricket Club

Kassie Tracey (Secretary)
Tel: 07970 183205

facebook.com/abbotsbromleycc/



Abbots Bromley Sports Association

Chris Woods (Chair)
Tel: 07770 488975
Email: chris_wood53@live.co.uk
absasport.co.uk
facebook.com/AbbotsBromleySportsAssociation



Abbots Bromley Netball Club

Susan Mayman
Tel: 07973 791943
facebook.com/groups/331003893671840



Abbots Bromley Tennis Club

Tony Rawlinson (Chair)
Tel: 07544 266330
Email: tony.rawlinson@btopenworld.com
Judy Smith (Secretary)
Tel: 07496 913751
Email: judysmith.abromley@gmail.com
abbotsbromleytennisclub.co.uk



Other Village Organisations

Abbots Bromley Village Hall

Liz Lampard (Secretary)
Tel: 01283 840567
Rose Maidstone (Bookings)
Tel: 07794 422996 (9:00AM-9:00PM)



Abbots Bromley Fire Station

Sara Wilkinson (Watch manager)
Tel: 07956 111633
staffordshirefire.gov.uk



Abbots Bromley First Responders

Rob Stevenson
Tel: 07800 849237
www.wmas.nhs.uk



Royal British Legion

Tom Wheeldon (Branch chair)
Tel: 01283 840096

Abbots Bromley Church House

Gill Grundy (Bookings)
Tel: 01283 840208



St. Nicholas Fundraising

Martin Godfrey (Chair)
Tel: 01283 840771



Parish Council News



Rise in precept 2025/26

The PC met in NOV 2024 to plan the Budget for 2025/26, and agreed to a rise in the precept of £2,909 due to inflation and the purchase of supplies required.

The main costs of the PC other than staffing and insurance costs are the cost of maintaining the grounds within the parish and maintaining the parks and open spaces. As the parks age maintenance costs grow but Abbots Bromley is proud of its parks and want to continue to provide this equipment.

The PC also has responsibility for some large and very old trees which may require works in the near future as such we need to ensure that funds are in place should expensive works be required.

A prudent budget was set, which ensured that necessary expenses are provided for whilst trying to minimise other costs to ensure any rise in precept is fair.

The budget increase of £2,909 ensures that the PC can continue to provide its services and maintains reserves should any unforeseen events occur. This results in an increase for residents of £3.42 per council tax paying household, based on a band D property for the year.

Councillor vacancies

Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor? Are you interested in local affairs and dedicated to helping the Parish? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Due to the recent departures of councillors, we now have two vacancies. The positions are voluntary, but the work involved and insights gained into supporting the parish are extremely rewarding.

Councillors meet monthly, normally at the end of the month, and discuss a vast array of issues that affect the parish. If you're interested, please reach out for more information:

parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Call for nominations!

to parish.council@abbotsbromley.com
by **01 APR 2025**



Jubilee Cup

Outstanding contribution to the village by an organisation or business

Millennium Cup

Outstanding contribution to the village by an individual

BROMLEY BULLETIN AVAILABLE ONLINE
abbotsbromley.com

Thank you to readers for your continued support of the
Bromley Bulletin.

Parish Council

Our responsibilities

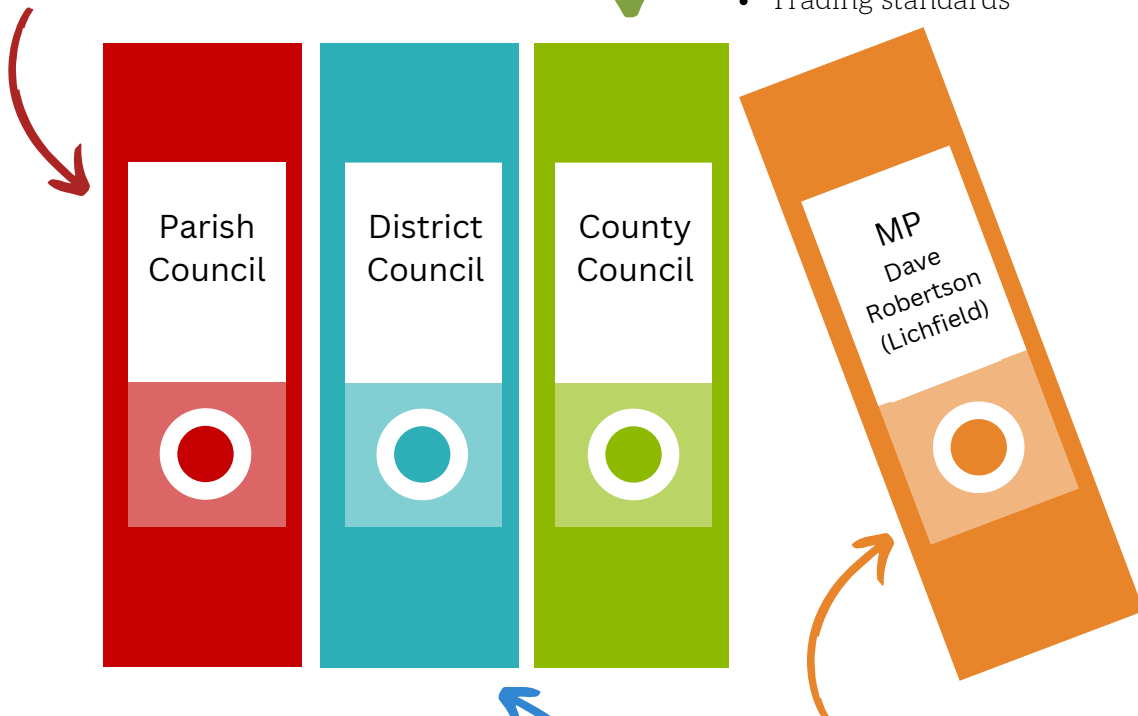
Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Local level: Grassroots governance

- Local amenities (allotments, cemeteries, playgrounds)
- Street lighting, minor road maintenance
- Residential support
- Neighbourhood plan
- Bus shelters, footpaths
- Local bins and litter
- Community events
- Planning application review
- Grants to local groups and charities

Upper tier: Large-scale services

- Education and school placements
- Social services
- Adult social care
- Highways and transport
- Public health
- Libraries and archives
- Emergency planning
- Fire and rescue services
- Waste disposal
- Street lighting
- Trading standards



Middle-tier: Local services and planning

- Economic development
- Housing
- Local planning and development
- Environment health
- Leisure and culture
- Voting and elections
- Council tax
- Benefits
- Licencing
- Community safety
- District parks and open spaces

National level: Legislative representation

- Legislation and policy development
- constituency representation
- Government scrutiny
- Casework and support
- Campaigning and advocacy
- Attending Parliamentary sessions
- Working with local councils

Dave Robertson:
 Email: dave.robertson.mp@parliament.uk
[https://members.parliament.uk/member/5126/co](https://members.parliament.uk/member/5126/contact)
 ntact

Farming Life

Cllr Teresa Froggatt

It's been a challenging time for the farming community over the last few months. Firstly blue tongue reared its ugly head again. It is a disease that mainly affects sheep and cows and is transmitted by insects. Fortunately there are no harmful effects to humans. This led to movement restrictions in many parts of the UK but luckily hasn't as yet reached here.

We're now entering the bird flu season and already cases are being reported across the UK. Zones are in place and birds are being culled to try to prevent its spread. Anyone who keeps birds outside including householders with one or two backyard chickens are now required by law to register them so that in the event of a local outbreak the location of these birds is known. If you have chickens or other poultry in your back garden then please ensure that they are registered appropriately.

Sheep are heavily pregnant at this time of year and any stress can lead them to abort. We've had some of our own sheep within the village worried by loose dogs so please keep your dogs on a lead. Also sheep are liable to get stuck on their backs so if you see one on its back please roll it over or let the farmer know. There have been cases of attempted sheep theft and so if you see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, however trivial it may appear, please report it immediately to the police and/or local farmers.

The budget brought its own challenges to the farming community with the changes to inheritance tax, meaning many family farms will no longer be able to be passed down to future generations as they could be previously.

A number of local farmers went to London in November for a march, and the NFU lobby MPs to voice their opposition to these changes.

Back British Farming has been busy this autumn. Buying British and buying local is good for everyone- producer and consumer, and also good for everyone's carbon footprint and therefore the environment.

Ending on a more positive note on Sunday 15 DEC 2024, Uttoxeter JNFU hosted a Charity Christmas Tractor and Land Rover Run from Harts Farm in Abbots Bromley by kind permission of the Pratt Family.

A huge team effort ensued after villagers and farmers alike expressed their disappointment at the lack of a tractor run through the village this year. The hard work commenced in November and community spirit prevailed with over 100 vehicles entered and lots of offers of generous sponsorship.

To date the total raised is £4,272 with more money to come in. The hope is to reach £5K, which will be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and Uttoxeter JNFU. The organisers would like to extend their thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Wishing you a great 2025 from your local farming community.

THANKS to those who:

- pick up other people's litter
- look after Narrow Lane
- support wildlife in their gardens
- willingly give their time to support our village organisations
- stock and maintain our village planters

Please be considerate and close gates behind you, especially in Gallimore's Field and the churchyard. This will go a long way to contributing to community well-being.

Planning matters

Do I need planning permission for a shed office?

Cllr Keith Baker

In terms of planning permission, a garden office will typically fall under what is known as permitted development rights. This means you can usually avoid a traditional planning application unless your home is either listed, or located within a protected area. It's always worth checking with your council's planning office first, however.



Under permitted development rights, the highest point must be no more than four metres if it has a dual pitched roof, or three metres for any other type of roof. Within permitted development rights there are also certain rules to be aware of.

- **First**, the eaves of the building must be no higher than 2.5 metres, whilst the highest point must be no more than four metres if it has a dual pitched roof, or three metres for any other type of roof.
- **Second**, the floor area must not exceed 15 square metres - otherwise you may require building control sign-off to show the structure fits within building regulations.
- **Third**, a garden office cannot contain a sleeping area and must not be used as a separate dwelling unit.
- **Fourth**, a garden office would only fall within permitted development rights if the building doesn't cover more than 50 per cent of the existing outside space. To slightly complicate matters this 50 per cent rule is backdated to also include any extension or outbuilding added since 01 JUL 1948, so you'll also need to consider any past extensions made since then.
- **Finally**, any structure with plumbing and electrics will also require building control sign-off.

Building regulations cover things like fire safety, sound, ventilation, drainage and waste disposal among other things. As with anything it is always best to consult with ESBC's planning department, or with a development specialist to seek advice on planning matters.

Departure

Due to other commitments Cllr Catherine Brown has made the difficult decision to step down from the parish council. Catherine made important contributions to the Parish Council, and we're sad to see her go, but wish her all the very best!

Trees in Conservation Areas

Cllr Keith Baker

It may be a good time to reproduce an article that appeared in December 2023's Bulletin. For those living in the Conservation Area, or in listed buildings, this is a reminder that any tree work needs the consent of ESBC's planners. All trees in Conservation Areas, are protected by law. This also applies to trees in the curtilage of listed buildings.

When consulting with the community during the writing of our Neighbourhood Plan, it was very apparent that many were concerned with the disappearance of trees from the parish. In order to have any work done on a tree—pruning, lopping, felling, crown reduction—a Section 211 Notice has to be applied for from the Local Authority's planning office. The contact number for ESBC'S planners is 01283 508644. The planner will assess the application. If the LPA objects to a notice then a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is made. In deciding the outcome of an application a planner will consider: amenity value; retention span; relative public visual and amenity.

"Amenity" is a value judgement, and "visibility" is one of the criteria. So too is size and form; future potential as an amenity; rarity, cultural and historic value; contribution to, and relationship with, the landscape; contribution to the character or appearance of a Conservation area. Other factors include the importance to nature conservation or response to climate change.

ESBC's planners are reasonable people and will listen sympathetically to your reasons for wanting work done on a tree. Remember, though, that work should not be done without their consent.

The Parish Council is aware that many trees in the parish not protected by planning laws have been felled. If you're considering felling a tree, please ask yourself whether consent would have been granted were the tree to have been in the Conservation Area. If it wouldn't, then we'd urge you to preserve it for the sake of wildlife and the future enjoyment of others.

Nature Corner

Cllr Keith Baker

You'll now be aware that Gallimore's Field has been purchased by the Village Hall Trustees on behalf of our community. We now need to decide what uses to put it to. If any of the following are proposed and accepted, would you be willing to:

- set up and run a community garden?
- to help establish a wild flower corner?
- help create a picnic area?
- manage a nature conservation area?

The trustees need your suggestions and, more importantly, your commitment to help set up and maintain the field. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact lizlampard@yahoo.co.uk

Gallimore's Field

The Village Hall Trustees are delighted to announce that Gallimore's Field now belongs to the Abbots Bromley community. With the help of generous donors, fabulous fundraising events and a support loan from the Village Hall funds the village now has a central green space for perpetuity that is protected from development and available for all to use. Now is the fun bit of working out what you want to do with the land in order make the most of it.

There will be a suggestion box within the Village Hall when it is open, you can email abvillagehall@gmail.com or just pop your suggestions through the letterbox. There's also a bit of work still to be done to raise funds to honour the loan and fund whatever you, as a community, decide you want so don't be shy. The Village Hall Trustees will need community support to develop and maintain the field. If you can help in any way then please let us know.

Liz Lampard, Secretary
lizlampard@yahoo.co.uk

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 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 Edward Rodway-Bowden (Vice chair)

erodwaybowdenabpc@gmail.com ★★☆☆

Vacant (Councillor)

Two positions

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)



Editor: Helen Lockey

Our next newsletter will be published in Summer 2025. 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 JUN 2025.

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