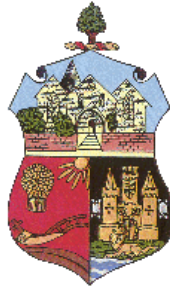


# Bramley Parish Council

serving the community since 1894



Village Hall  
Hall Road  
Bramley, Surrey  
GU5 0AX  
Tel/fax: (01483) 894138  
Email: [clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk)  
[www.bramleyparish.co.uk](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk)

## BRAMLEY UPDATE

November 2023

News from Bramley and Grafham brought to you by Bramley Parish Council

Welcome to Bramley Update! Something you'd like to put into the next edition, or comments about what you'd like to see in it? Email [bramleyupdate@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyupdate@gmail.com).

Friends or family in Bramley? Think they'd like to see this email? Please suggest they subscribe (see below). Do you belong to a society or club? You can use this to publicise your events. There's no charge for subscribing or contributing to Bramley Update.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Sunday 12th November - There will be the Act of Remembrance at Bramley War Memorial, from 10:50am, followed by a service in Holy Trinity church, Bramley shortly after 11.00.
- Thursday 16th November - Full Council meeting and Planning Review committee meeting 6.00pm, Bramley Village Hall Meeting Room. All welcome.
- Saturday 23rd December 2023 4.45pm - Bramley's Biennial Outdoor Nativity Play. Summerpool House

### WHAT'S HAPPENED?

#### Bramley Parish Council update

At the Parish Council meeting in October, a number of matters were discussed, including:

- Surrey County Councillor Kevin Deanus stated re 20 mile per hour speed limit – SCC met with 20 is plenty Select Committee, police, fire & PCC. Surrey has the highest death rate of all counties for cyclists & pedestrians, albeit is one of the most densely populated. There is a lot of support for the 20 mile speed limit in appropriate places eg schools. They hope to take the proposal to full council in December & open 3 month public consultation in January. Councillor Deanus also reported that Surrey Police is going to launch a new policing strategy which will deal with minor crimes and anti-social behaviour.
- Waverley Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge advised that The Department for Housing and Levelling Up has confirmed Waverley is no longer under threat of being placed Special Measures (removal of powers) as its planning performance for applications has improved just above the threshold.

Councillor Goodridge highlighted that problems at Waverley Borough Council continue - the planning department is the UK's 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Council for planning staff turnover at 47% this year, with Guildford not far behind in 5<sup>th</sup> place at 40%. Issues with staff morale stemming from the ongoing merger /

collaboration with Guildford BC continue - as the joint governance risk register demonstrates. Councillor Goodridge also highlighted concerns that senior staff are spending more time with GBC than WBC.

- The ongoing issues at Guildford Borough Council were discussed. Guildford BC is the subject of investigation following revelations of £ millions lost / overspent in the housing department, allegations of fraud and Officers being suspended. Separately Guildford had a £10m accounting error. Together these issues combined meant that Guildford BC is currently trying to avert the threat of bankruptcy.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Thames Water Outage

We experienced a tough weekend following the Thames Water outage for an area covering over 12,000 homes, including much of Bramley. Councillor Jane Austin is pleased to report that Shalford treatment plant is now fully back up and running. Guildford seems to be experiencing restoration of water pressure and the whole system is slowly refilling, but it will take a number of hours to restore pressure across the entire affected area and full service is expected to have resumed by tonight. In the last couple of days many people have acted to help elderly or vulnerable in our village to ensure they have water - thank you! Going forwards (hopefully this won't happen again) please ask any vulnerable / elderly people to register with Thames Water as vulnerable - so they should then automatically get water drops if problems arise.

### A big thank you to the Bonfire Committee and everyone who helped at the bonfire on Saturday.

It was a really great display and the rain held off until the end which was very lucky!. Thanks to Phil Baker the Bonfire Committee Chair and his entire team for working so hard to make it happen - well organised and safe. Please click [here](#) to see photos of the event.

### Bramley Fuel Leak Update

We continue to experience the smell of fuel and fuel in the stream in wet weather conditions. Councillor Jane Austin continues to liaise with all parties, including the Environment Agency.

The Petrol Station's Consultants, EPS continue their investigations in trying to ascertain the movement and amount of fuel pollution in the groundwater; you may have seen contractors digging boreholes in recent weeks at locations along the High Street and close to the stream. Please click on this [link](#) for their update note.

We will continue to keep you updated as soon as we have any news on this. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Councillor Austin at [jane.austin@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:jane.austin@waverley.gov.uk).

In the meantime if you see or smell fuel please continue to log it with the Environment Agency [here](#) as the evidence continues with their ongoing investigation.

### Bramley Christmas Ball - SAVE THE DATE!

We are delighted to confirm the Bramley Village Fundraising Ball is to be held this year on the 16th December, with the venue again kindly offered by St Catherine's School. This is the social event of the year - last year we were fully sold out so get that date in the diary and register interest for your table. tickets are £50 - please email [bramleyfete@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyfete@gmail.com) to book.

### Bramley Lift Bridges Opened - Wey and Arun Canal

On Saturday 28th October a great crowd of Bramley local residents were delighted to attend the grand opening of the Birtley Lift Bridges - and they even avoided the rain!

We have all watched over the last 4 years as, undeterred by Covid, rivers of mud and, sadly, episodes of vandalism, Wey and Arun Canal Trust volunteers have worked hard to create the circular canal walk just south of Bramley so many of us now enjoy. Two new hydraulic lift bridges have been installed at each end of this

circular route; Bridge 1 at the southern end and Bridge 2 to the north. This bridge significantly upgrades access between Shamley Green and Bramley via the Downlink.

A big thank you to Bramley's own [Margaret Darvill](#) for brilliantly project managing, and also Dennis Gillan of the WACT. It was great to see the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Surrey Mary Cresswell cut the cord and watch people take their first steps over the new lowered access bridge - and even a few canoeists travel under it too. Please click [Here](#) to see photos of the bridges and the event.

### **Bramley Post Office temporary closure Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 5.00pm – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00am**

For further information please visit their Consultation Hub via the link below:

[Consultation Hub - Bramley GU5 0HE](#)

### **Henry Smith Charity – Bramley branch**

The Henry Smith Charity was founded in 1628 by Henry Smith, a businessman working in the City of London, to combat disadvantage and meet the challenges and opportunities facing people in need throughout the UK. Part of the charity's fund is dedicated to awarding grants to relieve financial hardship in around 200 specific parishes named by Henry and his early trustees.

The parish of Bramley is one of these parishes. Members of the Parish Council are the Trustees of the Bramley branch of the Henry Smith Charity and have a small fund to help those in need who live in the parish of Bramley.

Grant applications for individuals or families must be proposed by a community organisation such as a school, church, the Citizens Advice Bureau, charity, or other community group (e.g. Brownies, Scouts, etc).

If you are part of a community organisation and know of anyone who is really struggling financially, particularly in the current climate, please contact the Clerk at [clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk) to see if the charity can help by awarding a small grant. All discussions will be in the strictest confidence.

As applications received directly from residents cannot be accepted, those who are facing financial hardship and do not have a link with a community organization are requested instead to contact the Parish Clerk

at [clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@bramleyparish.co.uk) for further guidance or Bramley Helping Hand who may be of assistance.

### **Eastwood Road Playground (Bramley Train Park) Survey**

A huge thank you from Bramley Train Park Committee to everyone who took the time to fill in the survey and for the many wonderful offers of help!. The survey has now closed but we received 159 responses which is absolutely fantastic! Our next steps are to review the responses so we can move forwards with fundraising and a final playground design. We will keep you posted!

### **News from St Catherine's School**

Visitors are warmly invited to the St Catherine's PTA Christmas Fair on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 10am to 4pm. We have lots of lovely small independent businesses coming to join us for the day alongside delicious food and refreshments, entertainment, children's activities and a fabulous raffle. The perfect place to do your Christmas shopping! St Catherine's School, Station Road, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0DF. £3 entry - under 18s free.

For more details see [here](#)

### **News from South West Surrey Citizens Advice.**

The beginning of a lifeline for those experiencing domestic abuse. Please see [here](#) for more information.

## **The Wintershall Nativity Journey 13-18 December 2023**

For more details please visit their website [Home | Wintershall Estate](#)

### **News from Holy Trinity, Bramley**

Please feel free to contact the Revd Andy Davis [revd.andydavis@gmail.com](mailto:revd.andydavis@gmail.com)

07709919602 01483892109

### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Remembrance Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> November) there will be the usual services at 8.00 and 9.45 (both with a Remembrance theme) and then the Village Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial (around 10.50am) followed by a Remembrance Service in church.

### **Bramley Village Carol Service on Sunday 10th December at 6pm.**

Rehearsals for anyone who would like to sing with the choir for the Carol Service will be held on Friday evenings in church. They will commence on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will continue each Friday until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. They will last for just one hour from 6pm-7pm. All sheet music will be provided.

We welcome and invite anyone who would like to join the regular choir to come to these rehearsals. No experience is necessary, you don't have to read music and all ages are welcome.

If you like singing Christmas Carols then please come and join us - make new friends and enjoy some fun. Any queries, email Jill at [jillym07@gmail.com](mailto:jillym07@gmail.com)

### **Revd Andy's Departure**

As announced on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September and followed by an explanatory email to church members, for personal and family reasons, Andy will be moving in the new year to Portsmouth Diocese, to become Interim Priest-in-Charge (initial 3-year appointment) of the Meon Valley Parishes in Hampshire – based at St Barnabas Church, Swanmore. But he looks forward to marking the rest of the year here in Bramley: All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, Advent, and of course our Christmas Services and events. Area Dean Roy, churchwarden Sue Oldrey and Revd Graham Smith are already planning ahead to provide for our regular services and other aspect of parish life.

### **Would you like to receive their weekly email, with the church news? If so, please email**

**Andy:** [revd.andydavis@gmail.com](mailto:revd.andydavis@gmail.com)

Do have a look at our re-vamped Website, for all church and community information

<https://www.holytrinitybramley.org.uk/>

You can also find "Holy Trinity Bramley" on Facebook.

Love and blessings to everyone.....

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

There is a service every Sunday at St Andrew's at 10.45am. Everybody is always very welcome at any of the services.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday 10.55am

Ceremonies at the War Memorial in the churchyard followed by a service in church.

Please see the website [www.standrewsgrafham.org.uk](http://www.standrewsgrafham.org.uk) for more details or contact the Revd Camilla White on [camillaezwhite@gmail.com](mailto:camillaezwhite@gmail.com) or 01483 892645.

Bramley Update is usually circulated between the 4th and 7th of each month. If you have a contribution to the content of a future issue, please send it to [bramleyupdate@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyupdate@gmail.com) by the end of the preceding month.

Details about future events taking place in Bramley and its immediate vicinity are welcome, as are news items that would be of interest to residents of Bramley. Adverts for job opportunities and information about events outside of our area will not be published.

Best wishes

Bramley Parish Council  
[www.bramleyparish.co.uk](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk)

If you wish to SUBSCRIBE, email [bramleyupdate@gmail.com](mailto:bramleyupdate@gmail.com) including your name and address in the email.

If you wish to discuss any matters with a parish councillor, their full contact details are available on the parish website [www.bramleyparish.co.uk](http://www.bramleyparish.co.uk).

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