

This newsletter is written on behalf of Brook Parish Council and is delivered to all households in Brook. Some parts are repeated in each newsletter so that newcomers to the village are informed about village issues, events and activities.

YOUR PARSH COUNCILLORS.

Here are a few words of introduction to some of your Parish Councillors. We usually meet every two months, on the 3rd Thursday of the month, in Brook Village Hall (please check previous minutes for dates). All residents are invited to attend.

SIMON BETTY (Chair)

Simon and his family have lived in Brook since 1994 and has been a Brook parish councillor since 2014. He became the Chair of the parish council in May 2023 having previously been Vice-Chair. He was a Chartered Surveyor for 34 years before retiring in 2020 having spent most of his career working in property investment. Simon was elected as the Ashford Borough Council ward member for Bircholt in the 2023 May local elections.

JANET JESSOP (Vice Chair)

Janet moved to Brook in 2010 and was immediately impressed by the friendliness of both her immediate neighbours and other residents of Brook. She found it easy to meet up and get involved in village activities. She was co-opted onto Brook Parish Council in March 2014 shortly after her retirement as a Biomedical Scientist at the William Harvey Hospital. Now, having served for 10 years she intends to stand down from the Parish Council.

ADRIENNE BETTY

Adrienne trained as a Food Scientist and worked in the food industry for 10 years. She was previously a Brook parish councillor between 1996 and 2005 and rejoined the parish council in May 2023. She has been a Justice of the Peace since 2006 and was a school governor for 12 years.

The other Councillors are Fran Penberthy, Pete Penberthy and Alison Wood.

CARETAKER'S CORNER



Brook Parish Council contributes to the Village Caretaker Scheme shared by the neighbouring parishes of Brabourne, Brook, Mersham and Smeeth. In Brook, you will often see Paul on Mondays busily keeping the grass on the playing field and village green mown, as well as attending to other village caretaking activities, as directed by the Caretaker Committee. Here, Paul gives his own update;

The end of October saw the last mowing of the grass at Brook. The rain started and hasn't really stopped since then. Cutting back trees on the green and trees around the playing field at the village hall kept me going until Christmas.

Having just completed washing the road signs and road name signs, I'm now ready for this year's mowing.

Our thanks go to David who has made the area by the hall look really fantastic. Much appreciated.

WHAT'S NEW

PARISH MEETING

The Brook Parish Meeting will take place at 7pm on 23rd April in the Village Hall. The parish meeting is a meeting that all the electors in a civil parish in England are entitled to attend. It is a legal requirement for every parish in England to hold a parish meeting and is a direct form of democracy. The meeting will offer the opportunity for parishioners to hear presentations from their elected representatives such as the County, Borough and Parish Councillors, from organisations from within the village and to ask any questions. You are all very welcome to attend.

THE ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY REPORT

For some years now, the trees growing within Brook recreation ground are subject to a regular health and safety survey. The Parish Council, as the land owner, has a duty of care' to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury that might occur from tree breakage. The last survey was carried out on Wednesday 10th January 2024 and the report was issued to the Parish Council. Of the 57 trees identified, just one was identified as requiring remedial work; an apple tree required the removal of some dead wood within a recommended 3 month time period.

UPDATE ON CHANGES TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.

The new Ashford Borough Council (ABC) waste management contract commenced on 25th March 2024, when SUEZ took over refuse collection services from Biffa. All households in Brook should have received notification about what changes to expect in a guide. A letter explaining the change to the day of collection (now Wednesday), should also have been put through your door. You may have noticed that the dog poo bin, which was on the village green, has been replaced by a standard waste bin. This bin will take dog poo bags as well as ordinary black bin waste.

D-DAY 80 BEACON LIGHTING

Thursday 6th June. In remembrance of the 80-year anniversary of the D-Day landings. The beacon lighting will take place on the village recreation field at 9pm.

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN BROOK?

BROOK VILLAGE HALL

For information regarding the organisation, running, and activities taking place in the village hall, visit the village hall website <https://brookvillagehall.org/>

PRIVATE HIRE OF BROOK VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is available for hire, for private functions and group activities. If you wish to book the hall for an event contact Janet Jessop on 01233 812650.

COFFEE MORNINGS

First Friday of every month from 10.30am to 12pm.

The popular village coffee morning, organised by Betty Joynson, takes place in the village hall. It is a place where residents of the village (or visitors) can enjoy refreshments and conversation with friends and neighbours. A friendly welcome will await you, as well as freshly brewed coffee and tea with home-made cakes.

CLASSES at the village hall include; YOGA; Monday evening and Wednesday evening. PILATES; Thursday morning and LIFE ART; Thursdays evening

OTHER EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2nd May The hall will be used as a Polling Station.
Saturday 11th May GARDEN MAINTENANCE Working party volunteers required, from 2pm.
Saturday 20th July VILLAGE BARBECUE.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BROOK

You are invited to look around our beautiful church which is left unlocked on most days. Could you spare a few hours to join the small team of volunteers who clean the church? It amounts to just a few sessions a year but keeps this lovely building looking well cared for. Please contact Bonnie Tomkins on 813561.

SERVICES are held as follows:

Parish Communion on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11am.
Everyone is most welcome to attend services.

There is a special weekend of choral music by Brook Occasionals;

Saturday 13th April; Brook Occasionals Concert 7pm (tbc)
Sunday 14th April; Brook Choral Celebration Service 11am

The Roman Catholic congregation from St Ambrose, Wye are also using the church for mass at 9.15am on the first and third Sundays. This is while St Ambrose is unable to be used.

THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from May to September. Free entry for Brook residents. Our interesting and historic museum is housed in a 14th century barn and a Victorian oast house. Volunteers to help are always appreciated. If you wish to join the team of museum volunteers to man the door and welcome visitors, or to be available to maintain / move exhibits when required, please contact Fran Penberthy at enquiries@brookruralmuseum.org.uk
EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM; Saturday 13th July MEDIEVAL FAYRE 10am – 3pm

MOBILE LIBRARIES

Organised by Kent Libraries, two vans visit the village fortnightly on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Sturry library van stops at the Honest Miller on alternate Tuesdays 10:35am – 11:05am. The Ashford library van stops by the village green on alternate Fridays 3:55pm – 4:25pm. For further details see <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

VILLAGE HELP

Brook Village Help is a well-used WhatsApp group which is an excellent way of contacting a number of villagers if you are in need of help or you wish to disseminate information related to the village. To be added to the group, please ask an existing member to add your mobile number.

BROOK BANTER

Brook Banter is a Facebook group, set up in 2013, which is also used by villagers wishing to advise or contact their neighbours.

OUR PLACE WYE

Our Place Wye is a Facebook group, based around our neighbouring village. It has a variety of threads from lost pets to notifications of road closures.

OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

WYE, BROOK, HINXHILL AND BOUGHTON ALUPH PARISH MAGAZINE

Keep up to date with events, news and contacts in Brook and our neighbouring villages by subscribing to the excellent Parish Magazine. Contact the Church Office on 01233 813793 (Mon – Fri 9.30 -1.30pm) or email office@wyebenefice.org.uk. Volunteers deliver to households in Brook. Alternatively, copies are available for sale at Wye Newsagents.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT BROOK ACTIVITIES

If you wish to keep up to date with activities in Brook, please look out for the following.

The village hall committee distribute flyers to all households in Brook and also posts events on the village hall website.

The notice board situated by the road entrance to the village hall is left open on one side to display current events. Parish Council notices are displayed on the other side of the notice board.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Please visit the Brook Parish Council website www.brookpc.org.uk where you can find the minutes of previous PC meetings and other issues relating to Brook. There is also an overview of the village of Brook, a little about its historical buildings and where to find further information.

If any community organisations would like to appear or have a link to the website, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk.brookpc@gmail.com. Minutes of meetings are also displayed on the village notice board.

GOING PAPERLESS?

If you would prefer to receive future editions of this newsletter by email rather than a paper copy delivered through your door, you can sign up for it now. Send your house name and email address to newsletter.brook@gmail.com

Any further enquiries about this newsletter, or if you wish to have an event published in the next issue, please contact clerk.brookpc@gmail.com.