

### **PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Parish Council met on 21 st November 2024 in Brockley Village Hall. Present were: Cllr. Steve Holmes, Cllr. Ray Dinsey, Cllr. Barry Tyler, Cllr. Sue Hudson, Cllr. Felicity Driver, Cllr. Geoffrey Baber and Cllr. Dr. Julie Wymer (Chair).

The meeting on the 21st is the time when councillor's consider the budget and precept for the following year and high on the agenda was the funding for the children's Playground.

### **REMINDER**

Please remember that the deadline for submitting content for the Newsletter is the 15th

### **CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

I am very pleased to be able to report that the Parish Council is now in receipt of 75% of the £20,000 required for the new play equipment. An extremely generous donation of £10,000 was made by the Brockley Charitable Trust and together with £5,000 from parish council funds we are left with a £5,000 deficit. An application for £5,000 has been made to West Suffolk Council and we hope to hear if we have been successful by Christmas.

The playground will be slightly reduced in size for two reasons:

1. The most expensive part of the playground is the surface and by cutting down the current footprint we can make the project more affordable, and
2. the trees that border the playground contribute to the deterioration of the play equipment and by moving part of the playground forward, from under the trees, we can try and avoid the algae, moss and bird poop from dropping all over the equipment. However, the extremely large poplar tree is sending up suckers into the playground area and we are in the process of getting the tree removed with a view to planting a small ornamental tree

which shouldn't give us the same problems.

The fence around the playground is to be repurposed for the time being as funds do not allow us to replace it. However, we will continue to seek further funding so we can replace the fence with a metal one and provide a children's picnic bench.

#### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

38 residents completed the questionnaire either on-line or a paper copy providing us with a 12.14% completion rate which is not a bad result given the population of Brockley is 313. Evaluation of the findings confirm that 92% of respondents have used the playground in the past by parents/grandparents and 73% agree that a new playground will improve the look of the surrounding area.

I wish to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the trustees of the Charitable Trust for their generous donation; to Gillian Leader for her brilliant work in writing a funding application for us to submit to West Suffolk Council and to village residents for supporting the playground project by completing the questionnaire – I am sure the new playground will be a great asset to the village and provide a lovely environment for children to play and learn for generations to come.

#### Picnic Benches

Two new picnic benches have been put together and are now in place beside the village hall. The heritage benches on the green have been lovingly restored by Sue Tyler and our thanks and appreciation go to her for improving the benches which you can now sit on! Enjoy.

#### PRECEPT/ BUDGET

Until the outcome of our bid to West Suffolk Council is known it is not possible to decide what the 2025/26 precept should be. Councillor's took the decision to defer setting the precept until the January 2025 meeting by which time we will have the financial facts in front of us.

If funding allows, we have several other projects we would like to progress.

#### TRAFFIC CALMING

Parish councillors met recently with County Councillor Bobby Bennett and Suffolk Highways to understand what measures we can consider in reducing the speed of traffic along Mill Road. We do have the option of carrying out a speed survey and putting a Speed Indicator Device somewhere along the road.

### BIODIVERSITY

To continue the good work which is going into rewilding the pond and surrounding area we hope to purchase some pond sedge plants and supplement the hedging whips if needed.

### VE DAY

May 5 th 2025 will be the 80 th celebration of VE Day and hopefully our trusty project team will be able to meet in January and come up with a plan.

### AND FINALLY... POTHOLES

The potholes that have appeared in Chapel Lane, past the Chapel and down to Coverack, have been reported via the reporting tool on Suffolk County Council website. The reporting tool is very easy to use, link below, so please use it if you spot an offending pothole.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=suffolk+highways+reporting+tool&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

As always, any matters or concerns you have that you think the Parish Council may be able to help with, please contact any parish councillor – Geoffrey Baber, Ray Dinsey, Felicity Driver, Sue Hudson, Steve Holmes, Barry Tyler and Julie Wymer.

On behalf of the Parish Council – Seasons Greetings to one and all.

Cllr. Dr. Julie Wymer

Chair – Brockley Parish Council

### VILLAGE HALL UPDATES

#### HALL HIRE INFORMATION

The Trustees have changed the evening hire times so that the latest the Hall can be hired is now 11 pm and all music must finish by this time. Originally it was midnight but this change has been made as a consideration to residents.

#### TV LICENCE

The Village Hall no longer has a TV licence as TV programmes are hardly ever shown in the Hall. However, we have recently learned that we also have to have an additional MPCL licence to cover copyright in the programmes, which would cost us almost an additional £400. This is a recent ruling that many Village Halls are only just finding out about and seems very unfair and appears to apply to business premises including Charities.

The Trustees are always trying to ensure that the Hall is run on a solid financial footing so we didn't feel £559 for the two licences, just to be able occasionally to show a TV programme, was good value.

### WINTER SUPPORT FUND

West Suffolk Council have again invited us to apply for their Winter Support Fund, a fund to support local people through the winter by providing a warm space for the Community to meet and provide hot drinks and food where possible. We were successful with our application and have been awarded £1400 to be used for the specific uses described above.

The Village Hall Trustees are pleased to be able to offer free hall hire to all regular clubs for January, February and March and to support the Carols Round the Tree in December by covering the cost of the Hall hire and the food and drink. Please note this is for Community events and does not cover non-resident bookings, private parties or events that are raising money. In addition to the above support the Trustees have already agreed to buy the Village Christmas Tree this year from Hall funds, many thanks to Andrew English who is organising this.

### PENSION CREDIT

The Council have asked us to advertise the availability of Pension Credit as an estimated 800,000 people are eligible for it but not receiving it. ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE?

With the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment only people on Pension Credit will get the one-off Winter Fuel Payment this year. Getting Pension Credit opens the door to additional benefits such as help with the cost of dental work, glasses and transport to hospital; help with rent or mortgage interest; and help paying Council Tax. Not to mention a free TV licence for those aged 75 and over.

A lot of people think if they have savings they won't be entitled, but that is not always the case. The Council encourages you to check if you are eligible by using the contact information on the poster in this newsletter.

### What about people who are not entitled to Pension Credit?

There is additional support throughout West Suffolk available to Communities who may find themselves vulnerable this winter. The Government Funded Household Support Fund has been extended to March 2025 and is an allocation of funding given to Suffolk County Council to support people who are experiencing hardship or struggling with rising costs. Suffolk County Council allocates Household Support Fund money to residents in a number of ways including Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, help with food, heating, clothing, fuel and white goods, Warm Homes Suffolk, help to insulate properties, Other Benefits, Support with housing benefits, mortgage interest, Council Tax reduction, Carers allowance,

Discretionary Payments, housing payments and exceptional hardship payments. Suffolk Oil Loans. So there are lots of possible ways people could be helped and worth looking into. Contact your local Council for advice.

**EVENTS**

EVENT	WHEN	TIME	WHO
Thurs Social Bowls	5th 19th	14:00 - 16:00	All Welcome
Club Night Bowls	4th 11th 18th	19:30 - 22:30	All Welcome
Breakfast Club	7th	09:30 - 11:30	All Welcome
Coffee Morning	19th	11:00 - 12:00	All Welcome
Modern Dance	3rd	19:00 - 21:00	All Welcome
Modern Dance	10th	18:30 - 21:30	All Welcome
Private Hire	14th	13:00 - 16:00	Private Hire
Private Hire	15th	10:00 - 14:00	Private Hire
Private Hire	26th	12:00 - 18:00	Private Hire
Private Hire	30th	09:00 - 15:00	
Yoga	2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	19:00 - 20:30	All Welcome
Table Tennis	4th 11th 18th	14:00 - 15:30	All Welcome
Women in Fellowship	12th	09:30 - 12:30	Private Hire
Carols Round the Christmas Tree	20th	18:00 - 21:00	All Welcome

### CONTACT

Book Club Denise Dinsey [denise.dinsey@btinternet.com](mailto:denise.dinsey@btinternet.com)  
 Brockley QI Ian Robertson [ianj.robertson@btinternet.com](mailto:ianj.robertson@btinternet.com)  
 Bowls Club Neil Jolly [njolly@btinternet.com](mailto:njolly@btinternet.com)  
 Breakfast Club Ian Robertson [ianj.robertson@btinternet.com](mailto:ianj.robertson@btinternet.com)  
 Brockley Chapel Roger Cawston [roger.cawston@btconnect.com](mailto:roger.cawston@btconnect.com)  
 Coffee morning Claire Haywood [box\\_bush@btconnect.com](mailto:box_bush@btconnect.com)  
 Craft Club Amanda Keighley [mamble.keighley@btinternet.com](mailto:mamble.keighley@btinternet.com)  
 Cricket Club Bob Fenner [fenner50@aol.com](mailto:fenner50@aol.com)  
 Brockley Parish Council Dr Julie Wymer [julieannwymer@gmail.com](mailto:julieannwymer@gmail.com)  
 Table Tennis David Andrew [dandrew46@btinternet.com](mailto:dandrew46@btinternet.com)  
 Yoga Sue Walters [sue.walters@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.walters@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Newsletter Editor [editorofbrockleynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorofbrockleynewsletter@gmail.com)

For further information go to [www.brockleyvillagehall.com](http://www.brockleyvillagehall.com)  
 To apply for application to book the village hall, please contact Ian Robertson.

Email: [villagehallbrockley21@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallbrockley21@gmail.com)

Phone: 01284-830730 (leave a message)



### 2025 POPPY APPEAL

With thanks to Vic and Val and their superb efforts collecting for the 2025 Poppy Appeal, they managed to raise £536. Thank you to everyone who donated.

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

### NEW RECTOR

The Licensing Service for our new Rector, Rev'd Anita Rooney, will take place on Monday 27th January at 7 pm in Horringer Church. We look forward to welcoming her to the Benefice.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

The collection at the Harvest Festival Service amounted to £82.55 and this has been donated to the Gatehouse Food Bank in Bury. I received a letter of thanks stating that our donation was much appreciated and is a great help towards the continued distribution of nutritionally balanced emergency food to local people in crisis. Three bags of food, donated by local people, were also given to the Food Bank.

### BURN'S NIGHT

Save the Date! Our annual fundraising Burns Night Supper will take place on Saturday 1st February. More details later but if you would like to reserve your place now please contact Sheila Andrew Tel 830520.

### EVENTS

**Sunday 8th December** Eucharist at 9.30am with Rev Adrian Holdstock  
**Sunday 15th December** United Carol Service with Brockley Baptist Chapel at

St Andrew's at 3.30pm with Craig Young

**Sunday 22nd December** No service at Brockley or Whepstead.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelit Crib Service at 3.30pm with Rev'd Canon


Mark Howarth.

Midnight Mass at Whepstead at 11.30pm with Rev'd  
 Adrian Holdstock

Christmas Day Eucharist at 9.30am with Rev Canon Mark Howarth




The second Sunday in Advent  
**Preparation and Hope**  
 11:00am Sunday December 8th  
 Brockley Chapel




*St. Andrew's and Brockley Chapel invite you  
 to our **United Carol Service**  
 3:30pm on Sunday 15th December  
 at St Andrew's Church, Brockley*

**Carols round the Christmas Tree**  
**Friday 20th December Brockley Village Hall**

This is the re-launch of the old Community Council event. It will be child friendly with craft and card making (for all) and indoor treasure hunt and quiz from 6:00pm. Sausage rolls and mince pies and Christmas quiz from about 6:30pm. Will Farrant is coming to play for us as we sing CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE (indoor and outdoor options) at about 7:00pm




*Tea, coffee, soft drinks and mulled wine will be served. If you want wine or beer or something else, please bring your own and glasses*



11:00am Brockley Chapel Sunday 22nd December  
**Christmas Stories**

Listen to six people as they share their favourite memories of Christmas. Hear about their best and worst presents and their favourite carols and Christmas verses and what it all means to them.



BROCKLEY CHAPEL  
**Carols by Candlelight**  
 6:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE



### **BROCKLEY ARCHIVE**

A more modern photo this month. This was taken at a Sausage and Mash Supper in the Village Hall in 1988. Beryl Bonnett, who sadly passed away on October 30 th aged 96 is sitting in the second row with her husband Roy. Beryl is leaning forward talking to Mrs Hodge and next to her is Rene Foster. Gordon and Betty Fisher are in the third row from the front. I can't put names to any other faces although some of them look familiar. Could be Vic Hill standing in the group on the right. The Baptist Chapel was full for Beryl's funeral on 19 th November. As Simon Ladd said in the service the number of people present was remarkable for someone of her age and was testament to how much Beryl was liked and respected in the village.



*Brockley Archive is a new section of the Brockley Newsletter, put forward by Sheila. You are encouraged to submit any old photos of the village with a short summary of what is going on in the image and we will do our best to fit it into the Newsletter.*

### **GARDENING**

#### **HAREST AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

Despite a last-minute change of subject, the November meeting went well, including the AGM. The programme for 2025 was revealed to be a very exciting list of meetings and visits, available on the website – as below.

Thanks to Ralph and Elizabeth for arranging it.

The next meeting is on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm at the Institute as usual. It is a fun affair with nibbles, wine and a hotly contested quiz. Our 2025 subscription is £15 for a single person or £25 for a couple. This can be paid (preferably in cash at the moment) at the December meeting. Advance notice that the meeting in January is on the 6 th , members £2.50, non-members £5.00. The speaker is Tom Hoblyn, talking about Designing Gardens for RHS Chelsea. Tom graduated from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and set up his practice shortly after that. He is an established figure at both RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court. He has won numerous Gold, Silver and Silver Gilt medals and places great importance on working with his local community.

The website address is [hartestgardeningclub.info](http://hartestgardeningclub.info), and for any queries about the Gardening Club, please email us on [hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com).

### SOCIAL BOWLS

We will be holding Social Bowls sessions during December on the following dates: 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 14:00 in the village hall.

### GOOD NEWS!!! FREE CARPET BOWLS SESSIONS

Due to funding received by the Village Hall Trustees, Winter Support Grant from West Suffolk Council, there will be **no** charges levied on the Carpet Bowls Club during January, February & March so the Social Bowls sessions will be **free**.

### COME AND TRY CARPET BOWLS

As there will be no charge to individuals, why not come along and give Carpet Bowls a try. All equipment is supplied, and we also offer Tea, Coffee a biscuit (or two or three !!!!) which is also free. It is also an opportunity to have a social chat and somewhere warm during the winter afternoons. Come along and see what it is all about.

### DATES FOR SOCIAL BOWLS IN 2025

We will continue every other Thursday on the following dates:

January	2nd, 16 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup>
February	13 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>
March	13 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>

If you would like to give it a try or have not been along for a while we look forward to seeing you.

Please contact Andrew English on 07496 279145 or [ajenglish@btinternet.com](mailto:ajenglish@btinternet.com) if you would like to find out more.

### TAI CHI COMES TO BROCKLEY

Thrilled to say that I was not the only person who thought I'd like to give this a go!. A fantastic response and thank you to everyone who got in touch  
Martin Fayers is our Instructor and we begin on the Green in Brockley on January 7<sup>th</sup> , 3.15-4.15 pm

Ideally we will be outdoors experiencing the nature around us but we will usually be able to access the hall to avoid cancellation in poor weather

It is a £7 for the hour on a cash pay as you go basis please to Martin  
Here's to strength, balance and calm in 2025!

### **SUCCESS AFTER STROKE**

A Craft Fair held in October at Whatfield Village Hall raised £2800 for Success After Stroke. Sincere thanks to all my family, friends and the SAS community for helping before, during and after the event.

A big thank you to all the people who donated fantastic raffle prizes and to the many visitors on the day. SAS offers a range of therapies and activities for those who have suffered from a stroke. The group meets twice a week at the Stevenson Centre in Cornard, Sudbury, further details on 07434 931 962.

The date for our next Craft Fair is Sunday 5th October 2025.



**Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on Pension Credit?**

Check your eligibility at [gov.uk/pension-credit](https://gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling **0800 99 1234**

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



Eligibility criteria apply



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**BURY ST. EDMUNDS**  
30th December 2024

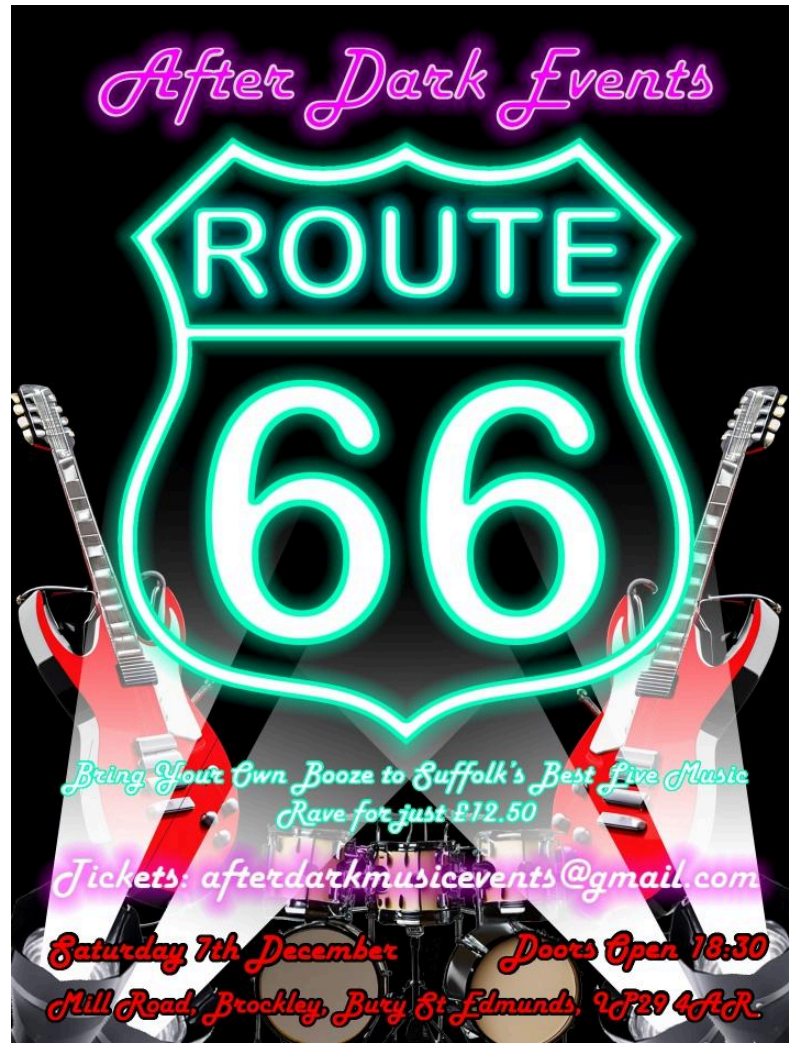
Brockley Village Hall  
IP294AR  
Session 1: 10:30-11:30  
Session 2: 11:45-12:45

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*Please note the earlier deadline of the Brockley Newsletter of the 15th for the January edition.*

*If you would like to add anything to the Newsletter or contact the Editor, please use:*

*[editorofbrockleynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editorofbrockleynewsletter@gmail.com)*

*Note From the Editor:*

*If you would like a photo in the newsletter please detail it in your email and please use the PNG format when attaching it to your email.*

*When submitting written forms, please attach a docx to your email.*