



Betchworth Village Annual Parish Report

Betchworth Parish Council would like to thank the local organisation's who have contributed to the update which follows. Each group has written their own update.

Contributions by:

The Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society

Betchworth Parish Magazine

Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall

Barley Mow Residents Association

Brockham Green Horticultural Society

Betchworth United Charities

Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society

The Hamilton Room

Re-Betchworth

The Arts Society

The Poland Trust

Pebblecombe WI

The Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery

Betchworth Village Archives

St Michaels Church

The Pillars of St Michaels

Betchworth Parish Council

Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society (BODS)

Progress for 2024

- The Enchanted April (May 2024) – received NODA South East accolade of excellence
- Salad Days (Nov 2024) – well received and performed to sold out audiences
- Workshop of Noah and his Floating Zoo (August 2024) – well attended

Plans for 2025

- Separate Tables by Terence Rattigan – May 2025
- Teas on the Green, Brockham - October 2025
- Lucky Stiff by Lynn Aherns and Stephen Flaherty – November 2025
- Quiz and Workshops – TBC

Contact Details

Email: info@bodswweb.com – Julie Bickerdike (Chair)

Website: <https://www.bodswweb.com>

Hamilton Room

We are delighted that the updated chairs which are very comfortable with or without arms have met with such approval by our regular users.

We plan to continue our programme of improvements – to the kitchen - to keep this local facility up to standard.

Regular and occasional users continue to enjoy their meetings here for its convenient location and parking, ambient atmosphere and very reasonable hiring rates.

We continue to offer an affordable comfortable space for the smaller group in the heart of Betchworth so if you have always wanted to start a reading group or exercise class please come and see what we can offer.

Contact Details

Email: d.fitchett@gmail.com - Diana Fitchett

Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall

Progress for 2024

- The hall continued to provide the venue of choice for hosting small and large footfall events in the village.
- The variety of hirers using the hall grows from year to year. A wide range of interests can be accommodated from flower arranging and art classes to Tai Chi sessions and Rock & Roll evenings.

- Our regular hirers – The Art Society and BODS continue to feature lectures and productions which attract much interest and sizeable audiences. Long may this continue.
- 2024 featured the second Village Applefest using the hall carpark to set-up a production line of equipment and volunteers to press apples, A forest school for children and cake competition added to the fun making it a firm favourite for future years.
- A number of quiz evenings were held throughout the year generating significant financial contributions to local charities and keeping the spirit of competitiveness alive and well in the village!
- The end of 2024 saw a change to the trustees of the hall. Claire Benn who has served the committee brilliantly for over 20 years decided to step down. Her contribution has been amazing and her earlier years in securing financial funding allowed the hall building to be improved significantly to the building it is today. Claire will be greatly missed, but I am delighted that our latest new recruit to the committee, Caroline Gavigan, has agreed to be our new secretary

Plans for 2025

- An exciting development for the hall has been the renovation to the main hall floor and installation of a Pickleball court. Given the popularity of Pickleball worldwide, interest in this facility has been very encouraging and is anticipated to grow throughout 2025.
- The hall trustees continue to strive to monitor the condition of the hall and improve it as our finances allow. The building is not modern and constant upkeep is required. Main areas for improvement centre upon minimising our energy bills through improved roof and wall insulation as well as a more efficient method to monitor the heating of the hall. Plans are afoot to get these modifications up and running during this year.
- A new and simplified operating system for sound has been installed at the hall making it easier for hirers to integrate with and use the system.
- As always, the committee of trustees are continually working to make the hall as good as it can be and welcome any suggestions that might improve this valuable asset for the village. As with most village committees, those serving do so on a voluntary basis and this is greatly respected and appreciated.

Contact Details

Phone: 07977439943 - Paul Ellison, Chair.

Website: betchworthvh@gmail.com

Betchworth Parish Magazine

There has been a Parish Magazine in Betchworth since 1892! Beautifully bound copies of all these magazines can be viewed in the Hamilton Room. Parishioners and their helpers have always run the collating of articles, editing and publishing the magazine on a voluntary basis. Printing has always been done by an outside firm.

The magazine's aim is to give information to and about the whole village. As well as Church matters we report on village activities such as the Parish Council, WI, North Downs Primary School and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. It also embraces any local, non- political

news, events and activities that it is felt might be of interest to the readers. The magazine is delivered to every house in the village by an invaluable team of 32 people headed by Susie Redburn. We are always delighted to receive articles, including photos if relevant, which would be of interest to parishioners for possible inclusion in the magazine.

Articles for the magazine now arrive exclusively by email to betchworthmag@outlook.com. We also will publish appropriate small ads from parishioners at a nominal cost for a limited number of issues, proceeds going to church funds.

In May we launch our “New Look” magazine. We felt that the old format was too out of date and that the magazine needed to attract more readers. We’d love to know what you think of it.

The editors, Ros Rokison, Sian Winter, Tim Warren and Chris Humphreys have the task of collating, editing and sometimes retyping all the various articles, putting everything into the correct format and font.

The articles are then numbered in the correct appropriate order before sending them to the Desk Top Publishers. Their job is to put them all into the magazine template. This is a lengthy process as articles have to fit exactly into the correct number of pages and we try where possible not split articles over the page. This work is done by Ros Rokison, Alison Higgins and Tim Warren.

If anyone is interested in joining the team we would be delighted to hear from you. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who would like to join the team of desktop publishers. The more people involved in the production of the magazine the easier it is for everyone involved. Training will be given if anyone is interested in joining us. In fact, if we had a few more volunteers, our hard-working team might even be able to take the odd holiday now and then!

Contact Details

Email: betchworthmag@outlook.com

Barlet Mow Court Residents Association

Plans for 2025

Opposing Planning Permission for 6 new houses with gardens and 10 parking spaces on the strip of land on the old Barleymow pub site. All residents of BMC are against this and are sending in objection letters. This is because we feel the extra traffic and noise pollution on such a small road will have adverse effects. Light will affect those existing houses on the other side of the fence line to the proposed ones.

Contact Details

Email: juliebarella@yahoo.co.uk – Julie Barella

Brockham Green Horticultural Society

Covering Betchworth, Brockham and Buckland

Progress for 2024

- 3 talks
- Plant Sale
- Private members Open gardens
- Autumn Flower Show
- Christmas Wreath Workshop

Plans for 2025

- March talk on Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew by Pamela Holt
- April talk on 'Gardening should be fun' by Jean Griffin
- 'The earthworm' by Chris Stewart - Monday 10th November 2025
- Plant Sale - May
- Private members Open Garden - June
- Autumn Flower Show - Saturday 20th September 2025
- Christmas Wreath Workshop - Saturday 6th December 2025

Contact Details

Email: BGHSociety@hotmail.com

Betchworth United Charities

Progress for 2024

- 17 Beneficiaries each received two cost of living payments throughout the year
- Grant given to North Downs School to help children in need with school trips/uniform/breakfast after school clubs etc.
- Wheelchair purchased for disabled lady
- Groceries/food vouchers purchased for 3 local residents in need
- Grant given to help towards the purchase of a new cooker to local couple
- Washing machine purchased for resident in need
- Three Trustee meetings during 2024 to discuss special grants and ways we can help
- Advertising our charity locally so that more people can access our help

Plans for 2025

- To continue to support families of school children in need by giving a grant to the North Downs School in Brockham. This will assist schools to help with families with costs including uniform, school trips, lunch and breakfast clubs etc.
- We will be giving our usual bi-annual grants to local people in the Brockham and Betchworth area who are in need due to cost of living price increases
- To continue exploring how to best make contact with those in need in our two villages

Contact Details

Phone: 07788 194 972 - Andrea Brown (Clerk)

Phone: 07771 568 862 - Camilla Peterken (Chair)

Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society

We started rehearsing for The Leith Hill Music Festival in January with our new conductor, George Inscoe. In the morning competition we won the Diana Pledge award for our accompanied song. Verleih uns Frieden by Mendelssohn and the ensemble jointly won the Arthur Lawrence Cup with Bookham for Amyntas with his Phyllis Fair by Francis Pilkington.

In the evening concert, at Dorking Halls, we performed Lux Aeterna by Morten Lauridsen and Puccini's Messa di Gloria with the five other choirs in our group. This was Jonathan Willcock's last festival.

Our summer afternoon jazz concert at St. Michael's Betchworth was a great success, featuring works by Bob Chilcott and George Shearing, with a splendid jazz trio and a full house! It was sunny and fun, followed by tea with fizz and cake.

Twenty of us travelled to London to perform at David Adam's livery dinner at Haberdasher's Hall, with David joining us to sing, wearing his rather magnificent full master's regalia.

Our November concert was held at St. Matthew's in Redhill. We had a small orchestra, an organist and four soloists for our performance of Rossini's Petite Messe Solonnelle. We were delighted to have sponsorship for this concert from the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust.

The retiring collection was for PSDS, a local charity that works with children and young people with Down syndrome.

Our usual December Carol Concert took place at St Michael's, Betchworth.

Both of these concerts were very well attended by locals and families and friends of the singers. The Carol Concert raised money for Home Start which provides emotional and practical help to parents.

We are very grateful to Betchworth Parish Council and the Betchworth and Buckland Society for financial support for our concerts.

Our Wednesday evening rehearsals at the Village Hall are great fun. Singing is good for you and provides the opportunity to meet new people. The choir is non-auditioned and very welcoming to newcomers. Our conductor, George Inscoe has recently been appointed as sub-organist at St. Paul's cathedral, and we are ably accompanied by Anna Tetsuya on the piano. We hold a number of social events during the year including a quiz night. Once a month we go down to the Red Lion post rehearsals and on Festival days we have a choir lunch at a Dorking restaurant to celebrate the fact the competitions are finished for the day, and any successes achieved.

Re-Betchworth

Progress for 2024

- We 'hosted' the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative that grew out of the Betchworth B-Line. We secured a £5000 grant from the Community Lottery Fund, and hosted the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative as their team delivered an extensive programme of activities."
- To see how the experts re-wild, we took a sell-out group to Knepp Walled Garden.

- To encourage clearer thinking about recycling, we arranged a visit to our local Materials Reclamation Facility.
- To promote alternatives to our consumer culture, we organised a pop-up Repair Café.
- And compiled a 'Recommendations' list of local repairers and other trades.
- Our 3rd AppleFest was a sell-out, attracting families from well beyond Betchworth.
- We continued our management of the Goulburn Green apple orchard:
- Our 'Wassail' provided a couple of hours of sociable fun in February.
- We reinvested AppleFest income in a professional prune in March.
- We promoted and reported on these and other local sustainable living operations through our quarterly e-Newsletter, and on our website.

Plans for 2025

- Adjust the Forest Camp offering and make it a success.
- Build and install a trial group of Swift boxes (with added sound to attract new residents).
- Re-vitalise the Betchworth B-Line:
- Support and finance the 4B's Biodiversity initiative's work in Betchworth.
- Take a second group to Knepp.
- Organise a second scything workshop.
- Find ways to build on the success of the Swap Shop WhatsApp channel.
- Go again with the Repair Café, and consider adding connected operations.
- Add to the educational aspects of AppleFest, and keep it growing.
- Continue to promote and report through our quarterly e-Newsletter, and on our website.

Contact Details

Email: admin@re-betchworth.org

Website: <https://www.re-betchworth.org>

Arts Society Betchworth

Progress for 2024

- Lecture-Vermeer – The Musical Pictures
- Visit to Tate Britain – John Singer Sargent
- Tour-5 day coach trip to Northumberland including Lindisfarne & Holy Island

Plans for 2025

- Lectures- Happy & Glorious- 1000 Years of Coronations - by Barbara Askew
- The Baroque Country House – by Amy Lim
- Gilded Glories. The History of Gilding – by Joanna Mabbutt
- Visits to- Smallhythe Place & Bateman's in May
- Mottisfont in Hampshire for the Rose Garden Festival in June
- Tour - 6 day visit to Sicily at the end of September

Contact Details

Website: <https://www.theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk>

Poland Trust

Progress for 2024

- During 2024 we completed our merger with the Anthony West House, Brockham , Charity which has added another 14 homes to our Portfolio which is now namely:-
 - **Poland House**, Brockham - 10 one bed homes plus a wardens flat
 - **Poland Meadow**, Strood Green, Betchworth - 12 homes ranging from one bed to 3 bed
 - **Anthony West House**, Brockham - 14 one bed homes
- All our homes are run as Almshouses with “rents” being substantially below open market rents and are all occupied by those with a local connection.
- When a vacancy becomes available applications are sought from those in hardship need or distress living in Brockham, Betchworth or Leigh.

Plans for 2025

- We have no specific plans for this year other than to start rebuilding our reserves following the construction of Poland Meadow.
- We are also in a position to give grants for specific items for those in need hardship or distress

Contact Details

Phone: 07831 882 245 - Tim Kenny

Website: <https://www.brockham.org/the-poland-trust>

Pebblecoombe WI

Progress for 2024

Although, sadly we have lost a long-standing member, we have welcomed a number of visitors at meetings, which have resulted in new members joining us. We discussed the National Resolution – Dental Health Matters – drawing attention to the sad lack of NHS Dentists in Surrey. More WI information and Courses are being run on-line which proved difficult for some members, however we did attend the Surrey’s Annual meeting in Dorking. We had a talk on the History of Dining, from Roman times to those in our memories, and a visit from the Mole Valley Recycling. Quizzes are also popular, as well as Supper, Picnic and our summer buffet.

Plans for 2025

Horticulture has proved popular with planting Sunflower seeds for a competition to be judged at our Craft & Produce show, and sharing herbs and indoor plants. We look forward to an Animal Evening with a visit from Wild About Britain , bringing an Owl and an hedgehog. The Resolution is on More Training on CPR and Defibrillators, and we will be at the Annual Parish Council Meeting, so come and have a chat if you are interested in joining the WI.

Contact Details

Phone: 01737 842 098 - Margaret Miller (Secretary)

The Betchworth and Buckland Children's Nursery

Progress for 2024

- Full sessions, waiting list for September 2025 starters.
- New storage purchased thanks to donations.
- Enjoying woodwork sessions, thanks to donations from Wickes, Dorking.

Plans for 2025

- Internal and external painting to be carried out.
- Visits to the playground.
- Forging relationships with the local community, places to visit.

Contact Details

Email: info@betchworthandbucklandchildrensnursery.com

Website: <https://betchworthandbucklandchildrensnursery.com>

Betchworth Village Archives

Progress for 2024

- Successful exhibition 'Buried in Betchworth' which led to podcasts and talks in the church during Heritage Open Days in September.
- Autumn work enabled us to complete one section of monument inscriptions on one section of the churchyard.
- A database for the monument inscriptions is being added to; when complete it will be published and put online

Plans for 2025

- Having received a very generous grant from the Parish Council we will have twelve years of Parish magazines bound to match the existing volumes.
- Continue recording the monument inscriptions in the churchyard.
- Continue with transcriptions, research and handling enquiries.

Contact Details

Email: betchworthvillagearchives@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.betchworth-pc.gov.uk/betchworth-village-archives>

St Michael's Church

Progress for 2024

- Opened the church every day to visitors and passers-by. Sincere thanks to those who unlock and close the church to make this possible.
- Continued to offer worship on Sundays in our ancient church, which has been at the heart of the village for many centuries. Our thanks to the dedicated people on our lay rota, flower rota and cleaning rota, Music Director, choir, and bellringers, who make our church beautiful and our worship possible.
- Provided the setting for 3 funerals, 3 weddings and 6 baptisms.
- Provided hospitality through our much loved monthly afternoon teas in the Hamilton Room, Friday lunches during lent, and coffee after services.
- Welcomed a grant from the Parish Council to develop a new, refreshed website for St Michael's. Sincere thanks to Sian Winter for taking on the website, and to Trev Reavley for his work to achieve an attractive design.
- Said farewell and thank you to Director of Music Martin Hall, and welcomed his successor Richard Calver.
- Thanked Bernard Hawkins for his dedication to St Michael's on his stepping down as churchwarden

Plans for 2025

- Say farewell and a huge thank you to Linda Slater, stepping down after 10 years and two clergy vacancies as our incredibly hard-working and dedicated churchwarden, and take up the challenge of replacing her.
- Launch of the new church website
- Conducting the Electoral Role (done every 4 years and a vital part of the community of the church membership)
- Conducting a Stewardship Campaign to boost the much needed regular financial support for the day-to-day running of the church, (separate to the Pillars which is the church fabric)
- Host a concert as part of the Surrey Hills International Music Festival.
- Plan the installation of glass doors to the West entrance to the church, to provide a welcoming approach for congregation and visitors.
- Continue to provide a place of prayer, worship, hospitality, beauty and tranquillity in the heart of the village. All are welcome to join us.

Contact Details:

Email: Rev Pru Dulley - revprudulley@gmail.com

The Pillars of St. Michael's

Progress for 2024

- An evening with Alison Stedman and Michael Elwyn ...village hall - June 2023

- Stars in their Eyes village talent show in village hall supper and entertainment - September 2023
- An evening of Carols Betchworth House - December 2023
- Showing of 4 Weddings and a Funeral in Betchworth House Garden - May 2024
- An Evening of Magic with Beartie Pearce - Supper and Entertainment - September 2024
- An Evening of Carols in Betchworth House - December 2024

Plans for 2025

- Imperial Male Voice Choir - Concert in St. Michaels - June 2025
- Bridge Lunch - TBC
- Launch of new Village Cook Book with taster evening - September 2025

Contact Details

Email: pillarsbetchworth@gmail.com

Betchworth Parish Council Clerk & RFO Financials

Since our last APM the accounts for 2023/24 have been fully audited and approved and are displayed on our website with previous years.

Our draft Accounts for 2024/25 were internally audited in April by Mulberry and Co, and following approval at full Council on Monday 12th May 2025, will be submitted to our external auditors PKF Littlejohn.

Income: The Parish Council receives income from a number of areas:

Precept

We receive a Precept from MVDC which makes up part the Council tax, this is to cover the running costs of the council and includes items such as salary, insurance for the council and amenities, amenity maintenance and subscriptions.

Payments - Concurrent & Council Tax

These payments are also received from MVDC but separate to the Precept. Part of these payments are specifically for support of maintenance of green spaces.

As raised at last year's meeting and reported by Council again in January of this year, the precept has been set based on the Councils guiding principles, these aim to ensure that the Parish Precept covers not only direct staff costs but also the running costs associated with maintaining local services and facilities like Goulburn Green. There is concern that the concurrent and council tax payments will be lost within the next few years and with the 2025/26 precept still only covering approximately 75% of running costs, to ensure the Parish can continue to provide and maintain the facilities it is responsible for to a high standard, Council will continue to raise the precept gradually in future years to reach a point where the running costs are fully covered by the precept.

Allotments and burial ground

The Parish Council continues to be reasonable for allotment rates and are pleased to have kept the charges the same for 2025. The burial ground has exceeded predicted income and this

income has been the main factor in ensuring income was greater than expenditure (Council had predicted a budget overspend for 2024/25). This income has helped secured 2025/26 grants to local organisations for a 4th consecutive year.

Bank interest.

The Parish Council has been able to benefit from the higher interest rates by ensuring that we hold our reserve in the savings accounts.

CIL money - Community Infrastructure Levy (Other Grants).

This charge is levied by local authorities on new development in their areas which the Parish Council receive 15% of. This money can only be spent on infrastructure costs such as the projects to improve our playground amenities as well as the Church Farm Path which were completed in 2024/25.

Litter Picks (other income)

The Parish Council receives some money for our litter picking duties. MVDC allows us £1 a bag for all bags collected

Expenditure: Council managed 2024/25 budgets well and with the exception of some overspend on green spaces due to the need for additional cutting of grass in the burial ground and Goulburn green, and increased clerk costs due to the unexpected change of clerk and operating with 2 clerks for 12weeks handover and training, expenditure was as expected.

Internal Auditors Mulberry and Co were again scrupulously thorough when auditing our accounts and processes, their services will be retained as part of a 3yr agreement. We continue to be very grateful for their support.

Contact Details

Email: clerk@betchworth-pc.gov.uk - Julie Vear (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Website: <https://www.betchworth-pc.gov.uk>

**DRAFT Accounts
2024/25**

INCOME		Actual 2024/25	2023/24 Actual	Difference 2023/24_2024/25
		£	£	
REVENUE INCOME				
	Precept	17,425.26	15,152.40	2,272.86
	Payments - Concurrent & Council Tax	3,105.00	3,105.00	-
	Allotments	240.00	240.00	-
	Interest	793.58	554.30	239.28
	Burials	38,292.00	12,930.00	25,362.00
	Other Grants	4,540.46	16,450.71	11,910.25
	Other Income	126.00	-	126.00
	VAT Rebate	1,923.06	2,125.13	202.07
	Total:	66,427.36	50,557.54	13,614.96
EXPENDITURE				
Burial Ground				

Grass	3,923.00	2,448.00	1,475.00
Pruning	400.00	-	400.00
Fencing	400.00	250.00	150.00
Annual Path clearing & weedkilling	300.00	125.00	175.00
Maintenance incl grave levelling - NEW	250.00	600.00	-
Contingency			350.00
Subtotal:	5,273.00	3,423.00	1,825.00

Parish Amenities

Goulburn Green Grass	3,442.50	2,479.00	963.50
Goulburn Green Water	32.23	30.68	1.55
Pruning/ other maintenance	300.00	96.34	203.66
Footpath & Handyman ad-hoc upkeep	330.00	214.13	115.87
Defibrillator Maintenance - NEW	163.78		163.78
Tree Replacement for Orchard - NEW	-		-
Subtotal:	4,268.51	2,820.15	1,448.36

Council Running Costs

Clerk	Clerk - salary	17,253.58	14,573.86	2,679.72
	Employer's NI	964.72	755.92	208.80
	Employees Pension - NEW	<u>272.78</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>272.78</u>
Clerk Total		<u>18,491.08</u>	<u>15,329.78</u>	<u>3,161.30</u>
Office & Parish Run Costs	Clerk - mileage	1,075.95	226.35	849.60
	Payroll Service	237.50	204.00	33.50
	Training	60.00	160.00	100.00
	Audit	661.55	570.95	90.60
	Bank charges	149.40	132.80	16.60
	Meeting Expenses			-
	Insurance	413.31	433.93	20.62
	Postage	2.90	6.80	3.90
	Stationery	281.74	205.14	76.60
	Room Hire and Associated Expenses	333.47	378.93	45.46
	Website Hosting	151.28	84.10	67.18

	Mobile phone charges	160.35	104.00	56.35
				-
	Software	101.52	214.35	112.83
	IT Support	159.96	125.00	34.96
	Contingency			
		<u>3,788.93</u>	<u>2,168.83</u>	<u>1,620.10</u>
	VAT (NB:Reclaimable)	<u>4,463.06</u>	<u>2,076.02</u>	<u>2,387.04</u>
Discretionary				-
	Subscriptions inc NALC & CPRE	403.89	429.09	25.20
	SSALC	319.16	305.20	13.96
	General Grant Awards	4,871.00	4,650.00	221.00
	Litter Pick Support	593.32		593.32
				-
	Local Support (S137)	6.00	434.59	428.59
		<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Subtotal:	<u>6,193.37</u>	<u>5,818.88</u>	<u>374.49</u>
CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024/25		<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Capital Projects	<u>12,937.67</u>	<u>3,539.28</u>	<u>9,398.39</u>

Total Expenditure	55,415.62	35,175.94	20,239.68
Total Income Less Expenditure	11,011.74	15,381.60	- 4,369.86