

VIEW FROM THE PAVILION - PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Headline news... A new playground for Matfield

After a number of years in the planning process, the Clarendon housing development will shortly start building 15 houses in Matfield. A development of this size would not usually attract a contribution to the local community but, following excellent negotiations on the community's behalf, an extensive new playground, next to Matfield Village Hall, will now be built and will be run by the Parish Council on a long lease. The scheme also delivers some extra parking spaces, benches and bins.

STOP PRESS...

- The Order for the installation of the pavement along the roadside by the Wheelwrights is now in its final stages and will be completed by the summer
- The Marchants bus shelter has been repainted and the one opposite has had a roof repair
- The drain system to protect Matfield Green from flooding is underway This will establish a long term solution with the necessary legal rights in place
- The Council have received funding of £22,500 to deliver two highways projects to address speeding at the Pixot Hill crossroads, through Castle Hill and outside the School
- KCC have positively responded to the Parish Council's endeavours to have more roads gritted in winter extending along Crook Road and across Pixot Hill
- Hanging baskets are up outside Matfield Pavilion
- Work on the banks around the pond has been agreed and an extra lime tree planted
- A Go-Pro camera is now in use by the Speedwatch volunteers to capture accurate data
- A new oak noticeboard has been purchased for Brenchley, with one side available for community notices
- The 5 litter bins on Matfield Green have been repaired and repainted
- The flagpoles have been cleaned and refurbished
- A ramp and shelving have been added to the cricketers' cupboard at the Pavilion
- A route map for refrigerated lorries has been circulated to the Road Haulage Association and other local depots and is making a difference in reducing the use of rural lanes by HGVs

Something you might like to know about the Parish from Brenchley Archives:

Brenchley and Matfield are valued for their (relatively!) quiet natural beauty. But in the 17th century Brenchley, Horsmonden and some other local parishes were centres for the noisy and dirty iron industry, utilising local iron ore and charcoal. The industry died out once coal became a more economic and effective fuel, and peace was restored. Furnace Pond and Cinderhill hint at this industrial past.

...and finally

Picnic tables are now ready for use in the Jack Verrall Memorial Garden in Brenchley High Street. The gardens have had a huge amount of attention and an information board with old photographs of the vicinity is being produced to inform visitors and residents alike of its history and that of surrounding buildings. The gardens have a regular clearup and the tables will hopefully encourage use of this lovely local space.



Next issue Autumn 2026

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings can be found on the website: www.brenchleyandmatfield-pc.gov.uk

Don't forget the Parish Council Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brenchleyandmatfieldpc/>

for information such as road closures, events, crime/fraud warnings and other important community notices



BRECHLEY AND MATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Matfield Pavilion, The Green, Matfield, Kent, TN12 7JU
Tel: 01892 723586 www.brenchleyandmatfield-