

Brenchley & Matfield
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

March 2018

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
FROM VENUE



Grays Cafe

Grays Café

Since Grays opened its doors in March 2014 it started its life as a Tea Room but has evolved into a café due to the customers involvement in what they wish from us.

Grays have tried to keep prices low so that all in the community are able to come in. With no knowledge of a business of this type, being an owner with staff and volunteers (Trainees) has been a challenge. With the support from Town and Country Foundation, some financial and moral support, the Brenchley Memorial Hall Trustees who had the faith to believe the project would work.

It was mainly set up as a training venue for adults with mild learning difficulties and mental health to gain experience in a working establishment. Instead of being known as volunteers they quickly took to the term Trainees, so this is how they are known. Learning all the skills they have now is down to their commitment and willingness to learn. The goal was for Trainees to move on to find employment but due to the financial difficulties employers find themselves in this has not been achievable. Saying that though, the Trainees who started with Grays have found their place at Grays and do not want to leave. Those who have left have moved on with more confidence, skills they have learnt and still keep in touch.

Over the years Grays has also had and still have students that come for work experience and the feedback has been so positive and supportive.

Grays likes to buy local foods wherever possible and support local businesses and also sell their products in Grays for customers to buy..... eggs, honey, apple juice, gluten free cake

They work alongside various parish organisations such as the PTFA, Brenchley Pre School, Kindersiversity and the local Football clubs. The WI and also the U3A groups.

Future plans

Grays now has a future plan to expand on what has been achieved so far. Plans to be a 'green' café..... this may take some time being done in small phases as and when funds allow.

Plans to continue to hold functions, parties and events and have plans for party packages.

The serving area is to be upgraded to help with smoother customer service, something new in the café area itself (

Also, looking into a delivery service.... Not as easy as it sounds but will get there eventually

Grays is now a very integral part of the community. It has grown in popularity mainly due to the fact that more and more local people and passing trade are using Grays. Since it ceased being a village club, it has had various reincarnations but the Grays team do seem to have found the right formula. A formula of warmth, friendliness and inclusive. It is now a place for all to meet regardless of age and a place that this community needs.