

Brickhill Parish Council News

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue Number 16, March 2009

Brickhill 50th Anniversary Celebrations



This year sees the 50th anniversary of the birth of Modern Brickhill. It was at the end of 1959 that the first houses were completed and occupied on 150 acres of land the old Bedford Council had bought from the estate of Brickhill Farm. As landowners, the Council were able to influence the whole development and were free to adopt a more socially responsible attitude than would be the case today - for example providing shops at Brickhill Drive, land for the Baptist Church and the pub at the Bird in Hand as well as laying out the impressive sweep of Robin Hill and Merlin Gardens. Housing design was specified in minute detail - not just for Council housing but also for private houses for sale - amazingly the first houses on Brickhill Drive were sold for £2,800.

Mention of Brickhill Farm reminds us that, before the Brickhill Estate was developed, an older Brickhill existed - most notably in the form of Brickhill House, said to be a 17th Century make-over of a much older manor house. The residence of the Foster family, it was in its heyday in the 1820s, when the famous American author,

Washington Irving, came to pay court to the daughter of the house, Emily Foster - astonishingly she turned him down! The house fell on sad times in the 20th century and was eventually destroyed by fire in 1946.

Fast forward to 2009 and the Parish Council is keen to mark our 50th birthday in proper fashion. Do you have any suggestions for events or festivities? Do let us know - we will try to encourage local initiatives as best we can. Perhaps we could organise a Time-team style dig of the foundations of Brickhill House?

On a more personal note - is there anyone who remembers Brickhill House or the Farm before 1946? Or the estate in the early 60s? Perhaps you were among the very first to move in? If so we are anxious to hear from you, so we can record your memories for posterity and keep them in our Parish Archive.

All together now - Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear Brickhill



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Fun in the Snow!

While many schools closed for snow days during February, St Thomas More Upper School remained open to students. Lessons ran as normal, with Year 11 enjoying a pre-planned coursework week to help secure those vital GCSE grades, and other year groups following their usual timetables.



The snowy weather did bring a slight change to break times, however! Students enjoyed the rarely seen Bedford snow to join in either snowballing contests or building snowmen. Even at this Upper school age there was much delight at this unexpected change to routine, with spirits running high and 'team work' taking on a whole new dimension

Extended Schools Co-ordinator for Brickhill

Shikoll Akthar has recently been appointed as the Extended Services Co-ordinator for Brickhill, Castle and Harpur Wards. Her role is to meet the needs of children, young people, families, elderly and the wider community by providing access to a range of services through partnership work. These range from childcare, parenting programmes, community facilities, access to information, practical support for individuals and families and more.

Shikoll says: "I have a range of experiences to offer, mainly coming from my experiences in community work and youth work. I have a strong interest in improving the lives of the community I live and work in. Some of the work I intend to carry out is to improve the lives of people, including providing learning opportunities, raising people's aspirations and attainment and being able to give people a better quality of life. I hope that I can make a difference in my new role".

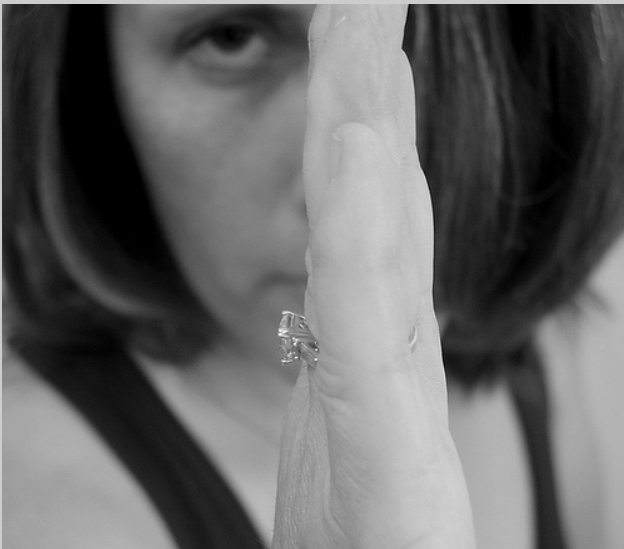
If you would like to know more then please contact Shikoll at St. Thomas More Upper School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford. Tel: 07791 893110, SAkthar@stm.beds.sch.uk, or www.bedsco.org.uk. Brickhill Parish Council will be working closely with Shikoll in the future

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If you are interested, please contact

Mike on 01234 345412

Ujanmikesinger@googlemail.com

Brickhill Community Football Tournament



Calling Young Football Fanatics!

Boys and Girls of Middle and Upper School Age

First time ever!!!!

COME AND JOIN IN...

5 a side teams or individuals - everyone welcome

Where: Waveney Green
When: 5pm, Tuesday 28 April 2009
Frequency: Weekly for 10 weeks

Are you an adult who is interested to get involved? We would welcome your support.

Want to know more, call Tim Gannon on 01234 273773 or Email

Youth@brickhillbaptistchurch.org



Funders of this project are: Brickhill Parish Council and Bedfordshire Police Partnership

Events for the over 60s at Sir William Harpur House, Clyde Crescent

If you are over 60, then there is a great range of activities taking place locally that you can take part in. The venue is Sir William Harpur House, just off Avon Drive. If you are interested in any of these events for further information telephone 01234 346370

Coffee Morning

Wednesdays & Sundays 11am

Church Service

1st Monday in every month 10am

Chair Based Keep fit

Thursdays 11am

Quiz Afternoon

1st Thursday in every month 2pm

Movie Matinee

2nd Thursday in every month 2pm

Bingo

Fridays 2pm

Silver Surfers (internet and computers)

Mondays 10am-12 pm (beginners)
Wednesdays 10-12pm and 2-4pm (all levels)



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Thursday 16 April 10-4pm The Green, Waveney Avenue

Following last year's success the Parish Council has again booked a Mobile Climbing Tower during the Easter Holidays. To co-incide with this we have booked the RaveBus. The bus is equipped with a TV, computer screens, music and comfortable seating for chilling out. These activities are provided free of charge to young people funded by the Parish Council. Further details available from the Clerk (see contact details on the back page) or watch our noticeboards at Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive Shops.



Good News from Scott Lower School

Ofsted inspected the school on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th January 2009 and we were all delighted with the outcome. According to the latest Ofsted report "Pupils are very enthusiastic about the school, their teachers and their learning and these positive attitudes to learning, the good work of the senior leadership team and governors and the support of parents, is what have ensured the very rapid improvements in the last year"

See www.scott.beds.sch.uk for more information.

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2009/10

In 2009/10 the Parish Council will be collecting a total of £52,000 from the Council Taxpayers of Brickhill. This money (known as the Precept) goes to support the Parish Council in its work for the benefit of the local community. This represents a very slight decrease on the Precept collected during 2008-9 which totalled £52,200.

The Parish Council set its detailed budget at a meeting on 5 January 2009 and a copy is available on the website, along with last year's accounts. Please contact me if you would like a hard copy of the budget or have any questions about the Parish Council's finances or any aspect of its business. The 2008-9 accounts will be available after the end of the financial year on 31 March 2009.

**Delia Shephard, Responsible Financial Officer,
Brickhill Parish Council**

Parish Council Elections June 2009

Interested in representing your local community?

In June 2009 elections will be held for all 13 places on the Parish Council. New Parish Councillors will be elected for a term of two years. Anyone aged 18 and over who lives and/or works in the parish can stand, you do not need to belong to a political party. If you are interested in standing or would like to find out more about the Parish Council please contact Delia Shephard, Clerk to the Council for an informal chat and/or information pack. Tel: 01234 271708.

Christmas Card delivery service

Thank you to everyone who supported the St Andrew's Scouts delivery service at Christmas. About 10,500 cards were delivered in Bedford, Kempston, Bromham, Clapham and Ravensden by various Scout Groups and Guides.

Parish Council Website Makeover



The Parish Council website has been revamped. Please have a look and give us your feedback. It is at www.BrickhillParishCouncil.gov.uk. We welcome some photos of Brickhill for the header of the website. Send any suitable photos to clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you have any events that you would like us to publicise, or news of local groups or organisations, just send the details through and we will be happy to put the details on our website

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Brickhill Parish Council
www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (*Chair*)

20 Nursery Gardens, Brickhill, MK41 8DU

☎01234 357259 ✉ markfitzp@cix.co.uk

Cllr Peter Blakeman (*Planning Committee Chair*)

15 Dove Road, Brickhill, MK41 7AA

☎01234 355952

✉ pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

Cllr Stuart Green

39 Larkway, Brickhill, MK41 7JW

☎01234 354339

✉ stuart.green5938@ntlworld.com

Cllr Nigel Haughton

10 Douglas Road, Bedford MK41 7YH

☎01234 214634 ✉ nigel@haughtons.co.uk

Cllr Alison Holden

16 Swindale, Brickhill, MK41 7TT

☎01234 403551 alison.holdenpc@ntlworld.com

Cllr Peter Hand (*also County & Borough Councillor*)

31 Moriston Road, Brickhill, MK41 7UQ

☎01234 344645 ✉ peter.hand@bedscc.gov.uk

Cllr Howard Humphries

117 Curlew Crescent, Brickhill, MK41 7HY

☎01234 267587

Cllr Andrew McConnell (*also Borough Councillor*)

51 Crown Quay, Bedford MK40 1BL

☎01234 356777 ✉ aj.mcconnell@btinternet.com

Cllr Joanne Laybourn

43 Fulmar Road, Bedford MK41 7JZ

☎01234 268477

✉ joanne.laybourn@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Pat Ovenell

12 Nightingale Avenue, Brickhill, MK41 7JB

☎01234 341422

Cllr Wendy Rider

23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ

☎01234 303254 ✉ wendyrider41@hotmail.com

Cllr Charles Royden (*also Borough Councillor*)
The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

☎01234 309175 ✉ vicar@thisischurch.com

Cllr Ray Seymour (*Vice-Chair*)

11 Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

☎01234 305695 ✉ rays@tgis.co.uk

Brickhill Parish Council Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held at St Mark's Church
Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill.

Full Parish Council Meetings 7.30 pm: 5 March, 2
April, 7 May

**Planning Committee Meetings 6.45 pm if on the
same day as a full Parish Council meeting
otherwise 7.00pm:** 5 March, 2 April, 30 April, 21 May

ALLOTMENTS TO RENT

Grow your own fresh produce
Enjoy healthy outdoor exercise



Full Rate £42.00

Concessionary: £26.25

Contact the Allotments Officer at the address
below for further information

Clerk to the Council

Delia Shephard

Assistant Clerk/Allotments Officer

Alison Southern

c/o St Mark's Church & Community Centre
Calder Rise, Brickhill

Bedford MK41 7UY

Telephone: 01234 271708

✉ clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Public drop in session every Tuesday
10 am - 12 noon

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