BRICKHILL NEWS

Issue 52

December 2017

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

INDEX

- Page 1 Community Event
- Page 2 Parish Council & Cllr contact details
- Page 3 Borough Councillors' update
- Page 3 University of the Third Age
- Page 4 Waveney Green events
- Page 4 Mowsbury Walk Play Area
- Page 4 Thermal Imaging
- Page 4 Orange Recycling Sacks
- Page 5 BPHA development on land off Mallard Hill/Brickhill Drive
- Page 5 News from Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort
- Page 5 Community Governance Review
- Page 5 Local Grant scheme
- Page 5 Christmas Drawing Competition
- Page 6 Local Policing Team Community Engagement Event
- Page 6 Manton Lane traffic proposals
- Page 7 Christmas Carol Concerts
- Page 7 Christmas in a Box appeal
- Page 7 All Nations Church Christmas Fayre
- Page 8 All Nations Christmas services
- Page 8 St Mark's Church Christmas services
- Page 9 News from Scott Primary School
- Page 9 News from St Thomas More School
- Page 9 Brickhill Community Centre
- Christmas party for senior citizens
- Page 10 Advertisements
- Page 11 Advertisements

Your next edition of Brickhill News will be published in February 2018. Copy deadline is 2nd February so if you are a local organisation or group and would like to include an article or publicise an event then please get in touch with the Parish Council. Contact details on page 2.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Bulb Planting & Community Litter Pick

Thank to the residents who helped with the litter pick and bulb planting in Ashmead Road on 21st October. In addition to the general litter collected, we removed one and a half beds! A special thank you to Barry Ingram who has continued with the bulb planting, using the remaining bulbs. Other bulbs are being planted in Mallard Hill.



Brickhill Parish Council are looking for volunteers to help deliver our newsletter. Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the Parish. This means we need lots of volunteers—could this be you? If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live and can spare an hour please contact our Clerk. Thank you.

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick *(Chair)* ☎01234 357259 ௴mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Blakeman (Planning Committee Chair) ☎01234 355952 [^]⊕pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

NORTH WARD

Cllr Vincent Holloway 201234 214533 ^(h)vholloway1975@gmail.com

Cllr Charles Royden (Borough Councillor for Brickhill) 201234 309175 *Charlesroyden@gmail.com*

Cllr Lynne Seymour 201234 305683 ^(*)lynne@puttingbrickhillfirst.com

Borough Councillors for Woodlands Park

Cllr Sheryl Corp ☎07734 888988 ூsheryl.corp@bedford.gov.uk

Clir Stephen Moon ☎01234 870061 ৺ðstephen.moon@bedford.gov.uk





SOUTH AND WEST WARD

Cllr Mark Bowler ☎07855 851266 [^]⊕markbrickhill@gmail.com

Cllr Morris Johns ☎01234 217364 ௴morrisjohns@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Ann Reeve ☎01234 343260 ℃r_reeve1@sky.com

Cllr Wendy Rider (Borough Councillor for Brickhill) ☎01234 303254 [^]⊕wendyrider41@gmail.com

Cllr Cathrine Ward ☎01234 295951 ௴mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Chris Bailes ☎07525 166313 / the chailes 78@gmail.com

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and usually take place on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm except January (no meetings August & December) and take place at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY.

Councillor Surgeries are held at 7pm before each Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Sue Bottoms, Clerk to the Council St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY 201234 271708

^dclerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours Monday—Thursday 10am—2pm

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Brickhill Borough Councillors Update - November 2017 From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Homes in Brickhill received an anonymous leaflet which stated that the Mayor was considering proposals for New Towns in Bedford Borough. It is understandable why those responsible wanted to keep their names secret. The law demands that any published and distributed publication which conveys a message must state the printer's name and address. This cowardly political attack on the Mayor and his executive was designed to provoke anxiety and misinformation amongst local residents.



It is not the Mayor but the government which places house building requirements on councils and Bedford Borough is required to allow anybody who wants to build houses to submit their proposals for consideration. Those writing the leaflet should have the courage to write to the government who set these targets, they should also supply their name and address!

The government required the Council to produce a local plan allocating land for development of a further 8,103 homes on new sites by 2035. However the government has just said that it intends to increase its requirement to an additional 6,620 homes in excess of those we are already planning for! We believe this is way over the top and we will be making a robust response to make clear that the level of housebuilding proposed for Bedford Borough is wildly excessive and our infrastructure just cannot cope.

The Council is obliged to invite applications to meet these government housing requirements and consult locally. Anybody can bring forward proposals which the council is must consider. At this stage, the Council has made no decisions whatsoever on what land will be allocated for development under the Local Plan, despite the misleading implication of the leaflet. Eventually the Full Council will decide on the Local Plan, not the Mayor or his Executive.

As your local councillors we will continue to work hard and keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and website where you can sign up for a regular Brickhill newsletter. <u>www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com</u>

Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ <u>01234 303254</u> wendyrider41@gmail.com Charles Royden, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, <u>01234 309175</u> charlesroyden@gmail.com

Have you heard of Bedford U3A?

Bedford U3A is part of the U3A National Organisation. U3A stands for University of the Third Age, (School age, working age and then retirement age). Anyone can join as long as they are retired or semi-retired. They have over 900 members in Bedford, with ages ranging from 50 to 90. The U3A enables retired people to learn from each other. Teachers aren't provided, but people get together to do some of those things they have always wanted to do but never had the time before, or never knew how.

Bedford U3A membership gives access to 65 groups with activities that range from walking, which in most cases involves a lot of chatting as well, to badminton, with painting, photography, poetry, swimming, tai chi, keep fit, dancing, gardening, chess and many, many more. In fact, the list is endless because anyone can start a new group if they have something they wish to do and can gather enough interest from other members.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A groups meet in many local venues, including St Mark's Church Community Centre, Brickhill Community Centre, Putnoe Heights Church and Bedford Athletic Rugby Club.

Membership of the U3A costs £16.00 a year; that includes a quarterly magazine, the National Magazine and automatic membership of their travel group which organises holiday trips and visits to places of interest. There are two open meetings per month (£1 entry fee) for all members with a speaker, refreshments and a raffle.

For more details see <u>www.bedfordu3a.org</u> or <u>https://u3a.org.uk</u> . An information sheet is available from Brickhill Parish Council office.

Waveney Green

Three main events took place on Waveney Green over the summer: the parish council's 'Gathering on the Green Event', a week-long visit by Mr Gumble's circus and a Fun Day to raise funds for Help for Heroes, organised by D&M Removals. Feedback received by the parish council for all three was positive. Repairs have been made to the main play area and the parish council is considering what repairs would be needed over the next few years.

Brickhill Parish is in continued discussions with Bedford Borough about the land between Francis Groves Close and the main part of Waveney Green; the parish wishes to add this small area of land to the main green, so that they can be looked after together. Brickhill Parish is also pressing ahead with plans to install Christmas lights on one of the conifers on the green; we are aiming for this Christmas but the timescales are very tight!

Mowsbury Walk Play Area



Mowsbury Walk Play Area

Despite the replacement of the main piece of equipment, there are other parts of the play area that look as if more investment is needed. Brickhill Parish Council is in discussion with the Borough Council about the possibility of taking over maintenance responsibility for this facility. No formal decision has been made yet. This is the largest play area in Brickhill, outside of the Woodlands Park estate.

If you have views about the play area, such as how it could be improved, then please contact the Clerk or any of your parish councillors.

Orange Recycling Bags

If you need any more orange recycling bags these are now available from the Foyer at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY

Thermal Imaging help for Brickhill residents

Are you losing heat from your home unnecessarily? Brickhill BEE (Better Energy Efficiency) Group is offering residents the chance again to find out where their home may be losing heat, due to problems with insulation, draughts etc. You can arrange for a volunteer surveyor, to visit you with a thermal imaging camera.

The surveyor will share the useful images with you and summarise what they show. The images are most revealing when it's 10°C (or more) warmer inside the house than out, so Winter is the best time for these surveys. This Winter, surveys will be carried out during the weekend of the 9th and 10th December. If you are interested please contact Mark Fitzpatrick on 01234 357259 or email mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com.

A small donation is requested, to be split between Cambridge Carbon Footprint (the provider of the camera) and the Brickhill BEE Group.

News from the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

It has been another busy year for The Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort. Nature waits for no man so we have been kept busy with new projects and consolidating our previous years efforts. The Wassail in January with Hemlock Morris again proved very popular and successful and raised £145 for The Sue Ryder Charity at Moggerhanger. We celebrated our 6th birthday in May and a raffle raised £67 for Motor Neuron Disease (MND).

Marion Wallace and her little helpers were again kept busy with the Priory Rangers welcoming local schools to the delights of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort. Two groups of children from Year 4 pupils at Hazeldene Lower School visited Putnoe Wood and Years 3 & 4 from Renhold Lower School visited Mowsbury Hillfort.

In June we welcomed Bedfordshire CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) for a walk and talk around Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort. As the year draws to an end we are preparing both sites for their Winter slumbers but still have to finish the coppicing in Putnoe Wood and of course prepare Mowsbury Hillfort for Wassail 2018. For more information visit our website:

www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk





Christmas drawing competition

This year's competition will be judged at the beginning of December. We have invited entries from the children in Years 3- 6 at Scott Primary and Brickhill Primary Schools. We look forward to seeing their drawings shortly. The winning entries will be displayed on our website at www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk



BPHA development, land off Mallard Hill and Brickhill Drive



At the November meeting of Brickhill Parish Council, representatives from BPHA and Bedford Borough Council came to talk about the housing development that is currently being built on the site of former garage blocks off Mallard Hill and Brickhill Drive. After a change to the agreed plan was approved by the Borough in the Summer, the development now consists of 11 single bedroom flats. These are intended for residents who can live in the community, but need some support which will be provided by ELFT (East London NHS Foundation Trust). A number of residents also attended, who took the opportunity to raise items of concern about some aspects of the development. Queries raised ranged from boundary walls, management of the homes, how any concerns would be addressed, access for dustcarts and parking. The parish council is following up these concerns and will report back to the nearby residents when they have any news to pass on.

Community Governance Review

At last we have received confirmation that the remainder of Ashmead Road, along with the Owl Park, changing rooms and two football pitches, as well as the rest of St Thomas More School and Lower Park Farm will be moving from Clapham Parish into Brickhill Parish in April 2019. This change will result in a more logical boundary between Clapham and Brickhill. It will not have any impact on the risk of additional house building in the area.

At the meeting of Brickhill Parish Council on 2nd November, a grant of £150 was awarded to Macmillan. They provide many services and support to those



suffering from cancer. This award follows on from the very successful Coffee Morning held at the Pheasant public house on 30th September, which raised in excess of £1370. Grants are available to local organisations serving Brickhill residents. Full details are on the parish council website or for further information contact the parish council –see page 2 for contact details. Bedfordshire Police will be holding a Community Engagement event in Brickhill on Monday 27th November. PCSO Claire Hughes and PCSO Emma-Jo Muggridge will bring the Mobile Police Station to Brickhill Drive shops from 2pm-3pm and then to Avon Drive shops from 3pm-4pm, to introduce themselves to the local community as well as offer reassurance and crime prevention advice. They are aware of the issue with beggars at the cash points so are hoping to tackle this issue.

Manton Lane traffic proposals

Bedford Borough has been awarded £3.5m by the Department of Transport to deliver a scheme to improve traffic flow in the Manton Lane/Great Ouse Way area. The Borough is contributing £1.3m. Included in the proposals are plans to:

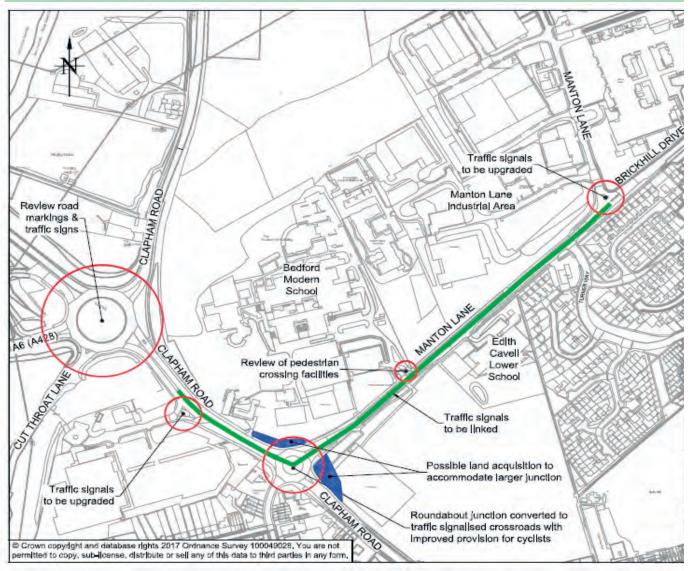
Install traffic signals at the Manton Lane/Clapham Road/Shakespeare Road roundabout,

Upgrade the traffic signals at the junction of Manton Lane and Brickhill Drive, and for these to be linked to the above signals

Improve pedestrian facilities on Manton Lane.

There is no stated intention to tackle problems caused by vehicles entering and leaving Bedford Modern School. The report notes comments received that congestion is worse when the private schools are open. The potential relocation of Rushmoor School and St Andrew's School into Manton Lane is likely to add to the problems in Manton Lane.

At its last meeting the parish council agreed to write to Bedford Borough Council to ask that they keep residents and the parish council updated of any developments and any opportunities to take part in consultation regarding these proposals.



KEMPSTON MUSICAL SOCIETY

Christmas Carol Concerts

Kempston Musical Society, Ouse Valley Singers and the Bedford Hospital Choir. invited together with soloists. will be performing a selection of Christmas carols and festive music on Saturday 9th December at St. Peter's Church. De Parys Avenue. Bedford. The concert will start at 7.30pm.

The concert is in aid of Bedford Hospital – the Maternity Unit is in desperate need of a Jaundice Machine, which helps detect jaundice in babies, enabling the nurses to treat pregnant mothers before they give birth.

Tickets cost £9.00 for adults, £6.00 for students and over 60's and £3.00 for children and include a mince pie and a hot or cold drink. To order your ticket please order by email to: MTHROSSELL@AOL.COM Tickets will not be available at the door.

Tickets are already selling fast, so please email as soon as possible with your order.

<u>Saturday 25th.</u> NOVE 12-3PM No xom °G X A GREAT ASSORTMENT OF STALLS TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING STARTED 610 COOKIE DECORATING AND CRAFT TABLE FOR CHILDREN 24-10 *ช*ดหลง actor acte FREE CAKES/COOKIES, TEA/COFFEE AND MULLED WINE (FOR THE CROWN UPS!) 10 640 ALL IN OUR BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED HALL, READY FOR A FESTIVE AFTERNOON FOR EVERYONE OF ALL AGES.

CHRISTMAS IN A BOX 2017

Get a box, wrap it, fill it and make a difference to the lives of local people in crisis this Christmas. For a number of years, All Nations Church have been privileged to provide local people in crisis with food hampers at Christmas. For 2017 we're building on the success of last year's Christmas In A Box where we distributed over 700 boxes, reaching over 1,600 people in Bedford.

Locally Bedford foodbank is seeing an increasing number of clients on a regular basis. Here at All Nations Church, we want to further support the foodbank's work, help their clients and other vulnerable people during this festive season.

To do this we need your help.

There are a number of ways you can be involved:

- You can purchase items on the shopping list on our website and donate them in an opened box wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper.
- Buy one or two items from the list and donate them to Christmas In A Box and we will make up a box for you.
- Donate the cost of a box, £30 for a large family or £20 for a small family. We will then purchase the contents on your behalf and make the box up.

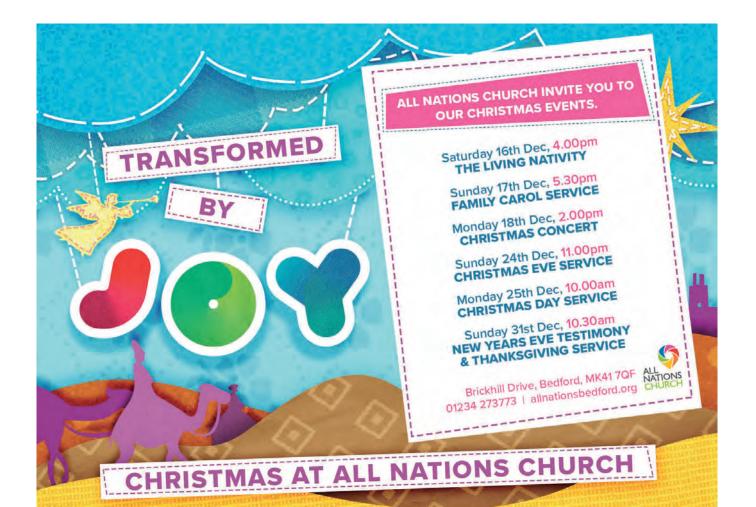
If you choose to give by cheque, make your cheque payable to 'All Nations Church, Bedford' and place in an envelope marked 'Christmas In A Box'. If you would like to give via electronic payment, you can find details online.

If you choose to get a box, and fill it, or even donate a few items to the project, please return them to All Nations Church on:

Friday 8th December 2.00pm - 4.00pm Or Sunday 10th December 3.00pm - 6.00pm.

For more information and other ways to get involved visit our website or email christmasinabox@allnationsbedford.org www.allnationsbedford.org/christmasinabox





Love came

down at

Christmas

Sunday 3 December 9.30am Christingle Service

Saturday 16 December 6.30pm Carols in the Car Park Free mulled wine & mince pies

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Crib Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight A traditional service of nine lessons and carols in a candlelit setting with musical accompaniment by organ and Bedford Town Band. I I.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December 9.30 Christmas Day Family Worship

St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, MK41 7UY 01234 342613 www.stmarkschurch.com





Scott Primary School had a very special visitor to school on Monday 13th November, Pudsey bear surprised the children in an assembly and handed out certificates to the winners of our Children in Need colouring competition. The school also held a 'Spotty' themed mufti day and cake sale to raise money for the Big BBC Children in Need Spotacular. Scott Primary is actively involved in fundraising to



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FREE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR **BRICKHILL SENIOR CITIZENS**

KS2 District Dodgeball

Brickhill Community Centre Management Committee are once again hosting a free Christmas party for the Senior Citizens of Brickhill. The afternoon includes food, professional entertainment by Billy Keys and a free raffle.

Tuesday 5th December 2pm- 4pm **Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Bedford**

To book a place please phone Sue Stewart on 01234 312332 or contact us via email at brickhillcommunitycentre@googlemail.com

The Journey from Bunyan to the **Brickworks**



During the warm summer months of June and July 2017, the students at St Thomas More Catholic Secondarv School were privileged to have a number of visits from the Bedford Chronicles who shared their most recent project, 'the Journey from Bunyan to the Brickworks' The team delivered assemblies across school. inspiring students and staff about the life of John Bunyan as well as the many individuals who have journeyed from around the world to be part of our Bedford community today. A particular emphasis was placed on the experience of the Italian community.

Year 7 then received a series of workshops through the History curriculum and a group of Year 9 students took part in a stained glass window workshop competition. and The students were given the task of



producing their own illustration of the project in a template of a stained glass window. On the last day of term as the students left for their holidays, we had the difficult task of choosing a winner. We chose our winner but when the Bedford Chronicles arrived to collect the chosen piece, they were so pleased with our students work that they took all of our entries to use in the exhibition. On Saturday October 21st we gathered at the Bunyan Meeting House for the unveiling of the overall winner whose image had been turned into a stained glass window. We were delighted that Naomi Stokes from St Thomas More was the winner! Well done Naomi and congratulations to the Bedford Chronicles in producing such an inspiring project that has captured so many personal journeys and stories.

YR 5 and 6 Girls Futsal

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Brickhill Help and Advice



Borough Councillor

23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, Bedford. MK41 7BQ 01234 303254 wendyrider41@gmail.com

Borough Councillor Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford. MK41 7UY 01234 309175 charlesroyden@gmail.com

Local surgeries taking place at 10am:

Brickhill Drive shops Saturday 25th November Avon Drive shops Saturday 9th December

See www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com for details of surgeries and the latest Brickhill news



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- Monday 1:15pm-2:15pm Brickhill Community centre, Avon Drive Bedford, MK41 7AF
- Wednesday 09:30am-10:30am Brickhill Community centre, Avon Drive Bedford, MK41 7AF
- Friday 10:00am-11:00am ST Johns Ambulance hall, Wellingborough road, Olney MK46 5AF



Contact: Chantell on Tel: 07743004519 or Email <u>cmcfitness28@gmail.com</u>

Image: With Slimming World

save £5 up to £5 ask in group for more details

TUESDAYS

St Mark's Church & Community Centre

Calder Rise, Off Avon Drive Brickhill, Bedford

9.30 am & 11.30 am 3.30 pm, 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm

Contact: Lorrie 01234 340 473



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