

BRICKHILL NEWS

Merlin Gardens

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 63

February 2020

Parish Council News.....

Vacancy in the Woodlands Park Ward: the parish council is seeking to fill this vacancy through co-option. If you are interested, please send a brief resume to the Clerk (details on pg 2) by the end of March 2020.

Neighbourhood Development Plan for Brickhill: A number of parishes within Bedford Borough Council have started to develop NDP's because they carry real weight in influencing how a parish develops in the future. We have made a start, but we need your help to understand your views, key issues and themes which will be used to inform the vision, aims and the policies in the plan. This will be **your** plan, so **your** support is important. We are seeking answers to questions like: What is good/bad in the area? What are its qualities as a place to live? What issues affect the area (now or in the future)? What changes would you like to see? To start seeking some answers, we have set up a short survey (see the link below) which will run until the 1st April. We will also be using other means to seek your views over the coming months. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BrickhillNDP1>



More CCTV for Brickhill—helping to keep Brickhill safe ...



As you may know, Brickhill has already got CCTV cameras installed at two locations in Woodlands Park namely on Ashmead Road near to the owl park and changing rooms and at the Westrope Way end of Ashmead Road.

Following the encampment on Waveney Green, the Parish Council had a further

camera installed to cover the Green. Within the last few weeks, Brickhill Parish Council added to that number with an extra four cameras. This was following the further encampment last year on the land off Brickhill Drive and a break-in at the scout hut on Foster's Brow, adjacent to the allotments. As a result the parish council has had cameras installed to cover the allotments, the scout hut and the green on Brickhill Drive. It has also had installed on

Brickhill Drive an ANPR camera which recognises vehicle registration plates (see pictures). All our cameras are linked to and monitored by Bedford Borough Council CCTV Control.



Brickhill Parish Council Spring Tea

Friday 27th March, 2pm - 4pm

St Mark's Church Community Centre

Yes it's that time again !!

Are you a resident aged 65 years young or over? Why not join us for a traditional afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes, entertainment and good company. Don't worry if you are coming on your own, everyone is always very friendly and you will always find someone to talk to.

It is also free - so please come along—but you need to book your place!!

Places are limited so please contact the Clerk (see page 2) to reserve your free place. It is important to let us know of any dietary requirements.

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair)

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Cllr Peter Blakeman (Planning Committee Chair) ☎01234 355952

✉pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

Cllr Stuart Green

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Cllr Tim Retout

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NORTH WARD

Cllr Vincent Holloway

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✉vholloway1975@gmail.com

Cllr Corinne Royden

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Cllr Charles Royden

(Borough Councillor for Brickhill)

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Cllr John Durham

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Borough Councillors for Woodlands Park

Cllr Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant

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Cllr Stephen Moon

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✉stephen.moon@bedford.gov.uk



Volunteers Required

Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the parish. This means we need lots of volunteers - could you help? If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live and can spare an hour, please contact the parish council office.

SOUTH AND WEST WARD

Cllr Ann Reeve

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(Borough Councillor for Brickhill)

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Cllr Cathrine Ward

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Cllr Morris Johns

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Cllr Alastair Grant

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WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Michael Jarman-Webb

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**Mrs Sue Bottoms,
Clerk to the Council**

St Marks Church and Community Centre,
Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

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✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 10am—2pm

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and normally take place on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm (except August & December) at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY. Councillor surgeries are held at 7pm before each parish

Dates for your diary.....

- ◆ *Spring Tea 27th March 2-4pm*
- ◆ *Gathering on the Green Saturday 4th July 11am-3pm*
- ◆ *Christmas Tree Light Switch On Wednesday 2nd December 6pm*



Brickhill News is published by Brickhill Parish Council. Printed by White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford. Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate at the time of going to press, the Parish Council takes no responsibility for the errors or omissions in editorial or advertising content. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Council. **Copy deadline for the May edition is 8th May 2020.**

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update February 2020 From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



As we write the works on Manton Lane are coming to an end and the new road layout can now be seen. The new feeder lane into Bedford Modern should help keep traffic moving and when the footbridge is eventually reinstated this will also help prevent delays. This will not be the end of the roadworks because work will begin on the roundabouts at the bottom of Manton Lane along Clapham Road and the start of the bypass in the summer. These will be converted to traffic controlled junctions which are designed to tackle congestion at busy periods.

Winter conditions are taking a toll on roads across the Borough and additional pothole crews have been called in to help keep on top of repairs. Roads are becoming damaged by gritting salt, fluctuating temperatures, and surface water following heavy rains. So far this year, crews have done over 25% more gritting runs than the average using over 2,000 tons of salt, often very late at night and continuing until the early morning. Gritting is a really important part of keeping roads safe during winter, but it is also very corrosive and damages the road surface. Alongside warmer temperatures during the day allowing water to seep into the road and weaken them, freezing temperatures overnight have done significant damage to roads like Linnet Way. The council is making twice as many repairs as this time last year.

On a more positive note everybody who has asked us for trees has had them planted. Sadly previous planting decisions have left us with the legacy of ongoing problems such as overgrown roots, branches and dropping fruits. We always ask for new trees to be appropriate for the setting so that they don't become a nuisance in years to come.

We now know the new railway line from Oxford to Cambridge will pass through Bedford station. Only a short time ago this seemed unlikely with the proposed route south of Bedford passing us by. The Mayor and his team have campaigned hard to show the economic benefits of including Bedford and this decision is great news for Bedford residents. The increased connectivity for our town will bring regeneration to Bedford with more opportunities to travel for work and leisure, as well as supporting our economic growth and prosperity, attracting businesses and jobs, bringing over £20m of additional economic activity to our Borough. Mayor Dave Hodgson said "Bedford Borough Council recently launched a 'Rail Strategy for Bedford', setting out our vision for Bedford Borough to be a great place to live, work and visit and to create a Borough that attracts international business and highly skilled and sustainable jobs. This announcement is the first step in the delivery of this Strategy and places Bedford at the heart of this key new infrastructure. Our Rail Strategy demonstrates our commitment to improving rail infrastructure for the benefit of local residents and a vibrant local economy." It is expected that you will be able to board a train for Oxford as early as 2023 and to Cambridge by 2030. There will be a redevelopment of our railway station and regeneration of the station area. This is a decision which will transform the future prospects for Bedford and bring prosperity for our town

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

Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, 01234 303254 wendyrider41@gmail.com

Charles Royden, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, 01234 309175 charlesroyden@gmail.com

St Mark's Bereavement Support



*First Wednesday every month at
St Mark's Calder Rise
11am*

Tea, coffee and a chance to chat

This is a free service offered by people who care. Just turn up.

Bedford RSPB local group

Meet at ARA club, Manton Lane Bedford MK41 7PF. All Meetings 7.30pm aiming to finish by 9.30pm
Thursday 19th March. Steve Portugal - a Senior Lecturer in Animal Behaviour at Royal Holloway, University of London will tell us all about:

***"Migration - Avian Migration and Moulting
The Annual Cycle"***

Brickhill Primary School named Bedford Sports School of the Year 2019

Children and staff at Brickhill Primary School are celebrating after being crowned 'Bedford Sports School of the Year' at a ceremony held at Bedford's Corn Exchange on Monday 9 December. The community school on Dove Road prides itself on promoting a strong 'sport for all' culture involving all children. It received the accolade at the Bedford Sports Awards. For the third year running, the school achieved the School Games Gold Award for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and they continue to enter KS1 and KS2 teams into multi-sports tournaments across the Borough. Notable successes this year include an unbeaten Year 5 and 6 boys' and girls' football side, cricket and tennis teams and a mixed dodgeball team that reached the County finals. The school has a real commitment to its policy for inclusivity. Headteacher Debbie Wilson said, "We go the extra mile to ensure that all children have the opportunity to participate in sport, and we often have A, B, C and D teams across all sports to give everyone the chance to compete. We have worked really hard to provide a comprehensive programme of clubs and activities to appeal to all ages and to positively include those children who are considered disadvantaged. I am absolutely thrilled that we have received this award and it is a real credit to the Brickhill Primary team." The sporting interest of girls is also high on their list of priorities and they have set up a whole school 'Fit4Fun' club for the enjoyment of less active children.



Did you realise that the parish council offer grants???

If you run a group or activity or take part in one which serves or has members who live in Brickhill, you can apply for a grant. The parish council recently gave a grant of £500 to the Bedford Daycare Hospice to support its excellent work in supporting those with life limiting conditions. An application form and the grant criteria can be found on the parish council website or contact the Parish Clerk (see page 2).



Thank You from All Nations Church

We would like to say a very big thank you for helping make this year's Christmas in a Box such an amazing success! We had many different people from local schools, businesses, members of the local community, bringing boxes of food in to All Nations Church. It was a wonderful sight to see hundreds of boxes all waiting to be delivered to people in need in our community. We were able to give out 830 boxes, some were for single people, many were for families, making a total of over 2030 people!! Thanks for playing your part in helping us reach out to our community to make a difference.



What is Messy Church?

- ◆ An afternoon of creative fun for children of primary school age and their carers.
- ◆ A new way for all ages to engage with God.
- ◆ There is a different Bible based theme each month.
- ◆ This is developed through craft activities, songs and a short talk.
- ◆ The afternoon ends with a freshly prepared meal for everyone.
- ◆ Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Future dates:
Wednesday 18 March
Wednesday 22 April
3.45 to 5.30pm

Where is Messy Church?

St Mark's Calder Rise Brickhill Bedford MK41 7UY

When is Messy Church?

Third Wednesday of month 3.45pm ends 5.30pm (except April when it is the fourth Wednesday)

How much will it cost? Donation of £1 per person

Do I need to pre book? Phone the church (01234 342613) before the day, or just turn up.



Bedfordshire Police are inviting you to attend the

**Brickhill, De Parys & Harpur
Community priority setting meeting**

Wednesday 11th March 2020

**St Marks Church, Calder rise,
Brickhill MK41 7UY**

7PM-8PM (Prompt start)

Crime statistics, priority setting and policing updates

Please Walk or Cycle to Reduce Pollution and Climate Change

The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published in 2018 warned that the world had just 12 years left to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels to avoid a climate change catastrophe.

41% of total emissions in the Borough are from road transport, which has increased by 18% since 2011.

What can you do to help? You can help by using sustainable transport - walking and cycling for short distances and a mix of these and/or the bus or train for longer journeys. Brickhill has regular bus services to the town centre via Stagecoach's No 6 service and Grant Palmer's No 21 (plus one No 22 and three No 20) from Woodlands Park and No 28 from the North Bedfordshire villages. In the case of cycling, all parts of Brickhill are within a 15 minute ride of the town centre and everywhere in the urban area including many adjacent villages can be reached safely using a mixture of off-road tracks and dual use paths, on-road quiet roads and cycle lanes on more busier roads without resorting to riding illegally on the pavements.

Scott Primary School children help SMART Prebend Centre wrap up warm

When the weather started to get chillier, the children wanted to help those in need. The School Council, made up with children from each class, regularly meet to discuss ideas on how they can help not only their school, but also the community. Following the success of their pre-Christmas foodbank initiative where they set up a campaign to request donations which resulted in an abundance, the total weighed more than 6 children, they got their thinking caps on to see who else they could help. As winter had arrived and they were all conscious they needed to remember their coats so they could go outside to play, it got them thinking about those who may be not be able to wrap up warm. The youngsters decided they wanted to help those who are homeless and would be feeling the cold during the long winter months. Together with their teachers, they put together a request to all parents to ask them to donate good, clean and wearable clothes including coats, hats and scarves for adults. They were overwhelmed with the response and were delighted to deliver over 15 bin bags full of clothes to the SMART Prebend Centre.



Headteacher Anita Barker said 'we were so pleased with the response from our parents to our plea. Our School Council work very hard to help others whether it is with initiatives in our community, particularly those in need, but they also focus on how they can help and improve things within our school. They are very enthusiastic with how we can improve our green credentials and help with spreading the message with all our children. I am so proud at how hard they work and their kind and caring attitude'

***Do you run a local group in Brickhill?
Fancy showing off your skills at Gathering on the Green,
Saturday 4th July 2020, 11am-3pm?***

In the past we have had belly dancing, line dancing, martial arts, dancing and gymnastics. If you would like to do a demonstration for say 10mins, please contact the Clerk (see page 2).



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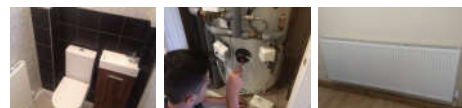
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Dripping Tap?



Radiators not working?



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Email: ryangascoynephg@gmail.com



Brickhill

Monday
Afternoons
1:15pm

Wednesday
Mornings
9:30am

Brickhill Community Centre
Avon Drive, Bedford, MK41 7AF

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Brickhill Help and Advice



Borough Councillor Wendy Rider
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 at:
Brickhill Drive shops Saturday 15th March
Avon Drive shops Saturday 29th March

See our website
www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com
For details of surgeries and the latest
Brickhill news

YOGA

Brickhill Community Centre
Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm

St. Cuthberts Hall
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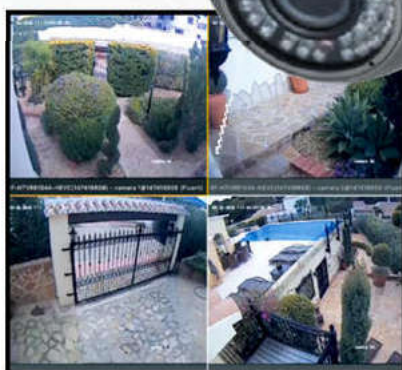
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TUESDAYS

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:

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