

BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 39

December 2014



Christmas drawing competition

This year's winning entry is from Amanveer Swali, Year 4 Scott Lower School



Year 4 winner Jessica Livingstone, Scott Lower School
Year 4 runner-up Taherah Jannatt, Scott Lower School
Year 3 winner Deandre Mullings, Scott Lower School
Year 3 runner-up Sam Nokitov, Brickhill Lower School

Congratulations to them all! To view the winning entries visit our website www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk



News from the Chair: Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick

Brickhill Parish Council has recently completed a significant program of upgrades and repairs to Brickhill Community Centre. The upstairs toilets have been renovated and are a vast improvement on what was there before. An "Open Day" took place recently, to give potential hirers the chance to see the centre. If you are looking for a venue, please contact Sue Stewart, the Centre Manager on 01234 212332 or alternatively you can email your enquiry to: brickhillcommunitycentre@googlemail.com



Is your home draughty? Are your windows or doors letting out all the heat? If you cannot afford to make essential repairs, the Brickhill BEE group may be able to help you by providing practical help to fix windows or block draughts. For more information, please contact Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick who is the Chair of the Group. Mark said "We know that there are over 300 households in Brickhill who cannot afford to heat their homes properly. Our aim is to provide help to these households".

Brickhill BEE Group



Working together to cut Brickhill's carbon footprint and tackle fuel poverty

In this newsletter there is news from many local voluntary groups, such as Brickhill Lower School FC and Open House. We are lucky that so many people are willing to give their time as volunteers. If you don't volunteer but would like to do so locally, please contact me and I may be able to give you some ideas. Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all.

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair)

20 Nursery Gardens, Brickhill, MK41 8DU
☎01234 357259 ✉markfitzp@cix.co.uk

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SOUTH AND WEST WARD

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Cllr Ann Reeve

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Cllr Wendy Rider (also Borough Councillor)

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☎01234 303254 ✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

Cllr Raymond Waterhouse (Vice Chair)

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✉raymond.waterhouse@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Sue Bottoms, Clerk to the Council

Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Bedford, MK41 7AF ☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk



BRICKHILL
PARISH COUNCIL



Brickhill Borough Councillors Report

On Wednesday 22 October we were pleased to join Mayor Dave Hodgson and Anita Barker the Headteacher of Scott Lower School as Mayor Dave officially opened two brand new classrooms. It was a great day to see the new 'state of the art' classrooms providing superb places for children to learn. The staff, governors and children are to be congratulated for the continued success of this brilliant school.



On Friday 24 October we saw the historic sod cutting event to mark the start of work on the £18 million Northern Section of the Bedford Western Bypass. It has taken a huge effort involving compulsory purchase orders and a series of negotiations by the Mayor to unblock the logjam. Overcoming these obstacles brings to an end a 50 year wait and work has started on the new road which will bring new investment and jobs to Bedford Borough, while making it easier for all road users to get around.

Closer to home we are delighted that work will soon start on upgrading and resurfacing Avon Drive shops. The car park area especially has required repair for some time and we are delighted to have been able to allocate funds to enable this work to take place.

Not all councillors work is quite so significant, but nevertheless the small things matter too. As the darker nights draw in, we are touring Brickhill looking for failed street lights, bollards and road signs. We have already reported quite a few but not nearly as many this year as we used to. Many street lights have now been replaced or upgraded to the new low energy and longer life bulbs and fittings. We are also now using LED lights where possible and the new technology saves money, energy and provides longer life. Please help us and let us know if you see any lights out and we will have them fixed, it could save a life. We have been worried recently by the number of Brickhill residents being bothered by doorstep traders and we have reported some who have been aggressively selling things like roofing repairs. Please tell us if you have been visited as we are compiling evidence for the Borough Council Trading Standards and asking them to take action.

For more information on what is happening in and around Brickhill and to keep in touch please visit our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

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

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

Mayor opens New Classroom Building at Scott Lower School

Pupils, staff and Governors at Scott Lower School were delighted to welcome the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other Local Authority officials to formally open their new building on Wednesday 22nd October; the Mayor also unveiled a spectacular commemorative mosaic commissioned by artist Kristy Adams, the tiles for which were kindly donated by the local firm "Elstow Ceramics".

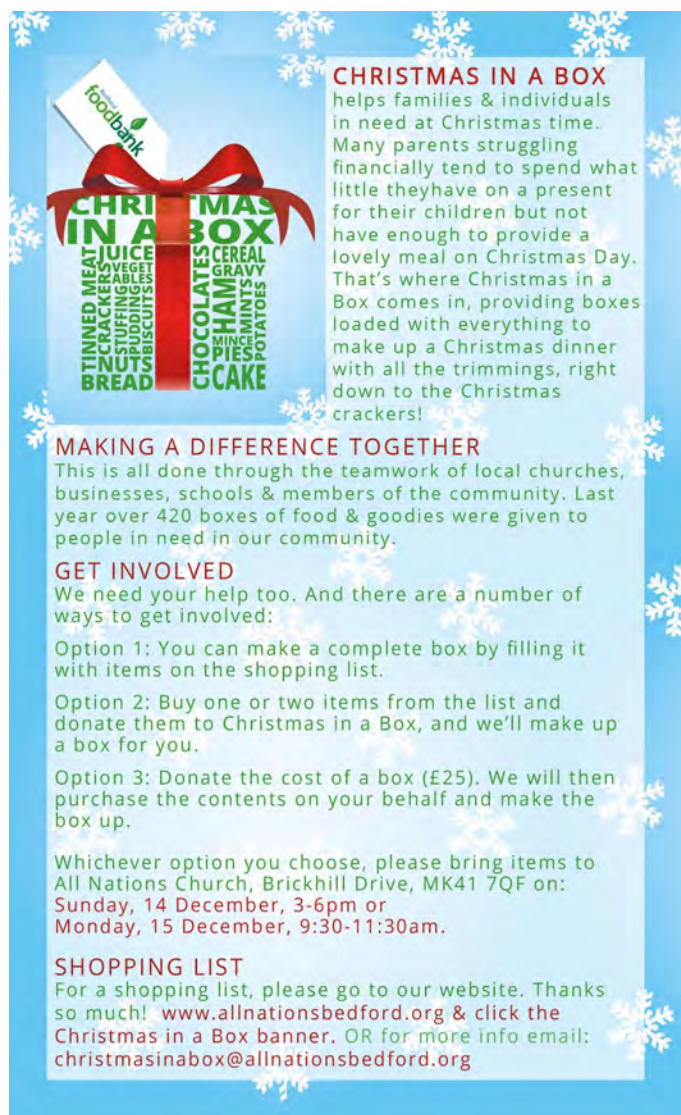
Not only did the pupils proudly show the visitors their new classroom but they also impressed them with their amazing singing and ribbon dancing. Headteacher, Anita Barker said "Our School is due to double in size over the next 3 years and we are thrilled to have such a wonderful new learning environment for our children".



Scott Lower kitted out for new season

The football team at Scott Lower School are looking forward to a successful season, they are extremely grateful to MDH Insurance who have very kindly provided them with football jackets to keep them warm during training & Riches Skips, who have provided them with a brand new strip.





CHRISTMAS IN A BOX
helps families & individuals in need at Christmas time. Many parents struggling financially tend to spend what little they have on a present for their children but not have enough to provide a lovely meal on Christmas Day. That's where Christmas in a Box comes in, providing boxes loaded with everything to make up a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, right down to the Christmas crackers!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER
This is all done through the teamwork of local churches, businesses, schools & members of the community. Last year over 420 boxes of food & goodies were given to people in need in our community.

GET INVOLVED
We need your help too. And there are a number of ways to get involved:

Option 1: You can make a complete box by filling it with items on the shopping list.

Option 2: Buy one or two items from the list and donate them to Christmas in a Box, and we'll make up a box for you.

Option 3: Donate the cost of a box (£25). We will then purchase the contents on your behalf and make the box up.

Whichever option you choose, please bring items to All Nations Church, Brickhill Drive, MK41 7QF on:
Sunday, 14 December, 3-6pm or
Monday, 15 December, 9:30-11:30am.

SHOPPING LIST
For a shopping list, please go to our website. Thanks so much! www.allnationsbedford.org & click the Christmas in a Box banner. OR for more info email: christmasinabox@allnationsbedford.org

Woodlands Park

In the May 2014 newsletter we asked residents for suggestions on how to spend the £20,117.90 to be handed over to Brickhill Parish Council by Ravensden Parish when Woodlands Park officially becomes part of Brickhill Parish on 1st April 2015.

The aim is to use the money for the benefit of the residents of Woodlands Park, though no doubt the wider Brickhill community will also benefit from this. A wide range of ideas were sent in, many involving improvements in the new North Brickhill Country Park, but other ideas such as noticeboards, more dog bins and signs, a community hall, an outdoor "green gym" and road improvements. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council said "The ideas suggested would cost many times the money available, but it is worthwhile seeing just what people want and then looking for ways to deliver them".

A group of residents (mostly from Woodlands Park) and parish councillors are now looking into each of the ideas in more detail, to see how they can be taken forward. There will be further consultations with residents before any of this money is spent.

Public Footpath No 24, Brickhill to Clapham - Application to upgrade to legal cycleway dismissed

Eight years after the Cycling Campaign for North Bedfordshire (CCNB) applied to the then Bedfordshire County Council to make the public footpath between Hawk Drive Brickhill and Green Lane Clapham a legal cycleway, it has been dismissed by Bedford Borough Council and subsequently after an appeal also by The Planning Inspectorate.

The route is the remaining part of the old carriageway built for the Clapham Park Estate more than 100 years ago which started in Kimbolton Road (next to the existing Lodge) and went between the two sections of what is now Falcon Avenue, past a further Lodge in Hawk Drive and then to Green Lane in Clapham via Carriage Drive. It is more enjoyable, attractive and safer than using the longer, busy main road alternative and has been used for more than 50 years by cyclists to commute to work and school as well as to the riding school in Green Lane, church services (when the convent was open) and for visiting the North Bedfordshire villages for leisure purposes.

The Borough and The Planning Inspectorate both confirmed there was evidence of the public having used the route with bicycles over a period of more than 50 years but rejected the application on the basis of signage at three specific points of time which they claimed showed a lack of intention on the part of the various landowners over a full period of 20 years to dedicate the way for use by cyclists. These were:

1968 - Little Park Farm end - 'No Entrance, No Horses, Cars, Cycles or Dogs'. No signs of any kind have been seen at this end of the route (even for the footpath) since this time.

1975 - Mid way at the junction of the route to Clapham House - 'Private Land'. This sign was adjacent to the actual route but was taken down immediately in 1975 to avoid confusion with Public Footpath No 24.

1998 - Green Lane end - 'Private Road - Parking Prohibited'.

CCNB would like to thank all residents and others who contributed additional evidence to support the application.

Peter Blakeman, CCNB Vice Chair

At Beauchamp Middle School our organised trips and events take the form of "Memorable Days". This means that on three days of the year, pupils participate in experiences both on and off site which help to enhance their learning further and since all of the children at Beauchamp will experience their Memorable Days on the same three days of the year, there is minimal disruption to other school days throughout the course of the year. With our Memorable Days, not only do the children experience a series of great educational days out or rewarding days in but their parents can rest assured that the quality of classroom support remains a major priority for every remaining day of the academic year. On Wednesday, Year 5 enjoyed a 'Space Day' – Including a Space Dome, Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the Higgins Museum and Art Gallery for a Local Medieval Study Day, Year 7 "Employability" - a trip to the University of Bedfordshire's Polhill Campus including a range of taster sessions to be followed up with a Graduation Ceremony here at Beauchamp and Year 8 went on a trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford - a day off site during which pupils explored and researched the events that unfolded during World War 1 and World War 2 as well as experiencing some live exhibitions.



CAN YOU HELP DELIVER THIS NEWSLETTER?

We are still looking for extra volunteers to help deliver the Brickhill News parish newsletter. If you would like to help, please contact Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick or the Clerk to find out more. Contact details on bottom of page 2. Thank You.

Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme

Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme is a voluntary organisation set-up to help the residents of Brickhill, Bedford.

From July-September we have helped 9 people, 4 of them new clients. We have helped them on 33 occasions. We are looking for new volunteers to help with a variety of tasks such as befriending, gardening, dog walking, lifts to doctor/hospital appointments, minor DIY, shopping, etc. We also need a volunteer who is able to help us with the phone rota taking calls and finding a volunteer able to help.

If you can spare a few hours each month to help your fellow residents then please give us a call on 07445 594050. All volunteers are subject to a free DBS (CRB) check.



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



Local surgeries taking place at:

**Brickhill Drive 22 November - at 10am
& Avon Drive 6 December - at 10am**

See our website

www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

**For details of surgeries and the latest
Brickhill news**



Zumba Gold is a fun Latin Inspired fitness Class that is easy to follow that people of any age can do it. The party like atmosphere is exhilarating it's great for the mind body and soul for the older adults and beginners. It pays specific attention to medical and physical conditions such as balance hips and joints problems.

Come and Join the Party

On every Wednesday at 09:30am—10:30am at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, MK41 7AF - only £4.00 per class.

For more information or to book a place please call Chantell McKnight on 07743 004519 or email me at cmcfitness28@gmail.com



News from Open House

Open House is a weekly drop in for adults with learning difficulties, their carers and families held at St Marks Church Brickhill. Open House recently celebrated its third birthday.

Over the last few months they have had a range of activities that have included a visit from Georgia a Guide Dog, dancing, singing and crafts. There have been celebrations as well, in July they held a sea side day complete with a beach scene, seagulls, buckets and spades and of course fish & chips and ice cream. Last month they held a party to celebrate their third birthday which was enjoyed by all.

By the time you read this the Open House Group will have held their Children in Need coffee morning and craft sale. Last they raised an incredible £400 for this worthy cause.

If you would like to know more about the group or know someone who could benefit from attending then we please contact St Marks Church 01234 342613.

Brickhill Lower Football Club Update

BLSFC have had an eventful few months. The club raised over £600 for Sports Relief in March by staging a sponsored 12 hour football match.

Also, to celebrate the competition, BLSFC held its first ever "World Cup" on Waveney Green in July in which 6 teams took part from Bedford lower schools. After a titanic battle and lots of great football, BLSFC managed to lift the trophy after pipping Castle Lower School on goal difference. It was a great day of football and all players from all teams received a medal for their tremendous efforts. It was extra special for Scott Lower School who played their first match together at this event; they were a credit to themselves and their school.

BLSFC has had a record number of children sign up for the 2014/15 season and is currently operating a waiting list. However, the BLSFC Coaching Team are continuing their good work with the football development program they devised (FACTS – Football and Coaches to Share) and are working to provide free coaches to a number of local schools. It is hoped that by early 2015 children at Hills Academy, Ursula Taylor and Edith Cavell will have their own school football teams and after school football clubs thanks to the work of the teachers and BLSFC/FACTS Team.

Some of our players visited Brickhill Parish Council at their November meeting and gave out biscuits to thank them for sponsoring the team's kit. Don't they look great!

If you have any questions, wish to get involved or wish to learn about how you can become a coach or help with sponsorship, please contact the club at: brickhill lowerschoolfc@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Thursday 4th December 2014

St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY

7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Anti social behaviour co-ordinator, Bedford Borough Council

All Welcome



Christmas Services at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, MK41 7UY

Sunday 7th December

9.30am Christingle Service

A favourite Advent Service with children and adults alike as we decorate our Christingle oranges

Saturday 20th December

6.30pm Carols in the Car Park

Free mulled wine and mince pies to warm us up as we sing carols accompanied by Bedford Town Band

24 December - Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

Great for little ones but bring the whole family for a 1/2 hour service of carols as we build the Christmas crib

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

11.30pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight

We gather together this most holy night to welcome the birth of the Christ Child

25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am Family Morning Worship

A perfect way to start Christmas Day

Christmas Services at All Nations Church Centre, Brickhill Drive, MK41 7QF

14 December 11am Family Christmas-y service

21 December 4pm - Christmas Carols Service

Christmas Day 10am - Christmas Celebration

Scott Lower School Christmas Fayre

Sunday 7th December 1-3.30pm

Hawk Drive, Brickhill, Bedford, MK41 7AJ

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www.facebook.com/ScottLowerSchoolPTA

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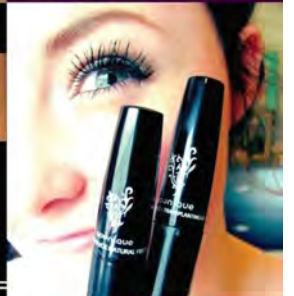
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Printed by White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford.

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BRICKHILL 
PARISH COUNCIL



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