

BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 40

February 2015



Brickhill BEE Group

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

Where does all your heat go to?

Have you ever wondered just where the heat goes from your home? On 28th February and 1st March, the Brickhill BEE group will be using a special Thermal Imaging Camera to carry out audits of some Brickhill homes. The camera is being provided by Cambridge Carbon Footprint and a small donation is requested in return for the audit report. Bookings for this will be on a first come, first served basis.

Help for draughty homes

Is your home hard to heat or draughty? Or do you have a friend, neighbour or relation in Brickhill with the same problem? The Brickhill BEE group is keen to provide advice and may be able to give some help at no charge.

Brickhill Green Open Homes 2015

In 2014, a number of Brickhill residents opened their homes to show how they had made their homes more energy efficient; including use of solar panels and heat pumps. There will be another Green Open Homes event – on **Sunday 31st May**. If you would like to take part, please contact Mark Fitzpatrick (see page 2).

Woodlands Park - transfer of funds from Ravensden Parish Council

Further discussions with Woodlands Park residents have been taking place on how best to use the £20,000 due to be transferred as part of the process of Woodlands Park becoming part of Brickhill Parish. For more details of the discussions and current plans, please see the parish website:

www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

News from Scott Lower School

Roll Up Roll Up Scott's greatest circus has been to town! During this half term the children in Year2 have been learning about the circus across the curriculum. First the children experienced a WOW circus morning where they learnt and had a go at a range of circus skills developing their agility, balance, coordination and perseverance! In Literacy the children have been learning about non-fiction texts and have made their own circus posters and instructions. They have also explored poetry and performed a poem in their assembly as well as creating their own rhyming couplets poems. In Mathematics the children have solved lots of circus problems including all four operations, money and measuring. In Geography the children have learnt how to use maps and atlases to find the countries that the travelling circus could visit. In Art the children have created a range of exciting illusion pictures!

On Friday 6th February the parents were all invited into school for an amazing assembly, where the Year2 children demonstrated their new "circus" skills and taught the other children all about the history of the circus. A great time was had by all!



Easter sports sessions

If you are aged 7-12 years and live in Brickhill or Woodlands Park why not come along to one of our sports sessions? Activities take place at Scott Lower School, Hawk Drive, Brickhill MK41 7AF

£5 PER
SESSION

Wednesday 1st April—Wild Survival

(make your own camp, bush fire and toast marshmallows)

Wednesday 8th April—Archery and Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting

For an application form please contact the parish council on 01234 271708 or email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christmas Dinner for local residents

In December the parish council hosted a Christmas Dinner for 40 local residents. Our thanks to Beauchamp Middle School Choir who provided the entertainment on the day.



News from Brickhill Parish Council - small reduction in Council Tax

The Parish Council has set its budget for 2015/16, with a reduction in the Band D Council Tax of 17p (down 0.5% to £32.99). The budget includes support for further repair and improvements works in Brickhill Community Centre; on Waveney Green there is funding for the maintenance of the play area, repairs to the footpaths and more environmental initiatives. There is support for the Gathering on the Green event in the summer, a meal for pensioners at Christmas, play schemes for children at Easter and summer, ongoing support to the Community Safety Forum and grants to local organisations. We continue to encourage allotment gardening but want to cut the costs of running the allotments. With the welcome addition of Woodlands Park to Brickhill Parish on 1st April, the council is installing two extra notice boards to help keep residents informed. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council said: "There are some really useful initiatives in this year's budget, in addition to many of the regular items. We continue to focus on keeping costs down, but still doing our best for the residents of Brickhill".



Mark Fitzpatrick, Chairman

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

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

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Cllr Dean Crofts

37 Ryton Close, Brickhill, MK41 7XA

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Cllr Cathrine Ward

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NORTH WARD

Cllr Andrew Wilkins

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Cllr Corinne Royden

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Cllr Charles Royden (also Borough Councillor)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

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SOUTH AND WEST WARD

Cllr Alex Chrusciak, 1c Falcon Avenue, Brickhill MK41 7DS

☎01234 350884 ✉almo5000@hotmail.co.uk

SOUTH AND WEST WARD

Cllr Ann Reeve

7 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ

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Cllr Wendy Rider (also Borough Councillor)

23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ

☎01234 303254 ✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

Cllr Raymond Waterhouse (Vice Chair)

64 Curlew Crescent, Brickhill, MK41 7HZ

☎01234 355801

✉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





Happy New Year from Beauchamp Middle School

We were so pleased with the turnout of our **Beauchamp on Ice** in December with many pupils and families from our local community coming along for a skate. Those attending were able to buy trinket gifts from the hand-made craft stalls that were trading. We are sure to hold this event again, look out for details nearer the time.

Whatever the season, school is a busy place with pupils benefitting from the wide variety of learning opportunities – there are many, across all subjects! Have a look at our website for more information www.beauchampschool.co.uk or Twitter @BeauchampMiddle.

Thank you to those who attended the recent Parents' Evenings and met with their child's 'academic mentor'. It is so important to have a two-way conversation with parents, celebrating successes and to plan the next steps in achievement. Each pupil meets with their mentor frequently throughout the year to appraise their progress in each subject and to encourage the skill of being a reflective learner. Beauchamp are hosting an Internet Safety Session. Learn how to protect yourself and your family online by attending on **Wednesday 25th February – 7.30 to 8.30pm – local residents welcome.**

News from your Borough Councillors

There is a lot of investment by the Borough Council in Brickhill at the moment. We are delighted that Brickhill Lower has now joined Scott Lower in receiving their new classroom buildings. New trees are being planted, junction improvements and road resurfacing, verge protection is being installed and the 20mph zone is being extended. Over 80% of people were in favour of the 20mph zone extension, those who were not as keen expressed concern that it might not affect real speeds. We have set funds aside to introduce 3 vehicle activated speed signs in Tyne Crescent and the extended zone. These have been shown to help slow traffic and we know that across the country these zones have reduced speed over time. Five people are killed every day on our roads. Imagine if that happened on trains; there would be a public outcry. We need to take action and these zones do help save lives.

We have just announced that council tax will be frozen this year for the fifth year running in Bedford. Frontline services will still be protected with no closures of things like libraries, leisure centres or children's centres. Bus services will continue to be subsidised and alongside £41m investment for schools there will be no reduction in the road budget and an extra £1m for footpath works. This comes against the backdrop of an eye watering £82m government cut, over a third, to our budget every year.

In spite of difficult economic times Bedford continues to buck the trend with considerable economic growth. The by pass is underway and the new bus station opens at the end of February. The new seven screen cinema will soon be under construction, with a public riverside square, shops, restaurants, hotel and a new pedestrian and cycling bridge. National chains like Wagamama are taking 20 year leases, showing their confidence in the future for Bedford. Around town derelict buildings are being restored like Porter Blacks, and the old Ford garage in The Broadway. In St Paul's Square the refurbished buildings are almost complete, the timbers show these to have been built in the medieval period around 1460. Why not take a drive into town this weekend to see them, and enjoy free parking!

For more information 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

BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH, 7:30pm

Wren room, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise

**There will be a speaker from the Borough Council on
"Parking and road safety near schools"
plus reports from local councillors and agencies. Your
chance to have your say, please do come along**

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