

BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 46

July 2016

BEDFORD & BRICKHILL Walks 2016.

Eight led walks of between 4 and 5 miles and approximately 2 hours duration. A mixture of urban and countryside walks ideal for the long summer evenings.

Some walks are almost entirely on surfaced paths whilst others are over fields. Most are stile free. All walks are free just turn up. All walks start at 7-00pm.

Organised by The Ramblers Bedfordshire. Contact Barry Ingram 01234 353704 or email at walking@madasafish.com. Full details regarding all the walks are also available on the parish website.

BEDFORDSHIRE WALKING FESTIVAL 2016

Saturday 10th September to Sunday pm 18th September inclusive.

Lots of walking opportunities across the county with walks ranging from Health walks to short ambles to half day and full day walks to a forty mile challenge over the weekend of 13th & 14th September.

Programme available early July.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FOR CHILDREN AGED 7-12 YEARS

LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE

26th July

Battlefield Live

2nd August

Climbing Wall and Low Ropes

9th August

Bushcraft (den building and campfires)

16th August

Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting and Archery

These activities are open to children aged 7-12 years. The activities take place from 9am—1pm and cost only £7.50 per session. Transport will be provided for the Battlefield Live activity which takes place at Marston Forest Centre. All other activities meet at Scott Lower School, Hawk Drive, Brickhill MK41 7JA.

To reserve your place please contact the Parish Council on 01234 271708.

All activities are run by Sport Support Group on behalf of Brickhill Parish Council.



BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair)

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☎01234 357259 ✉mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Blakeman (Planning Committee Chair)

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Cllr Alex Chrusciak

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Cllr Tim Retout

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NORTH WARD

Cllr Nick Carter

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Cllr Vincent Holloway

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Cllr Corinne Royden

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Cllr Charles Royden

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WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Chris Bailes

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Cllr Gaius Manser

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SOUTH AND WEST WARD

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Cllr Morris Johns

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Cllr Ann Reeve

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Cllr Wendy Rider

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☎01234 303254 ✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

Cllr Cathrine Ward

8 Starling Way, Brickhill MK41 7HW

☎01234 295951 ✉mahovoward@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, Brickhill MK41 7UY

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

**Sue Bottoms, Clerk
to the Council**

Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive,
Brickhill, MK41 7AF

☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Orchids on Park Wood Nature Reserve

Since 2002 the Friends Group has spent one evening in the middle of June each year counting the orchids that flourish on our local nature reserve. That first year we found 2,500 common spotted orchids and a lesser number of pyramidal and bee orchids.

It is really just a bit of fun that gives a focus to enjoying a pleasant summer's evening in nice surroundings outdoors. That is at least the idea, but this June

did not provide many rain free days, so it wasn't a surprise that our planned count evening was a wet one. What was a surprise was that eight hardy souls turned out in waterproofs and wellies to wade through waste high rain sodden grass to search for orchids. The count this year was 4,627 which is sure to be an underestimate, so the orchids continue to thrive and have become more widespread, since that first count.

Thank you to the counters and I am sure June 2017 will be sunny, warm and dry. See you then!



Brickhill Borough Councillors Update—July 2016

Wendy Rider 01234 303254 wendyrider41@gmail.com

Charles Royden 01234 309175 charlesroyden@gmail.com



We have experienced warm and wet weather this year which has caused excessive growth of grass. The grass cutting which we experienced across our amenity areas suffered considerably as a result of the saturated grass. In addition there was some extremely poor and unacceptable cutting with areas such as Lune Walk missed all together. We took this up with the Borough Council and action was taken with extra cutting over the weekends to catch up, sweeping of paths and training of the grass cutters. We recognise the problems caused by the wet weather but the frequency of grass cutting has not been reduced and the budget has remained the same, so do tell us if you have problems and we will follow up complaints

A leaflet was tucked under your black bin recently to tell you about the consultation on changes to waste collections. We need further savings of £25 million to council services and the suggested changes such emptying black bins fortnightly will save over £500,000. Please join the consultation which you can find on the Borough council website.

On a positive note all political parties on the council have joined together to commission specialist work to save services at Bedford Hospital. The CCG which is the body responsible for organising NHS Services has repeatedly proposed massive NHS cuts and removals of services from Bedford Hospital, and now they want to stop all births at Bedford Hospital, forcing mothers to travel for up to an hour away from their homes and their families. Bedford is a growing town and we need more hospital services not less! Mayor Dave Hodgson has worked tirelessly to stop the CCG from cutting our hospital and it has now been shown that maternity closure plans are unnecessary. Mothers should not have to travel long distances away from their community to have a hospital birth and we will fight to retain services here in Bedford. .

We are always pleased to speak with you and you are welcome to come to our regular surgeries at the shops on a Saturday morning. For more information on what is happening in and around Brickhill and to keep in touch please visit our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Brickhill Parish Council are looking for volunteers to help deliver our newsletter. Brickhill News is published 4 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—details are on page 2.

News from Brickhill Lower School

A summer of sport

It's been a busy summer where sport is concerned. The school's year 4 cricket team have enjoyed a very successful season, winning their way to the finals of the Bedfordshire Summer Games – a huge achievement to be ranked amongst the top schools in the whole of the county. The final was kicked off with an opening ceremony fit for an Olympian. Drums, cheerleaders, singers and Olympic gold medallist rower Zac Purchase gave the children an inspirational speech. Key Stage 1 jumped strides in an interschool sports competition where they participated in athletics, golf and took 1st place in the rounder's tournament!



School Trips in full swing

The sun may not have been shining, but that did not dampen the children's excitement when it came to spending a day out of school! Year 4 visited Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire for 3 days - their first residential trip where they experienced many thrilling and exhilarating challenges. Year 1 spent the day at Woburn Abbey visiting the animals, whilst Year 2 brought their medieval topic to life with a trip to Rockingham Castle. Year 3 enjoyed Oompa Loompa fun when they attended a Roald Dahl fun day at the University of Bedfordshire and Year 4 saw World War 2 from the eyes of an evacuee when they took part in an 'evacuee day' role play at the beautiful village and education centre at Stibbington.



New Cycle Ride

With the recent opening of the cycle track alongside The Great Ouse Way (A4280/A6 link) this route is now the quickest way to cycle nearly all off-road from Brickhill to Bromham, Biddenham, Great Denham and Kempston West as well as Marsh Leys. Along with the existing off-road cycle track via Mowsbury Park and Norse Road which gives access to the riverside cycle track to Willington and Sandy and in the other direction to Queen's Park, Kempston and Great Denham this makes an excellent circular cycle ride for the whole family to try this Summer.

Waveney Green toddler play area and improvements to footpath

Everyone has probably noticed the extra rainfall that's been falling on Brickhill (and other places!) this Summer. This causes extra grass growth and can make our green open spaces a bit waterlogged, especially the play areas on Waveney Green. Your Parish Council has come up with a solution to muddy play areas by purchasing a special rubber mulch to lay down in the toddler play area on Waveney Green. This should be installed shortly and should help keep the laundry bills down.

The rain has also played havoc with a popular access path between Browney Path and Grenadier Close. However, good news as the existing path that has been a quagmire will be replaced with a tarmac path and work will commence after the bird nesting season.



All Nations Church—Annual Craft Fayre, Saturday 27 August, 12-3pm.

There will be a selection of craft stalls and free tea & coffee for the adults with bouncy castles, games, crafts, face painting and drinks for the children. If you're looking for an inexpensive (or free) way to get the children out of the house on the August Bank Holiday, it's a great opportunity to let the children play while the adults have a browse and a cuppa. Entrance and all activities free of charge.



Kid's Club Taster Nights are being held Wednesdays, 6 and 13 July from 5:45-7pm

Kids Club is for children in school years 2-6. We have a mixture of games, quizzes and challenges, and each week we have a short bible story told through puppets, drama or interactive story telling. These two evenings, all Year One children are invited to come along and try it out and then are welcome to attend regularly when the new school term begins in September.

Toddler Group summer sessions—Wednesday's 10-11:30am. Parents and carers of children aged birth to 4 years are welcome to drop in for a tea/coffee while the children join in with craft, music and free play. All Nations Church, Brickhill Drive, MK41 7QF 01234 273773



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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

Local surgeries taking place at 10am at:

Brickhill Drive Saturday 6th August
Avon Drive Saturday 23rd July

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

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<p>WEDNESDAYS 09.30AM - 10.30AM. BRICKHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, AVON DRIVE, BEDFORD, MK41 7AF</p>	<p>FRIDAYS 10.00AM - 11.00AM ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE HALL, WELLINGBOROUGH ROAD, OLNEY MK46 5AF</p>

*From 13th April 2015

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TUESDAYS

**St Mark's Church
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Calder Rise, Off Avon Drive
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9.30 am & 11.30 am

3.30 pm, 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm

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