



Parish Council Office Move

It was decided at the last Parish Council meeting to relocate offices from its current base at St. Mark's Church to **Brickhill Community Centre**.

St. Mark's Church have limited space available and the decision to move was made to enable Autism Bedfordshire (also based at St. Mark's) to rent an additional room needed due to their continued growth.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank St. Mark's for their continued support and efforts over the time we have held an office at the centre.

The new office will be fully operational in the New Year with the staff moving from the current premises prior to the Christmas period. The telephone and email contacts should remain unaffected.

Please note that the office will be closed from Tuesday 20th December and will re open on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

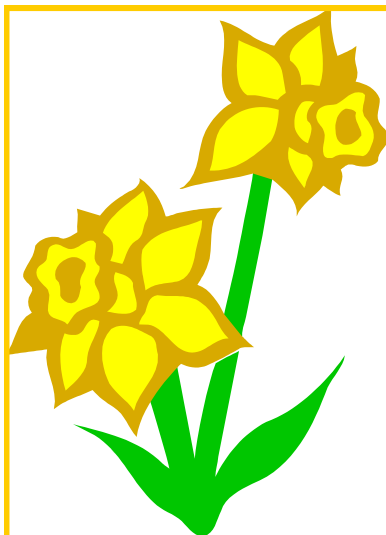
Brickhill in Bloom 2011- Brickhill Awarded 'High Bronze' In Urban Community Category

This was the first time that Brickhill has entered the Urban Community Category for Anglia in Bloom. The Judges commented that they would like to see more members of the community involved and that a working group be formed to help any future entries.

The Community Orchard was shortlisted in best conservation project.

Feedback from the judges was that Brickhill has the potential to be a very good entrant and they were impressed with several areas of the tour, especially Scott Lower School's wildlife area, the Community Orchard, St. Mark's Church Remembrance Garden and Brickhill Allotments.

If any residents are interested in helping to form a working group to help with future entries for Anglia in Bloom please do contact the office on **01234 271708**.



Brickhill Community Bulb Plant

Sunday 4th December— 10am-12pm

Meeting at: Waveney Green Play area

Free Mystery prize for all children taking part

All equipment provided please wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear

Sainsbury's

BRICKHILL
PARISH COUNCIL



News from the Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council

Dear Resident,

The Parish Council has been hard at work during 2011, tackling a range of matters. To list just a few of them: taking on responsibility for Waveney Green and Brickhill Community Centre, ongoing concerns about speeding traffic, the (at times) vexed question of local buses, providing feedback on the proposal for St Thomas More to increase their pupil numbers, the development of the Brickhill Country Park and issues related to the Woodlands Park estate, local policing, the impact of the proposed Tesco store on existing shops, supporting the Brickhill Community Plan, commenting on planning applications that affect Brickhill and much more besides.

Clapham Park pond

By the time you read this, work should have been carried out by the Borough Council and BTCV to start bringing life back into the pond at Clapham Park. I have been speaking with the Borough about this pond for the past couple of years. It is one of the hidden gems of our area. If you are interested in helping monitor the condition of the ponds in the Brickhill area to make them better for wildlife and also for residents, please contact the Parish Council.

The Council is your council and we aim to listen carefully to concerns raised by residents and do what we can to address them. I encourage residents to come to Parish Council meetings, where there is a Public Open Session, or alternatively speak with one of your Parish Councillors either in the Surgery immediately before our meetings or at any other time (contact details for councillors are below).

May I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Best wishes, Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman)

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair)

☎01234 357259 ✉markfitzp@cix.co.uk

Cllr Peter Blakeman (Planning Committee Chair)

☎01234 355952 ✉

pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

Cllr Gurmel Chambers

☎01234 212536 ✉CHAMBERSB2B@aol.com

Cllr Dean Crofts

☎01234 302322 ✉deancrofts@live.co.uk

NORTH WARD

Cllr Andrew Wilkins

☎01234 308957 ✉andywilkins.bpc@ntlworld.com

Cllr Corinne Royden

☎01234 309175 ✉corinneroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Charles Royden (also Borough Councillor)

☎01234 309175 ✉charlesroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Linda Darbon

☎01234 325962 ✉lindadarbon@goolemail.com

SOUTH AND WEST WARD

Cllr Pat Ovenell

☎01234 341422

Cllr Wendy Rider (also Borough Councillor)

☎01234 303254 ✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

Cllr Raymond Waterhouse (Vice Chair)

☎01234 355801

✉raymond.waterhouse@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Jane Josephs

☎01234 341385

Parish Council & Committee meetings are open to the public and take place on the first Thursday of every month (except August & December).

Clerk: Francesca Johnstone

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

☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

BRICKHILL 
PARISH COUNCIL

Prepare for rising energy prices

According to the Financial Times, the average dual fuel customer now spends 6% of income on energy bills compared to 3% in 2004. If the trend persists the average household faces fuel poverty by 2015. The trend is upwards, so how do we counter it? Here are some tips.



1) Insulate Your Home

Take the frost check. If the frost thaws faster on your roof than your neighbour's, heat is escaping. Top up your loft insulation to 270mm (10.5") to prevent this. Some grants are available to help reduce the cost and it could be free if you are aged 70 or over.

2) Go Solar

You can now get Feed in Tariff payments for having solar panels on your roof. These are index linked so they will rise with inflation over 25 years.

3) Switch Energy Supplier

With 400 tariffs available, a comparison site can help. If you prefer not to switch, review your payment method - direct debit is cheaper. Ofgem has said it will simplify standard tariffs so like-for-like comparison will get easier.

For more information, visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk or phone **0800 8048 777**.

Cocoon Your Home compares prices for insulation, solar and energy. The service is impartial, independent and run by United Sustainable Energy Agency, a not-for-profit organisation.

Scott Lower School Remembrance Lunch

Pupils at Scott Lower School enjoyed a hearty war-time lunch on Friday 11th November to commemorate Remembrance Day. "Our kitchen staff dressed up in war-time costumes and decorated our serving hatch with a flurry of poppies and flags. The children enjoyed a nostalgic meal of delicious, warming stew, followed by wonderful, home made sponge pudding. An 8ft cardboard cut-out of Winston Churchill watched over the proceedings. A cheery lunch time was had by all." By Anita Barker, Headteacher



**Senior Citizens are invited
to an afternoon of
nostalgic and seasonal
songs performed by a
professional entertainer**

**Brickhill Community Centre,
Avon Drive, Bedford**

Free admission and
Refreshments

**Tuesday 6th December
2pm-4pm**

To reserve your place contact:
Sue Stewart at the Community
Centre on **01234 312332**

News from Brickhill Local Police Team



News Update From PCSO Roberto Bonforte

Bedfordshire Police have now launched the new number providing the public with a new way to get in touch about **non-emergency issues**. **101** is now the main number to call for incidents such as, stolen cars, if you suspect drug dealing/taking, to give us information about crime in your area and to speak to your Local Policing Team when it is less urgent than 999. In an emergency, always call 999 when you need an immediate response.

Speeding

So far we are looking to organise various dates and times over the next few months to carry out speed checks in the relevant areas. Posters will be distributed to the relevant areas alerting people about speeding.

Operation Nevis

Operation Nevis was initially introduced in May 2008 to combat anti social behavior and has been proven to be very successful. It involves a team of PCSOs and PCs which will be working together to target hot spot areas to reduce the amount of anti social behavior, low level criminal damage and improve customer satisfaction. Within this operation as a team and from the feedback from the public we have decided to target Brickhill Drive shopping parade, Carron Road Estate and the area behind Test Close. Saying this, all anti social behavior jobs will be attended providing sufficient cover is available so please call in on 101 if you are suffering from anti social behavior in your area.

Future Police surgeries are to be advised in January 2012.

Email: LPT.Brickhill@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk



Fighting crime,
protecting the public

The Brickhill Community Safety Forum NEEDS YOU.

The Community Safety Forum, having been established for several years, is seeking additional members to join the Committee.

The Forum promotes community safety within Brickhill and aims to improve the conditions of life of all people living and working within Brickhill, by working with or through other agencies when appropriate.

How does the Forum operate

It is a voluntary body which holds a public meeting each quarter to receive reports from and raise issues with local organisations such as the Police, Borough and Parish Council and other agencies, and to vote for the issues that need action.

The actions are monitored at a monthly committee meeting and meets for an hour a month, usually during an evening.

If you would more information please contact **Brian Marsh on 01234 210248.**



Christmas at Brickhill Baptist Church



Saturday 17th

Nativity Activity morning at 10am

Sunday 18th

Christmas services at 9am and 11am
Carols in the Park at 2.30pm

Saturday 24th

Midnight service at 11.30pm

Christmas day

Celebration for all the family at 10am

Brickhill Baptist Church also runs a variety of community services and other regular activities throughout the year. To find out more please call **Tel: 01234 273773**

WE NEED YOU



Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme

Following a couple of meetings a group of local residents have formed an organising committee to help get the scheme started. The scheme aims to launch in the New Year also this is dependant upon gaining enough volunteers to help.

The committee would like to hear from anyone who may have an hour or 2 per week to help those in need in the Parish. Tasks may include befriending, providing transport to and from doctors/hospital appointments, light gardening, collecting shopping or prescription collection. It is up to volunteers to choose what they would and would not be happy doing.

All volunteers are asked to complete a Free CRB form (Criminal Record Bureau Check), due to the client group volunteers would be working with. All volunteers would be insured and all expenses

would be reimbursed.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please complete the form below and send to the Brickhill Parish Council office or email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Good Neighbour Scheme

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

I would like to register my interest in becoming a good neighbour scheme volunteer.

Return to: Brickhill Parish Council, c/o St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY

Brickhill Lower School working to become an eco-school

Eco-schools educate children to live more sustainably by tackling the nine topics of transport, waste, water, litter, school grounds, healthy living, energy, biodiversity, and global perspectives. They cover these topics in lessons and build on the school's existing initiatives in such areas as healthy eating and linking with schools overseas.

Brickhill Lower School has formed an eco-school action team, carried out an environmental review, and tackled the topic of waste. Following the installation of PV solar panels, it is now addressing the topic of energy. Children will monitor the school's energy use, carry out energy saving measures, and decide what energy saving devices the school might install. They will be helped to do this by the Low Carbon Schools Service at Borough Hall.

If you are interested in joining the Brickhill's eco-school action team please contact the school (01234 401404). You can find out more about eco-schools at www.eco-schools.org.uk

Do you enjoy walking in the countryside?

If so, did you know that the Borough Council has a team of Rights of Way Officers who work with landowners and local people to make sure that public footpaths, bridleways and byways are clear and properly maintained, so that everyone can enjoy using them. If you have found a problem with a right of way you can report it by contacting the Rights of Way team on 01234 228599 or email row@bedford.gov.uk.

Do give the precise location, footpath number (if known), the nature of the problem and additional contact details.



ADVERTISEMENTS



Sunday 4th December

9.30am Christingle Service

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

Saturday 17th 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

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

Great for little ones but bring the whole family for a half 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

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Family Morning Worship

A perfect way to start Christmas Day



ADVERTISEMENTS



The UK's No.1 Lawn Care Company

- Scarification
- Aeration
- Lawn Fertilising
- Weed Control
- Moss Control
- Water Conserver
- Pest and Disease Management



GreenThumb has a variety of treatment programmes to suit your pocket that include our traditional 'pay-as-you-go' service and our new, pay monthly, Direct Debit programmes, where you can save up to 25% annually.

Our treatments start from £5 per month, that's cheaper than D-I-Y and without the hassle!

Call your local branch today for a FREE lawn analysis and no obligation quote.

0800 0111 222  

Find us online at: www.greenthumb.co.uk

QUALITY HOUSEKEEPING

Need a hand with the housework?

We offer a full 'top to bottom' cleaning service including ovens, fridges (etc), ironing and interior windows, on a regular basis or as a one off spring clean.

Fully insured and reliable, sensible prices. Excellent references available on request.

For more information
Please telephone:
01234 307322
Mobile 07940 755718



H A Gudgin

Building Contractor

Reputable and reliable builder with over 30 years experience in the trade, specialising in a variety of work including:

- Brick walls
- Re-pointing
- Patos
- Extensions etc

For all enquiries or quotation for works please contact
01234 852562 or 07808078660

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



Borough Cllr Wendy Rider
Borough Cllr Charles Royden

Local Sugeries held fortnightly at Avon Drive and Brickhill Drive shops

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

ADVERTISEMENT

GROWING BEDS recycling services

Seasoned Logs



Kindling



Compost (Bagged / Bulk)



Delivery Available / Contact us on:

01234 772226