

# BRICKHILL NEWS

## The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 36

January 2014

### It's official: Woodlands Park to join Brickhill Parish

At the meeting of Bedford Borough Council on 5th February Borough Councillors formally agreed that Woodlands Park will join Brickhill Parish from April 2015. This marked the official end to the Community Governance Review of Brickhill and Ravensden Parishes that started in February 2013. The final stage in the consultation process took place in December/early January, when residents were asked to give their views on the recommendation that Woodlands Park move from Ravensden Parish to Brickhill Parish. The Borough's report stated: *'The views expressed by respondents during this stage of the review indicate that a clear majority of them fully or mostly agree with the draft recommendations (81.3% combined). The views of respondents from addresses in the subdivisions of the review area if taken separately are similarly strong (i.e. in Woodlands Park, Ravensden (excluding Woodlands Park) and Brickhill Parishes).'*

In May 2015 there will be elections for Brickhill Parish Council, with all seats up for election. Two councillors will be elected to represent Woodlands Park, to join the 13 councillors from the other parts of Brickhill Parish. Bedford Borough Council officers will be in further discussion with Ravensden Parish regarding the boundary changes. One of the issues for discussion is Ravensden Parish Council's plan to transfer some funds to Brickhill Parish, representing council tax collected from residents of Woodlands Park. Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council said: "It is not certain yet how much will be transferred from Ravensden to Brickhill, or when it will happen. It is likely to be a significant sum and it is really important that it is used wisely on behalf of residents of the Woodlands Park estate. Brickhill Parish will need to listen very carefully to residents, so that the maximum benefit can be obtained from this one-off amount. I expect Brickhill Parish to formally consult with Woodlands Park residents later this year on this subject".

### Other Parish Council news

There have been considerable changes on Brickhill Parish Council with three new Councillors filling the vacancies caused by the sad death of Pat Ovenell and the stepping down of Linda Darbon and Gurmel Chambers. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick said "Pat will be missed by us all; she served on the Council since its creation in 2004 and loved Brickhill. The turnout at her funeral demonstrated the affection that so many people had for her. I also want to thank Linda and Gurmel for their service to the residents of Brickhill over the years and wish them all the best for the future".

### New Parish Councillor

At the January Parish Council meeting Cathrine Ward was co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the vacancy in the East Ward. Cathrine moved to Brickhill in 1997 living on the Carron Road estate and since 2004 moved to Starling Way. Cathrine has been a school governor at Beauchamp Middle School and has a degree in Child and Adolescence Studies and a HND in Youth and Community Development.



### Christmas Dinner for local Residents funded by Brickhill Parish Council

On 12th December 40 local residents were provided with a 3 course Christmas Lunch at Brickhill Community Centre. The meal was delicious (supplied by Doreen Lambert Catering) and at the end of lunch we were joined by the choir from Scott Lower School for some Christmas songs.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the lunch and who provided a taxi service for the residents to and from the centre! Our thanks also to Scott Lower School for providing the entertainment which really put us all in the Christmas mood.

## News from Brickhill Parish Council – Council Tax unchanged again

Brickhill Parish Council has agreed its budget for 2014/15. The Band D council tax will remain the same as the past 3 years at £33.16 for the year. The budget covers the maintenance of Waveney Green, Brickhill Community Centre and Brickhill allotments. The Gathering on the Green event will take place in July; there will also be support for activity sessions for young people in the Easter and Summer holidays. Support continues for the Brickhill Community Plan and Brickhill Community Safety Forum. There are plans for a further Christmas Meal for senior citizens, an increase to £2,000 for Community Grants and £3,170 towards road safety initiatives.



Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Parish Council, said: "We have again avoided increasing our Council Tax, but will still aim to make a significant contribution to making Brickhill a more vibrant community".

## Tiger Moth Pub, Avon Drive

Brickhill Parish asked the Borough Council in December to add the pub to the list of assets of community value under the 'Community Right to Bid' legislation, which gives community organisations the chance to bid, and if successful purchase and take over the running of assets that are of community value. This followed the pub being put up for sale, leading to concern that the pub and its car park may not continue to be available for the local community. It is currently closed for refurbishment, so this threat has receded. The Parish Council is still in discussion with Bedford Borough about its request.

### **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  
☎01234 355952 ✉pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

**Cllr Dean Crofts**

37 Ryton Close, Brickhill, MK41 7XA  
☎01234 302322 ✉deancrofts@live.co.uk

**Cllr Cathrine Ward**

8 Starling Way  
Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7HW  
☎01234 295951 ✉mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

#### **NORTH WARD**

**Cllr Sheila Mulvenney**

10 Russet Close, Bedford, MK41 7GB  
☎01234 349067 ✉mulvenneysh@aol.com

**Cllr Andrew Wilkins**

33 Douglas Road, Brickhill, MK41 7YF  
☎01234 308957 ✉andywilkins.bpc@ntlworld.com

**Cllr Corinne Royden**

The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY  
☎01234 309175 ✉corinneroyden@gmail.com

**Cllr Charles Royden (also Borough Councillor)**

The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY  
☎01234 309175 ✉charlesroyden@gmail.com

**BRICKHILL**   
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### **SOUTH AND WEST WARD**

**Cllr Alex Chrusciak,**

1c Falcon Avenue, Brickhill MK41 7DS  
☎01234 350884 ✉almo5000@hotmail.co.uk

**Cllr Ann Reeve**

7 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ  
☎343260 ✉r\_reeve1@sky.com

**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

**Cllr Jane Josephs**

6 Bridge View, 37 The Embankment, Bedford  
☎01234 341825  
✉Dr.Jane.Josephs@gmail.com

**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 Scout Group 50th Anniversary



Brickhill Scout Group is very proud to be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Thanks to the generous support of Tesco and RG Carter Projects, the Scout HQ interior has received a complete makeover which has provided a fantastic start to the celebrations. This has been followed by a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Party and a Family Disco enabling those who have been involved with the Scout Group over the past 50 years to join together to celebrate its anniversary.

A commemorative badge has also been designed by Felix Mallalieu, a Scout with the group, which the Group will proudly wear on their uniform this year.

Brickhill Scout Group continues to go from strength to strength with beavers, cubs and scout sections all currently full and operating a joining list. To continue this success we really need more adult volunteers either as assistant leaders or as members of the Executive Committee. If you would like to join our friendly and successful team, please contact us by email [secretary@brickhillscouts.org.uk](mailto:secretary@brickhillscouts.org.uk)

## Brickhill Community Association

Readers will be aware that in May 2011 the Parish Council acquired Brickhill Community Centre from Bedford Borough Council on a 99 year lease. What readers may not be aware of is that in the interests of Localism the Parish Council has devolved operation and day to day management of the Centre to Brickhill Community Association which is a registered charity.

In addition to managing the Centre the Association also promotes other charitable activities which are to the benefit of Brickhill residents. These have included supporting the annual Gathering on the Green, providing a free Christmas tea party and entertainment for Senior Citizens, and making small grants to local groups. If you are a resident of Brickhill and would like to be involved with supporting the activities of the Association by becoming a member, please contact Ray Waterhouse on 01234 355801.

## News from BLSFC



The dedicated team of coaches at Brickhill Lower School Football Club have achieved another success with their football development program called FACTS (Football and Coaches to Share)

They recently reintroduced FA approved coaching sessions at Scott Lower School and have already achieved sponsorship for a new kit for the school; this will allow Scott Lower to play matches with other FACTS affiliated clubs.

BLSFC Chairman Steve Howe said " its great to be able to do this for our young kids in Bedford. We are also very gratefull to Brickhill Parish Council and Paul Riches Skip Hire who have recently helped us by providing sponsorship. This has allowed us to purchase new equipment and new kits for BLSFC and Scott Lower. Its fantastic for us and the kids to have such great local support from the Brickhill community so a big thank you to you all."

If you know any other schools that might be interested in receiving free, FA approved coaching sessions, please contact BLSFC via email at: [Steve.Howe@tube.tfl.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Howe@tube.tfl.gov.uk)

## Theatre Comes to Community

No need to make your way to London or even into Bedford Town to see a play; Saltmine Theatre company is coming to the local community!

Synopsis: In a broken country, a desperate nation waits impatiently for a savior, but when at last a man appears, the revolution he offers is one of hearts and minds and his concern is for the poor, the broken and the lost. Appalled by his words and afraid of his deeds, the powers of the land decree Jesus must die.

The play is a modern re-telling of the gospel of Luke. A driven writer seeks to piece together the true story of Jesus and his quest to save the lost. Through news and documentary footage and through encounters with key witnesses, the writer gains a unique insight into Jesus' life, death and what happened next.

Everyone is welcome but most suitable for audiences over the age of 12. Tickets: £5

**Friday 14 March 2014 8.00pm**  
(doors open 7:30pm) - **All Nations Church, Bedford MK41 7QF, 01234 273773**

**Sunday, 16 March 2014 at 6:30pm**  
(doors open at 6pm) - **Christ Church, Bedford MK40 3TJ, 01234 327150**

To book your place called the church office or visit our website [www.christchurchbedford.org](http://www.christchurchbedford.org)

## Brickhill Green Day events

The Brickhill Bee (“Better Energy Efficiency”) Group held two events on 26th January. Despite rain and hail some 60 visits were made to the Green Open Homes event, with particular interest in homes with air-source heat pumps. At the Big Energy Saving Show, Bedford Citizens Advice Bureau helped six residents save a total of £1,500 a year by switching energy suppliers.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, especially those who took part in the Open Homes event, but also to Goldington Family Centre, St Andrew’s Church Fairtrade group and to Bedford WI for providing refreshments. The events were funded by Brickhill Parish Council, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

The Brickhill Bee Group’s work is part of the “A Greener Brickhill” theme of the Brickhill Sustainable Community Plan ([www.brickhillcommunityplan.wordpress.com](http://www.brickhillcommunityplan.wordpress.com)). There are monthly meetings of the Sustainable Community Plan steering group, the next is on Tuesday 11th March, 7pm—9pm, at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive. To get involved email [BrickhillCommunityPlan@gmail.com](mailto:BrickhillCommunityPlan@gmail.com) or contact Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick.

## Scott Lower Year 4 Polar Expedition

“The Year 4 pupils at Scott Lower School are on an exciting and exhilarating learning journey... this week the pupils were joined by Kristy Adams to take part in a trial expedition in our very own nature area; this was to support their learning about Polar explorers. The pupils had the opportunity to demonstrate all the qualities of an explorer and prepare for their trip to “Antarctica”. It was a hard, exhausting day, with the children needing to read maps to find their own food and having a go at lighting fires to make hot chocolate. They then had to pull their day’s supplies on sledges.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were able to talk confidently about the qualities they had demonstrated including team work, determination, perseverance, courage, resilience and listening to each other in order to solve problems... we definitely have a group of future leaders here!”



## News from Beauchamp Middle School

On Friday 31st January, Deborah Inskip, High Sheriff of Bedford visited Beauchamp Middle School. She had been invited by some of the children who met her in December when they took part in the Christmas Tree festival at St Paul’s Church. The High Sheriff toured the school and was interviewed for the school newspaper by Year 8 students.



3 pupils took part in the District Cross Country. Charlotte Saberi came 3rd in the year 8/9 girls race, Oliver Raymond came 15th in the year 7 boys race and Shanae Wright came 12th in the year 6 girls race. All will now go on to race in the County cross country. Our Year 8 Badminton team put on a great performance but narrowly missed a place in the regional badminton finals. They competed against other middle schools and beat Almeda Middle, Alban, Lea Manor and narrowly lost to Lincroft.

## Green Wheel

The Bedford Green Wheel is the ambitious plan to create a circular route round Bedford and Kempston for use by walkers and cyclists. Part of the route follows the bridleway across Freeman’s Common and then runs parallel to Kimbolton Road to a crossing leading to Mowsbury Park and is typically very wet in the Winter. The Borough Council wants to surface the route but has been unable to finance this. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick is looking for sources of funding for this. He said “this would enable cyclists to travel from Woodlands Park all the way to Willington and beyond on a safe route. It will be great for everyone, but in particular for families. I hope we can put together an application to enable the work to go ahead”.

## PUBLIC MEETING

Consultation regarding Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2032

Find out more about the options for the Local Plan and how this will affect planning in Brickhill.

Wednesday 5th March 7:30pm  
Biffa Room, St Mark’s Church, Brickhill,  
Bedford MK41 7UY

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## Youth Activity Sessions

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and live in Brickhill or  
Woodlands Park why  
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### Easter 2014

9 <sup>th</sup> April	Multi Sports	Scott Lower School
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Wild Survival	Scott Lower School

Activities will take place from 9am—1pm

All activities will be run by Sport Support on  
behalf of the Parish Council  
([www.sport-support.co.uk](http://www.sport-support.co.uk)).

Spaces are limited—only 25 places per activity.  
To reserve your space please contact the parish  
council office on 01234 271708 or email us at  
[clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk). Visit our  
website to download an application/consent form  
at [www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## Brickhill Borough Councillors Wendy Rider & Charles Royden

Business leaders have declared there is '**positive proof Bedford is open for business, and entrepreneurs are coming to our town to set up shop.**' Bedford is bucking the trend and work has started on a new bus station and demolishing the 1960s town hall to make room for a 7 screen cinema, restaurants, retail and accommodation. With the economy growing under Mayor Dave Hodgson, apprenticeships rose 157% since 2010 with a target to create a minimum of 2016 apprenticeships by 2016.

Bedford has not suffered the closure of front line services seen in other councils with an extra £1 million for pavement repairs and resurfacing and a further £43 million is also to be invested in schools. Our primary and lower schools are ranked No 1 in the country and our secondary schools GCSEs went up 6.3% while nationally results fell. Mayor Dave Hodgson has announced a **2014 freeze in average Borough Council Tax** for the fourth year running. I hope you share with us a pride of belonging to Bedford, with such a great future. For more information visit our website [www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)

## ADVERTISEMENTS



**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 hip and joints problems.

**Come and Join the Party—only £5.00 per class**

Classes take place every Wednesday morning 09:30-10:30 at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, MK41 7AF.

For more information or to book a place please call Chantell McKnight on 07743 004519 or email me at [cmcfitness28@gmail.com](mailto:cmcfitness28@gmail.com)



### Community Safety Forum

Brickhill Community Safety Forum (CSF) needs your help!

The Brickhill CSF has two aims:

- To keep Brickhill Safe
- To solve ongoing community safety issues with residents help

The forum is currently focussing on average speed cameras for Brickhill drive and a travel plan for Tyne crescent and St Thomas More School.

We now need 2 people to join our team to achieve these aims, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

If you are interested in these positions or just want to get involved please contact [brickhillCSF@gmail.com](mailto:brickhillCSF@gmail.com) or telephone 07805349119.

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During the winter period it can be difficult to get out and about when it's slippery underfoot so let us help you with the following:

- Clearing paths or driveways of snow
- Collecting prescriptions or food shopping in bad weather\*\*
- Befriending visits for the "housebound" during winter
- Household jobs or simple repairs
- Clearing and preparing garden for spring
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(\*\* a travel expense may apply)



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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,

Borough Cllr Wendy Rider  
Borough Cllr Charles Royden



### **Local Surgeries taking place at:**

**Brickhill Drive 15 March at 10am  
& Avon Drive 1 and 29 March at 10am**

### **See our website**

**[www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)**

**For details of surgeries and the latest**

## **ARE YOU A LOCAL BUSINESS LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?**

Our newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to over 4000 households within the Parish and Woodlands Park.

A 1/4 page costs only £25 per insertion. For further details and prices for 1/2 page and full page advertisements please contact the Clerk on 01234 271708 or email [clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)

10% discount is offered for 4 insertions provided payment is made in advance. Our next edition will be distributed at the end of May 2014.

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## **Pride in Bedford**

### **Brickhill Community Clean Up**

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**Saturday 5th April  
10am—12 noon**

**Meet on Waveney Green near footpath on  
Falcon Avenue**

Equipment will be provided ring Brickhill Parish Council 271708 for more information or just turn up to help with litter picking.

**Together we can make a difference!**

Brickhill News is published by Brickhill Parish Council. Printed by White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford.

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