

BRICKHILL NEWS

The path to Anjulita Court, Woodlands Park

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 70

Nov/Dec 2025

From Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council.....

Welcome to the latest 'Brickhill News'. In this newsletter there are details of two Christmas parties for senior citizens as well as Christmas services for the three local churches in Brickhill.



There are also updates from the Parish Council, the Borough Councillors representing Brickhill, our local primary schools and much more besides.

As ever, I am looking forward to the switching on of the Christmas lights on 2nd December. Everyone is welcome to join us for this short but fun event!

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

Please join us for

The switch-on of the Christmas Tree lights on Waveney Green

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

at 5.30 pm



Brickhill and Scott Primary School Choirs will be singing and there will be a visit from Santa at approximately 6pm!

All welcome ...

Waveney Green jogging trails launch 11am, Saturday 6th December - see Page 3. Everyone is welcome!

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan progress

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has recently been reviewed by an Independent Examiner, who proposed only minor changes to the plan. By the time you read this, these are likely to have been formally accepted by the Borough Council (the planning authority) and the parish council. The plan contains various policies which would be used as part of the planning process for planning applications in Brickhill.

The Neighbourhood Plan will not take effect unless it is approved by Brickhill residents through a referendum. This is likely to take place in early 2026. It will be organised by the Borough Council, similar to ordinary elections. For more information about the Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan see the parish council website, www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Christmas is coming!

Senior citizens in Brickhill are invited to a free afternoon of light refreshments and nostalgic and seasonal songs performed by a professional entertainer.

There are two dates for this event:

Thursday 4th and Tuesday 16th December.

Please book for only ONE date

See page 7 for full details and how to book.



BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (*Chair*)

☎01234 357259

✉mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Blakeman (*Planning Committee Chair*)

☎01234 343908

✉pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

Cllr Stuart Green

☎01234 354339

✉stuart.green5938@ntlworld.com

Cllr Alastair Grant

☎01234 342076

✉agrantbpc@gmail.com

NORTH WARD

Cllr Vincent Holloway

☎01234 214533

✉vholloway1975@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Lamswood

✉lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

Cllr Stefan Testa

✉stesta2@hotmail.com

1 vacancy

WEST WARD

Cllr Cathrine Ward

☎01234 295951

✉mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

2 vacancies

SOUTH WARD

2 vacancies

WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Sudesh Rani

☎07891 014007

✉sudesh2021@hotmail.com

1 vacancy

Borough Councillors for Brickhill Ward

Cllr Charles Royden

☎01234 309175

✉charlesroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Wendy Rider

☎01234 303254

✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

Borough Councillors for De Parys Ward (covers Brickhill South Ward)

Cllr Henry Vann

☎07791 138853

✉henry.vann@bedford.gov.uk

Cllr David Sawyer

☎07711 692937

✉david.sawyer@bedford.gov.uk

Mrs Sue Bottoms,

Clerk to the Council

St Marks Church and Community Centre,

Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

Police

Peter.Murphy@beds.police.uk

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

Volunteers Required Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the parish. We need lots of volunteers - could you help? If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live, please contact the parish council office.

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Rooksmead/Brickhill Drive pond

Following a very dry summer and early autumn, the pond virtually dried out, making it impossible for the fountain to operate. The parish council is grateful for the help of Borough Councillors David Sawyer and Henry Vann, who have liaised with the Borough Council, resulting in recent work to clear out the pond. All we need now is more rain to refill it (but not too much!)



Work underway to clear the pond

Book swap for Brickhill?

The parish council is considering installing a public book swap. If you have something suitable that can be repurposed please contact Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick or the Clerk.



Beeston Green book swap

New Waveney Avenue speed device up and running

The Parish Council paid for a new device, to replace the old one that had ceased working. We are able to monitor the speed of traffic along this very busy road. It serves to remind drivers of their speed, to improve road safety. Your views on potential other locations and their benefits are welcome.



Waveney Vehicle Activated Sign

Preventing unauthorised encampments on Waveney Green

In past years, these encampments have resulted in mess and disruption for residents. The parish council is considering installing bunds and some posts to make this less likely to happen in future.

Preventing flooding in Brickhill

The Parish Council has continued discussions with the Borough Council, Anglian Water and residents affected by flooding previously. More work is needed to reduce future risks. Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick raised local flooding risks with a panel of key speakers at a recent county-wide meeting.

Brickhill Community Centre improvements

The Parish Council commissioned a report from a Building Surveyor to check the state of the building. A programme of works has been agreed that will help keep the Centre in good condition and a great place to visit and use.

Calling all runners, joggers, walkers and pram* pushers!

Come along at 11am on Saturday 6th December for the official launch. Meet in Falcon Avenue (see star on map). Brickhill Parish Council is officially launching the **Waveney Green jogging trails** - western and eastern loops around Waveney Green that can be followed individually, used as a figure-of-eight or just go right round the outside. These are approximately 470m, 670m and 1km in length respectively. Maps will be on the parish council website and nearby noticeboards.



Map data from OpenStreetMap
<https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update Winter 2025

From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Thank you to the hundreds of residents who have supported our petition to stop the sale of the green fields off Ashmead Road in Brickhill, known as Jackman's Farm. Charles spoke out against the sale at Full Council and the majority of councillors voted in a motion to support us. However the final decision to sell will be taken by the Mayor Tom Wootton and his Conservative Executive. We need to raise all the support we can from residents to try to stop this. If you have not already done so then please sign our petition which can be found on our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com



The proposed sale follows alarming news of the dire state of council finances. For the last two years our warnings to the Mayor about overspending on his vanity projects have been ignored. We are currently spending £450,000 a year just to maintain the Debenhams building which has no external tenants. The council is bankrupt with a £14 million overspend and the Mayor will soon need to go 'cap in hand' to the government for a bailout. We are worried that as well as the fire sale of our green fields there will be more cuts. This year Lib Dems campaigned to stop cuts including to multi-storey car parks, tree maintenance, winter gritting of roads and street cleansing. However these and cuts to libraries, public toilets and frontline services are at risk despite record rises of council tax in the desperate dash for cash.

Throughout the coming year we will work harder than ever to protect essential services. We will also continue keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com. Please sign up for our emails and we will keep you updated with local information, we won't bombard you and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Sign up here www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

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

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

De Parys Ward Borough Councillors Update Winter 2025

From Henry Vann and David Sawyer

In addition to the issues Charles and Wendy share above, sadly the Councillor Ward Fund has been scrapped. This has been used to support local projects including dropped kerbs, yellow lines, and the defibrillator outside **St Andrew's Church**. We have been told current applications (including Christmas lights in **Brickhill Drive**, greenkeeping equipment for **Bedford Bowling Club** and more dropped kerbs) will be honoured.



During spring and summer 2025 we have continued to work on a wide range of important local issues including: the state of the shopping parade in **Brickhill Drive**, the traffic lights at the **Kimbolton Road** junctions with Park Avenue and Brickhill Drive where there is no pedestrian cycle, and have requested better screening of the second set of traffic lights going southbound on Kimbolton Road at the Putnoe Lane junction so that they are less visible from a distance.



We are pushing hard at the council to get **Rooksmead Pond** cleaned and refilled and the fountain re-set as well as reporting rapid rise in graffiti and advising residents on rodent concerns.

Our next surgeries are on December 13th at 1pm at Shaldon Court on Barnstaple Road and 2pm outside Budgens on Kimbolton Road.

Please sign up for our emails here:

www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up and contact us any time at:

David Sawyer, 53 Devon Road, MK40 3DF, 07711 692 937, sawyerbedford@hotmail.com
Henry Vann, 5 Park Avenue, MK40 2JY, 07791 138 853, henrypaulvann@gmail.com

News from Brickhill Primary

It has been another fun-filled start to the year at Brickhill and the year began with welcoming new staff to the team. Miss Channing, Mrs Stevenson, Miss Rogerson and Mrs Harrison bring with them lots of experience and inspiration and they have settled in to our school wonderfully. The children have returned full of the same enthusiasm and energy which we love and they have embraced being in their new year groups and our new reception class look like they've already been with us for years!

Last half term, Years 1 to 6 explored the local community as part of their Geography learning, admiring the bird boxes on Waveney Green,



appreciating the local amenities and recycling options, visiting local parks and going on journeys to newer and older parts of the area. We also welcomed Jamie Night, record-holding keepy-uppy star, who inspired us with his footballing skills and put on a workshop for each class. Our community has continued to be awesome, raising over

£700 on our Macmillan Coffee morning, attending our Meet-The-Teacher sessions, Phonics in Action sessions and another full house for our family-friendly Halloween Disco.

We've also seen some key improvements in our school too. A combination of support, from our PTA, a grant from our brilliant Parish Council, the hard work of our Site Manager, Mr Hazelwood, and some of our wonderful parent helpers, has seen a complete revolution in our Early Years class, the development of our Corridor of Curiosity and the introduction of our brand new intervention room. Puffins Room is there for all of our children and we have already seen a positive impact for those children that have visited. We used the grant from the Parish Council to resource the room and Vision Blinds kindly donated the blinds for the space too. The flooring was donated by local community member, Steve Hopkins Flooring, who did a fabulous job. We are proud to be an inclusive school and this space enables us to better support learners who need additional help in order to best access the curriculum.

If you would like to come and visit Brickhill, especially if you are looking for a place for your little one in September, then please contact us via email at office@brickhillprimary.co.uk.



News from Scott Primary

As part of Year 5's Viking history unit, we held a Viking Day to look further into Viking life.



We looked at the Runic alphabet and made clay tablets and engraved our names into them and we researched what the Vikings ate and made Viking pancakes.

We also created a Viking hoard map and wrote clues to its location in runes.



Christmas in Brickhill...

St Mark's Church

Saturday 20 December

6.30pm 'Carols in the Car Park'

Bedford Town Band, with free mulled wine & mince pies to warm us up !



Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

Bring the whole family for carols as we build the Christmas crib

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Traditional service of nine lessons and with Bedford Town Band

11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass

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

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Day Service for all the family

St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford. MK41 7UY

www.stmarkschurch.com 01234 342613 office@stmarkschurch.com



Christmas with the North Bedford Catholic Community of the Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James churches

Christmas Eve— Wednesday 24th December

5.30pm HC Carols

6.00pm HC Family Mass

7.30pm SsP&J Carols

8.00pm SsP&J Mass

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day—Thursday 25th December

9.00am HC Mass

11.00am SsP&J Mass





Brickhill Community Centre
Avon Drive, Bedford

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

Thursday 4th December
2.00pm - 4.00pm

FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS

Contact Sue Bottoms at Brickhill Parish Council or phone 01234 271708 or email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk to reserve your place



Brickhill Community Centre
Avon Drive, Bedford

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

Tuesday 16th December
2.00pm - 4.00pm

FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS

Contact Clair Tyrrell at the Community Centre or phone 01234 312332 or email brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Swindale lights switch on: Tuesday 2nd December. Raising money for Cancer Research. Go along, enjoy the lights and support the charity!

All Nations Church Brickhill Drive



Saturday 13th December 2.30 or 3.30 or 4.30pm

(one ticket gives access to a one hour session)

Living Nativity



Wednesday 17th December 10.30 am

Small Carol Service

Sunday 21st December 6.00 pm

Main Carol Service

Thursday 25th December 10.00 am

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 31st December 10pm onwards

New Years Eve Service

If you would like more details, please call 01234 273773

or email office@allnationsbedford.org



...there is a lot going on

Brickhill Allotments Growing for the homeless



This is some of the produce grown at Brickhill Allotments for IMPAKT Housing & Support. They provide food/groceries to anyone that needs help in Bedford. They operate on a no criteria/no questions asked so anyone turn up. For more information <https://impakt.org.uk/food/>

The plot holder Deborah Vernon took over the plot in December 2024 and delivers donations from her plot and other plots holders from Brickhill Allotments on Wednesdays. We would like to thank Deborah for all her hard work and commitment.

Community Policing priority for Brickhill

Speeding in Tyne Crescent was the community priority for Brickhill from July to September. The police carried out speed enforcements in the area and have now launched a Speed Survey. They also aim to work with the local authority on the road design in order to design the speed out of the road.

Speed Survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/TyneCrescent>

Dog fouling in Brickhill - unpleasant, unhealthy and unnecessary

There have been complaints about dog fouling recently. You can report a dog fouling problem to the Borough Council using the link below. You can use it to give details if you have witnessed someone who does not clean up after their dog.

Bagged up dog waste can now be placed in any litter bin, as both dog waste and litter is incinerated. If you have a dog, please do think of our neighbours and clean up after it.

Dog Fouling link: <https://tinyurl.com/BrickhillDogFouling>

Light up, be seen - and stay alive

So many cyclists and e-scooter riders have no lights and wear dark clothes. At night they are at real risk of not being seen by motorists. So wear something reflective and have lights on the front and back. For more advice see the link below.

Cycle Safely: <https://www.think.gov.uk/cycle-safety>



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We have the privilege of joining together in caring for our community by providing local people in crisis with hampers during the Christmas holidays.



YOU CAN HELP

- Get a box and wrap it
- Buy the food
- Bring it in the open box

Sunday 7th December, 3pm - 5pm or

Monday 8th December, 4pm - 6pm

All Nations Church, Brickhill Drive,
Bedford MK41 7QF

- You can also donate the cost of a box at allnationsbedford.org/christmasinabox

www.allnationsbedford.org/christmasinabox
christmasinabox@allnationsbedford.org

FAMILY SHOPPING LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Tinned Potatoes (lge) | ○ Christmas Pudding |
| ○ Tinned Carrots (lge) | ○ Carton of Custard |
| ○ Tinned Peas (lge) | ○ Mayonnaise |
| ○ Tinned Ham (lge) | ○ Gravy Granules |
| ○ Tinned Tuna | ○ Mince Pies |
| ○ Tinned Fruit | ○ Stuffing Mix |
| ○ Coca-cola/Lemonade | ○ Savoury Biscuits |
| ○ Squash | ○ Box of Chocolates |
| ○ Tea/Coffee | ○ Pack of Biscuits |
| ○ Soup | ○ 2 Selection Boxes |
| | ○ Crisps |

6pm



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office@scottprimary.co.uk / 01234 352630

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Opening times:
Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-4pm

Venue:
St Paul's Church, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

Admission:
£4 (children under 16 free)

Find out more:
f Bedford Christmas Tree Festival
E: treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk
T: 01234 340163

Festival Concert:
7.30pm
Friday 5th
December

In aid of:



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TICKETS: £25 (includes wine and a mince pie)
available from:
peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets




E: festivalconcert@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk T: 01234 348283

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OR VISIT: E/JOEYFOOTBALLFUN**

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