

BRICKHILL NEWS

Anjulita Court,
Woodlands Park

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 73

September 2026

Fountain on Brickhill Drive Pond

Due to mechanical problems coupled with low water levels, the fountain has been out of action for over a year. The fountain was originally installed to aerate the pond and avoid the build-up of algae. The Parish Council is working with the local Borough Councillors Henry Vann and David Sawyer to agree what to do about this. A permanent solution needs to be found.

Message from PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks

"I would like to thank residents for their continued patience, support and the information they have provided. Community intelligence and reporting are vital in helping us build a clear picture of the issues affecting Brickhill. We encourage anyone with concerns or information to continue reporting them to us. By working together with residents, partner agencies and local stakeholders, we remain committed to finding a long-term solution to these issues." Please sign up for free to <https://www.bedsconnected.co.uk/#SignUp> to stay updated.

Community Litter Pick

Saturday 10th
October

10am

Brickhill Drive
Shops

All welcome.

Equipment
provided.



Macmillan Coffee Morning Brickhill Community Centre

We are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on
Friday 25th September from 11am to 1pm

Join us and do whatever it takes to support people with cancer.



50p per cup

- Pop in for a chat and a cuppa
- Board games
- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Come and chat to your bpha Housing Officer
- Children welcome

For more information, call Clair at Brickhill Community Centre on **01234 312332** or email:
brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com



BRICKHILL YOUTH CLUB

**TIRED OF BEING BORED?
READY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?**



**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS JUST
GOT A WHOLE LOT BETTER!**

**Session on 1st & 3rd
Wednesday of every month**

Sports • Arts & Crafts • Games
• Cooking • And more!

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



www.4ypuk.com

For Year 7 students and above, our Youth Club is your go-to Wednesday night hangout.

**4:45-6:45pm
term time**

Drop in for 5 minutes or the full session - it's up to you!

**OPENING ON
WEDNESDAY
7TH OCTOBER!**

Every fortnight
Wednesday evenings
Free to join - Open access
info@4ypuk.com

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

✉agrantbpc@gmail.com

NORTH WARD

Cllr Peter Lamswood

✉lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

Cllr Stefan Testa

✉stesta2@hotmail.com

Cllr Martin Oldham

✉guano1005@icloud.com

Cllr Marguerite Carter-Kerr

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

☎07973 113861

✉charlesroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Wendy Rider

☎07905 869663

✉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

Mrs Clair Tyrell, Assistant Clerk and Allotments Officer

St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY ☎01234 271708

✉allotments@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours:

Clerk : Tuesday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

Allotments Officer: Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

Police

PC Phoebe Prossor-Jones phoebe.prossor-jones@beds.police.uk

PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks charlie.jarvis-banks@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.

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? Even to deliver to a few local streets near to where you live, please contact the parish office.

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News in brief around Brickhill

Larkway/Pipit Rise flooding

The Parish Council is chasing Anglian Water, to get the remaining work done to three drainage chambers which could help reduce flooding



Cleaning of kerbside drainage gullies

Many in Brickhill are blocked. The Parish Council has asked for action by Bedford Borough Council several times, but no action yet.



Local Shops

We welcome the re-opening of the hairdressers at Brickhill Drive shops, but the closure of the Avon Drive post office is a sad day for Brickhill.



We thank everyone who worked there over the years, for the help they gave residents.

Ashmead Road football pitches

The gate to the car park is likely to be locked at night again, to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Waveney Green

During September, the Parish Council will be repairing some of the tarmac paths. It is also expected that the posts will start being installed around the Green to stop unauthorised vehicles and encampments.



New bench for Avon Drive



Funded by the Parish Council and finally installed

For more details on all these stories, go to www.BrickhillParishCouncil.gov.uk



Coffee Mornings all welcome

Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive

11am to 1pm on the last Friday of each month. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

For more information, call Clair on 01234 312332, just call in or email brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com.

Oct Walks from North Beds Ramblers

3rd am "Ramble", Old Warden, 4.5 miles, pm, Old Warden, 7.5 miles,

10th am Ampthill, 11 miles, pm Haynes, 7 miles

17th pm Maulden Layby, 6 miles,

24th am, Milton Keynes 11 miles, pm Turvey 6.5 miles

31st pm Sharnbrook, 6 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers For our latest walks program visit - <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Help us Protect Brickhill Petitions can be powerful. Many residents will remember that our last petition helped prevent the fields along Ashmead Road from being sold for development. We are grateful to everyone who supported that effort. We now need your help again to address the ongoing problem of **illegal motorised vehicles** in Brickhill. Pavements, sports pitches, the country park, and the fields off Woodlands Park are regularly disrupted by e-scooters, quad bikes, motorcycles, and off-road bikes. This puts pedestrians at risk, damages local facilities, and harms our green spaces. We have launched a petition calling on Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Council to allocate the resources to support Brickhill residents. We are asking for coordinated action including increased patrols, use of CCTV, and robust prosecution to restore safety and peace to our community. We do not blame our frontline police officers, who work hard under difficult circumstances. However, the wider management decision not to intervene more robustly is affecting public confidence in local policing. If you would like to support this effort, you can sign the petition at bedfordlibdems.org.uk/protectbrickhill there is also a link on our website.



Safer Crossing on Avon Drive We are pleased to share some good news. After several years of requesting a safer crossing on Avon Drive near The Pheasant, the Borough Council has now agreed for this work to go ahead. The crossing is scheduled for early in 2027. We will share more information as soon as it becomes available. This will make it much safer for residents to cross at a busy junction.

We will also continue to 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.

www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill. 07905 869663

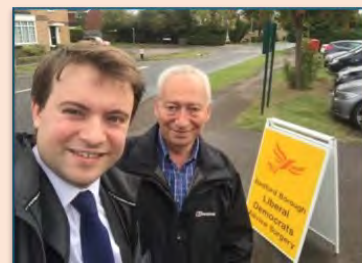
Charles Royden, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill. 07973 113861

Email puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com with any issues. We aim to respond the same day or within 24hrs. If you haven't had a reply to an email please call us because they can go astray.

De Parys Borough Councillors Update From Henry Vann and David Sawyer

(Covering Brickhill Drive, Robin Hill, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way.) In addition to the issues Charles and Wendy share above:

Removal of textile recycling banks. The Council has announced the removal of the 2 textile recycling banks in Mowsbury Park Car Park. The nearest textile recycling sites for residents are now the Carron Road car park in Brickhill and outside the Church Lane shops in Goldington. Other ways of passing on unwanted items so they can be reused include donating to charity shops, giving them away through online community groups or swap events or selling items on second-hand platforms.



Other issues recently reported:

Blue-green algae in **Bedford Park Lake**.

Overgrowing on the path that runs down to the cemetery at the back of **Goldcrest Way** from **Brickhill Drive**.

An overgrowing hedge in **Eagle Gardens** making the pavement impassable to those in wheelchairs.

Chased up the request for temporary CCTV in **Eagle Gardens** following the recent forced entry. The Council have refused to act so far.

The poor state of the bus stop outside the Pit Stop in **Brickhill Drive**. The sign is faded, twisted and almost unreadable; the timetable is vandalised and out of date and the hard standing is inadequate.

The **water leaks** at various locations in the local area.

We contacted the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (who run the driving test centre in Manton Lane) on behalf of a resident, who was concerned about candidate drivers carrying out their stop/start manoeuvre on a very busy section of **Brickhill Drive**, causing traffic tailbacks when cars are parked on the opposite side of the street and the effect of stationary vehicles with engines running on air pollution and air quality.

Our next surgeries are on Saturday October 10th at 1pm at Shaldon Court and 2pm outside Budgens in 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

This last academic year has been a fantastic year with lots to celebrate: whether it is our evolution of early years, our improvements in inclusion, our introduction of house points, new staff joining our school, new children joining our school, changes to the environment and a whole lot of fun. We thank the families who have showed up for their school in a number of ways: through fundraising, contributing food donations, attending our Macmillan Coffee Morning, you have shown your charitable nature. Through painting classrooms, corridors, building furniture and giving random objects for play and wheeling washing machines down the road, you have shown that you'll be a helping hand we cannot do without. Through supporting on trips, listening to readers, helping with sewing, joining in with early years and offering to share your careers, you have volunteered to help add even more value to our children's journey at Brickhill. Through donations of food for breakfast provision, buying ice pops, giving us fans, purchasing ice creams on trips and allowing us to breathe a second life into toys for our wraparound care, you have helped take pressure off tight budgets.

We also thank the PTA for their tireless efforts who have led an incredible team of volunteers who have given up their own time, including time at events, to set up, pack away, hoover, sell but, most importantly, inspire a lot of fun and enjoyment. They have raised a lot of money for our school and invested it back into a series of events that the children and families have had a blast at. I also want to thank our Friends of Brickhill. We promote kindness in our school and we have received kindness from local companies too. Craddocks Electrical, Les the Gas Man, Steve Hopkins Flooring, Plastic Facilities, Vision Blinds and the, as yet unnamed, Dave and Dan plastering company. Because of them, we have been able to open our intervention room, Puffins, which has provided invaluable support for some of our pupils with more complex needs. Because of them, we will be able to open an Inclusion Room next to our office in September, to give families who need those sensitive discussions where privacy will help some speak openly with staff. We also have to thank FDB Constructions Ltd (and Alban!) for bringing Year 5s air con unit back to life (travelling to Wales and back to get it!). We also continue to receive kindness from our Parish Council, whose grant helped us improve our SEND provision and enhance our continuous provision in Year 1.



Our team has worked tirelessly to provide a year of love, attention, learning and fun and I am proud of each and every staff member. We especially want to thank Mrs Carter, who has retired after 39 years in teaching and 24 years at Brickhill. She is irreplaceable but her legacy lives in our Mrs Carter Doodle Exhibition, where every child contributed to one giant doodle for our doodle-loving colleague. I also want to acknowledge the brilliant job you all do as families in our community. We feel lucky to have our children come through our doors each day and you have all done a fabulous job raising them so far. The kindness, compassion, humour and generosity is in your children too and we look forward to another year with them in September. We are excited to welcome another group of children through our doors this year and encourage more to find out if this is the school for you, your child and your family. If you would like to know more, especially if your child is due to start school in

September 2027, then please email office@brickhillprimary.co.uk

News from Scott Primary

Year 6 celebrate the end of their Scott Primary journey with an unforgettable PGL adventure Our Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting three-day residential trip to PGL, marking the end of their primary school journey with an unforgettable adventure packed with learning, challenges and fun. Set within 65 acres of beautiful countryside, the children took part in a wide range of thrilling land and water-based



activities, including high ropes, archery, kayaking, the vertical challenge and the giant swing. Each activity encouraged pupils to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and develop resilience while creating lasting memories with their classmates. The residential trip perfectly complements the opportunities we provide through our Outdoor Learning programme, delivered in our school grounds and surrounding woodland, as well as our PE curriculum and extra-curricular activities. By applying the skills they have developed throughout their time at school in a new and exciting environment, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, determination and teamwork.

Beyond the adventure itself, the experience helped pupils strengthen essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, perseverance and collaboration. These qualities will serve them well as they prepare for the next exciting stage of their education. We are incredibly proud of every one of our Year 6 pupils. Their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to encourage one another made them wonderful ambassadors for our school. They represented our community with maturity, kindness and respect throughout the trip.

We would also like to thank our dedicated members of staff, who went above and beyond to ensure the children had a safe, enjoyable and enriching experience. Their care, enthusiasm and commitment helped create a truly memorable end to our pupils' primary school years, one that will undoubtedly remain with them for many years to come. follow us on Instagram @scottprimary.



Celebrating Success at St Thomas More

It has been a year of achievement and opportunity at St Thomas More Catholic Secondary and Sixth Form School, with students across the school community celebrating success in examinations, enrichment, leadership and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of our GCSE, A Level and Level 3 BTEC students, whose results reflect the hard work, determination and resilience they have shown throughout their studies. We are delighted to celebrate their achievements and the many different pathways they are now taking as they continue their education, begin apprenticeships or move into the world of work.

Academic success is supported by a wide range of opportunities that allow students to challenge themselves and discover new interests. This year, students took part in the Scholars Programme at Selwyn College, Cambridge, completing a university-level course, presenting their work and graduating at the college. Our annual Science Fair showcased students' curiosity and research skills, with projects exploring everything from volcanoes and muscle growth to memory, ecosystems, magnetic forces and the psychology of distraction. Students demonstrated the critical thinking,

creativity and communication skills that sit alongside their academic learning. Leadership and community involvement have also been central to the year. Through our Ambassadors of Tomorrow programme, students supported younger pupils in St John Rigby, St Francis of Assisi and Scott Primary School, to develop their confidence and leadership skills and raised £300 for Bedford Hospital's Neonatal Department.

The year has also been marked by celebration and community, from our Year 11 Prom to cultural events, sporting opportunities, residential trips and international experiences. Students have continued to make a positive contribution within school and across the wider Bedford community. To stay updated with our school activities make sure you follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



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Celebrations

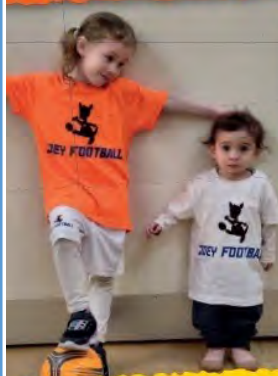
Christenings



Meetings

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