Park Wood
Nature Reserve

BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 74

November/December 2026

From Mark Fitzpatrick,

Chair of Brickhill Parish Council...

Welcome to the latest 'Brickhill News'. Inside you will find details of Christmas services at local churches, a Christmas party for senior citizens and a coffee morning for everyone. Then there are updates from local schools, councillors and the parish council.
On 2nd December the Waveney Green Christmas lights will be switched on. Do come along for this family-friendly event. Christmas may still be some weeks away, but we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Woodlands Park boundary path

Following a number of requests by the parish council, the Borough has made repairs to the badly cracked path running parallel to Grenadier Close and Browney Path. This path has repeatedly cracked and become dangerous over the years, so it is good to see repair work carried out, but there are some parts that require further work.



Please join us for the annual switch-on of the Christmas Tree lights on Waveney Green

Wednesday 2nd December.
5:30pm



Brickhill and Scott Primary School Choirs will be singing. Come and support them!

New parish councillors

Roy Romans was co-opted to the council at the November meeting, joining Marguerite Carter-Kerr and Martin Oldham who were co-opted to the council in September.

Brickhill Parish Council

bpha

Christmas Coffee Morning
Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive

Friday 18th December, 11am to 1pm.

Pop in for a cuppa and a chat. There will be some Christmas crafts to try!

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

Community Litter Pick

Saturday 12th December

10am

Ashmead Road
(by the letter box)

All welcome.
Equipment provided.



Local council and police contacts for Brickhill

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
ck8mme@gmail.com

Brickhill Parish Council staff and office

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

01234 271708

Mrs Sue Bottoms, Clerk to the Council
clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mrs Clair Tyrell, Assistant Clerk and Allotments Officer
allotments@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours:

- Clerk: Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12noon.
- Allotments Officer: Wednesday and Thursday 10am-12noon

WEST WARD

Cllr Catherine Ward
01234 295951
mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

2 vacancies

SOUTH WARD

Cllr Roy Romans
royromansbpc@gmail.com

1 vacancy

WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Sudesh Rani
07891 014007
sudesh2021@hotmail.com

1 vacancy

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.

Borough Councillors

De Parys ward

(covers Brickhill South parish ward)

Cllr Henry Vann
07791 138853
henry.vann@bedford.gov.uk

Cllr David Sawyer
07711 692937
david.sawyer@bedford.gov.uk

Brickhill ward

(covers the rest of Brickhill parish)

Cllr Charles Royden
07973 113861
charlesroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Wendy Rider
07905 869663
wendyrider41@gmail.com

Police contacts for Brickhill

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

PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks
charlie.jarvis-banks@beds.police.uk

Can you help us? Volunteers Required !

Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the parish. We need volunteers to delivery this newsletter. If you could deliver a street or two near where you live, that would be a great help. If you can, please contact the parish office.

Brickhill News is published by Brickhill Parish Council. Printed by White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford. Disclaimer: Every effort is taken to ensure content is accurate at the time of going to press, the Parish Council takes no responsibility for errors or omissions in editorial/advertising content. Contributors are asked to confirm that they have appropriate licences for any content used.

News in brief around Brickhill

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



Woodlands Park car park - volunteers wanted

A group of residents will be locking and unlocking the gate overnight. More help would be welcome. If you can help, please email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cleaning of kerbside drainage gullies

The Parish Council has been repeatedly asking the Borough Council for gullies to be cleared as many were blocked, with no regular cleaning for several years. The good news is that the Borough is cleaning all the gullies in Brickhill now, with work nearly complete.



Gully emptying in Nursery Gardens

Waveney Green



The work to install bollards around the Green is now complete. These aim to deter unauthorised encampments. Repairs have also been made to footpaths on the green, with some remedial repairs still to be done.



Ashmead Road green gym

The parish council is fitting a better all-weather surface aound the gym equipment

Larkway/Pipit Rise flooding

The Parish Council continues to chase Anglian Water, asking for the remaining work to three drainage chambers to be done. This may help reduce future flooding.

The fountain in Rooksmead pond



Rooksmead pond

The Parish Council pays for the electricity for the fountain, which has not been working for over a year. Despite requests to the Borough, it has not been turned off. The parish has now agreed with the Borough for the fountain to be removed. If the water level of the pond recovers, the Parish will discuss with the Borough what could be put back in its place.

Brickhill Parish Council

bpha



MacMillan coffee morning

£130 was raised at the Coffee Morning at Brickhill Community Centre in September. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

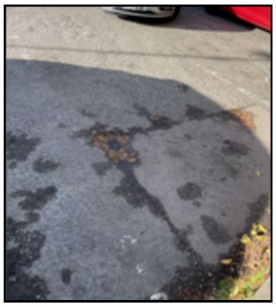
Clair (Brickhill Community Centre), Mark (Parish Council) and Julie (bpha) and cakes!

News from Brickhill Parish's Borough Councillors

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



As your Borough Councillors, we continue to work on a range of issues affecting residents across Brickhill, from major planning proposals to the day-to-day concerns that help keep our neighbourhood safe, attractive and well maintained. One current concern is the proposal to relocate the motorcycle training centre from the Oasis Centre to Mowsbury Park. Liberal Democrat Councillors have raised concerns about the loss of parking spaces, the impact on a well-used recreational area, increased noise, and potential safety issues arising from motorcycle training activities taking place in a busy public car park.



We are also pressing for improvements to road safety and highway maintenance. Requests have been made for road markings and traffic lining to be renewed at a number of locations, including Dove Road, mini-roundabouts and the car park at Brickhill Drive, where markings have become difficult to see.

We continue to work with residents and Council officers on many local environmental issues. These include reporting and dealing with graffiti, overgrown trees and hedges, blocked drains ahead of the winter months, faulty street lighting, potholes and damaged pavements. We are also working to support improvements at our shopping parades and to encourage the vacant former Morrisons unit to be brought back into use.

We will also continue to keep you informed on this and other matters 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 24 hours at the latest. We aim to respond the same day or within 24hrs. If you have not received a reply to an email, please give us a call, as occasionally emails can go astray.

De Parys Borough Councillors Update

The area of Brickhill Parish in De Parys Ward is Brickhill Drive, Robin Hill, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, and Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way.

From Councillors Henry Vann and Councillor David Sawyer (right).



Toilets in Bedford Park: The automatic public toilet at Bedford Park has been removed. The nearest toilets are now some distance away, and only if the Pavilion, or Robinson Pool are open. We are particularly frustrated that this action was taken without alternative solutions in place.

Ward Fund update – fountain, bench and trees: The contribution to Brickhill Parish Council to help with the **Rooksmead Pond** fountain has been deferred whilst solutions are investigated. We are working with the Parish Council to look at jointly funding a **new bench near the pond** and have submitted applications for new trees in **Brickhill Drive** and **Chiltern Avenue** and new yellow lines.

CCTV in Eagle Gardens We have secured costings for CCTV in Eagle Gardens and will be sharing this information with the Parish Council to see whether ward funding, some Community Infrastructure Levy funding or similar can support this work.

The recent **Best Value Inspection** found the Borough Council in "a difficult and deteriorating position." You may have seen this in our regular Focus newsletters. We continue to work constructively with others to challenge the poor financial management at the Council which is seeing services cut back.

Our next surgeries are on Saturday 11th December at 1pm at Shaldon Court, Barnstaple Road 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

Year 6

A Journey Through Crime and Punishment: Year 6 Visit the Tower of London

As part of their history topic on Crime and Punishment, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic educational trip to the Tower of London, bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom. The adventure began with a train journey into London, followed by a walk across the iconic Tower Bridge, before arriving at the historic Tower of London itself. Once there, the children took part in an informative talk and explored the Tower, discovering its fascinating and sometimes gruesome history. They learnt about how the Tower has been used over the centuries, the people who were imprisoned there and how crime, punishment and justice have changed throughout history. Seeing such an important historical site first-hand gave the children a wonderful opportunity to make connections with their classroom learning, deepen their understanding of the topic and ask questions about life in the past. It was a brilliant day filled with discovery, excitement and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our Year 6 pupils, who returned with a greater appreciation of the history they have been studying and some wonderful memories of their London adventure!



Year 4

WHEN IN ROME...

Year 4 enjoyed an incredible Roman Day with History Off the Page. This immersive, hands-on experience brought history to life, giving children the chance to handle artefacts, dress in authentic costumes and take part in exciting activities. The day helped them understand what life was like in Roman times and made their classroom learning fun, meaningful and memorable.



Big beginnings

LITTLE LEARNERS,

Our new Reception children have settled into school beautifully. They have quickly made new friends, explored their classrooms and embraced all the exciting opportunities that come with starting school. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow each day, and we are so proud of how well they have settled. They are already showing kindness, curiosity and enthusiasm, a fantastic start to their Scott journey!



Proud moments on the pitch

SPORTING SUCCESS

Our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team finished their season on a high with a thrilling 3–2 victory against another local school on Tuesday 13th October. It was a closely contested match, with Scott securing the winning goal in the final seconds! Tommy L., Roman D. and Finley M. all found the net, with Roman also being voted Player of the Game. We are incredibly proud of the team's determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the season. Well done to all the boys on a fantastic finish!



Taking shape

OUR SENSORY GARDEN

Our sensory garden is well underway, and it is already starting to transform an area of our school into a calm and beautiful space for everyone to enjoy. Children from across the school have been helping to plant flowers, herbs and shrubs, learning about different plants and how to care for the environment. We are always looking for ideas and support from our school community. If you have any plants, skills, time or ideas that could help us develop the garden further, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch via the school office, we would be so grateful for any help or suggestions!

Harvest Festival

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION FOR ALL

Our Year 1 and 2 children brought lots of smiles and joy to our Harvest Festival assembly with their beautiful singing! It was so lovely to welcome parents into school to share this special occasion with us and celebrate the season together. The children did a fantastic job, and we are incredibly proud of them all! A huge thank you to all our wonderful families for your generosity and kindness in donating food items to our Harvest Festival food bank collection. Your support means so much and will help make a real difference to those in need in our local community. It was heart-warming to see everyone come together to celebrate the true spirit of Harvest, sharing, caring and giving to others. Thank you for helping us make this year's Harvest Festival so special!



OPEN MORNING

Saturday 14th November
10:00am - 12:00pm
For children starting Reception in 2027

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY

Keep up to date with the latest news, events and a glimpse of everyday life at Scott Primary School by following us on social media.

Instagram: @scottprimary
Facebook: Scott Primary School and Nursery

Christmas in Brickhill....

Christmas at St Mark's Chuch

Saturday 12 December
6.30pm 'Carols in the Car Park'
Bedford Town Band, with free mulled wine & mince pies to warm us up !

Thursday 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

Friday 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 office@stmarkschurch.com 01234 342613

All Nations Church Brickhill Drive

SCAN ME

The Living Nativity - Saturday 12th December, at 2pm/3pm/4pm (booking required via QR code).
A festive array of craft and seasonal refreshments, before enjoying a nativity production with real animals! Come and get in the festive mood with all the family; craft aimed at 3-11 year olds. See above times. £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket, under 2's go free!

CarolsAM - Wednesday 16th December at 10am
Can't make our carol services on the 20th? Come to "CarolsAM"! It'll be a smaller, traditional service, and there'll even be a simple lunch afterwards.

Christmas Carol Services - Sunday 20th December at 10:30am and 5:30pm
All Nations Carol Services. Let's celebrate Jesus in style! There will be carols blended with powerful worship hot drinks afterwards and more - all in our beautifully decorated worship space. We'd love to see you there.

Christmas Day - Friday 25th December at 10am
What better way to start the day than to get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus? Kept shorter than usual, this'll be a lovely time of fun, worship, reflection and fellowship.

New Years Eve - 31st December -1st January at 10pm
Let's bring in the New Year with praise, prayer and style! There'll be sparklers, hot snacks, hot drinks and plenty of space to worship together. Bring the family along!

If you would like more details, please call 01234 273773 or email office@allnationsbedford.org.

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

Sunday, 13th December

6:00pm SsP&J **Carols by Candlelight**

Christmas Eve - Thursday, 24th December

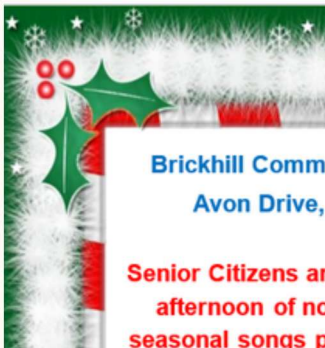


5:30pm HC **Carols**
6:00pm HC **Family Mass**
7:30pm SsP&J **Carols**
8:00pm SsP&J **Mass**

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day - Friday, 25th December

9:00am HC **Mass**
11:00am SsP&J **Mass**



Swindale Lights

Residents of Swindale have been putting on a fantastic display of Christmas lights for many years, raising funds for charity. This year the lights will be switched on **Saturday 5th December**, some time between 6:30pm and 7pm.

For more details search for **'Swindale Lights'** in Facebook.

Last year they raised £916 for the charity Cancer Research.

.... so much is going on

News from Brickhill Primary school

Small enough to know every child. Big enough to open up their world.



There is something special about being a smaller school. Every child is known, every personality is understood and every member of staff plays a part in helping each child flourish. We know their strengths, their quirks, their worries and their dreams. We celebrate the individual, while making sure everyone belongs.

- With just one class in each year group, children learn to navigate differences, resolve disagreements, appreciate one another and build friendships across personalities and ages. They discover that being part of a community means making space for everyone.
- More children get the chance to represent their school, take to the stage, try something new and discover talents they never knew they had.
- We have reimagined lunchtimes as precious opportunities for children to create, explore, collaborate and thrive. Our children build dens, explore mud kitchens, experiment with loose parts and immerse themselves in imaginative worlds. We don't think that magic should stop at the end of reception. Even our Year 6 children deserve the freedom to play, imagine and be children.
- From farms and museums to theme parks and theatre trips, we take learning beyond the school gates. We also invite talented, inspiring role models into school to open children's eyes to new possibilities and show them what they might one day become.
- Our Early Years setting was once designed for 60 children. We made the decision to retain that generous space for just 30, because we believe our youngest children deserve room to explore, move, imagine, create and grow. More space, more freedom and more opportunity to play.

We are proud to be a one-form-entry school, with 30 children per year, because we know the extraordinary things that can happen when children are given the time, space, relationships and opportunities to thrive.

If you would like to come for a personal tour with Mr Wiltshire, the headteacher, to see Brickhill in action, then please email our office at office@brickhillprimary.co.uk

CHRISTMAS IN A BOX

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ALL NATIONS CHURCH

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 6th December, 3pm - 5pm or
Monday 7th 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)
- ○ Tinned Carrots (lge)
- ○ Tinned Peas (lge)
- ○ Tinned Ham (lge)
- ○ Tinned Tuna
- ○ Tinned Fruit
- ○ Coca-cola/Lemonade
- ○ Squash
- ○ Tea/Coffee
- ○ Soup
- ○ Christmas Pudding
- ○ Carton of Custard
- ○ Mayonnaise
- ○ Gravy Granules
- ○ Mince Pies
- ○ Stuffing Mix
- ○ Savoury Biscuits
- ○ Box of Chocolates
- ○ Pack of Biscuits
- ○ 2 Selection Boxes
- ○ Crisps

A Flying Start to the New School Year at St Thomas More!

What a fantastic start to the new school year at St Thomas More! We have loved welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students into the school community and seeing them settle in, make friendships and begin an exciting new chapter. Our students have already enjoyed a wealth of opportunities to learn, explore and challenge themselves beyond the classroom.



STM Sports Leader at Scott Primary School

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students have put their skills and resilience to the test, successfully completing their assessed expedition, while our newest Year 9 cohort has begun its own Duke of Edinburgh journey. Our aspiring students also had the opportunity to visit Oxford, experience the university environment first-hand and explore the possibilities that lie ahead.

Sport and leadership have been making their mark too, with our wonderful STM Sports Leaders doing what they do best: inspiring younger pupils in Key Stage 1 to build confidence, develop teamwork and enjoy being active.

We have also celebrated the contribution our students make to the wider school community, commissioning this year's Faith Ambassadors as they take on an important role in our Catholic life.



St Thomas More students on Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition

We were equally delighted to welcome pupils from local primary schools for our 'Called to be Saints' celebration day, marking the feast of St Francis of Assisi. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring young people together to celebrate faith and community.

From outdoor adventures and university visits to sports leadership, personal development and community celebrations, it has already been a busy and rewarding start to the year. We look forward to seeing what the next half term brings!

Thank you to Tracey Treliving of St Thomas More for this article.





RAMBLERS

North Beds Ramblers Walk every Saturday:

Morning walks start at 10am. Afternoon walks in the winter start at 1pm.
We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in the morning for approx. 12 miles.
Or try our "Ramble" on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace.

December Walks

- **5th am:** "Ramble", Mowsbury Park, Bedford, 4.5 miles, **pm:** Mowsbury Park, 7 miles, Birthday walk No 12
- **12th am:** Cranfield, 11 miles, **pm:** Kimbolton, 7.5 miles
- **19th pm:** Willington, Mince Pie Walk, 4.5 miles,
- **26th pm:** Wilstead Boxing Day Walk, 6 miles

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



Make a Difference in Your Local Area

Join the Brickhill Community Association Committee

Brickhill Community Centre is looking for local volunteers to join our management committee. If you want to help shape local events, oversee our fantastic facilities on Avon Drive, and ensure the centre continues to thrive as a hub for everyone in Brickhill, we want to hear from you.

- **Commitment:** Just a few hours a month for friendly, local meetings.
- **Who we need:** Anyone aged 18+ living in Brickhill or neighbouring wards. No previous experience is required - just local pride!
- **Why join?** Gain new skills, make an impact, and meet your neighbours.



Get in touch for an informal chat:

- **Contact:** Clair Tyrrell (Centre Manager)
- **Phone:** 01234 312332
- **Email:** brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com
- **Drop-in:** Visit the office on Tuesdays or Fridays (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)

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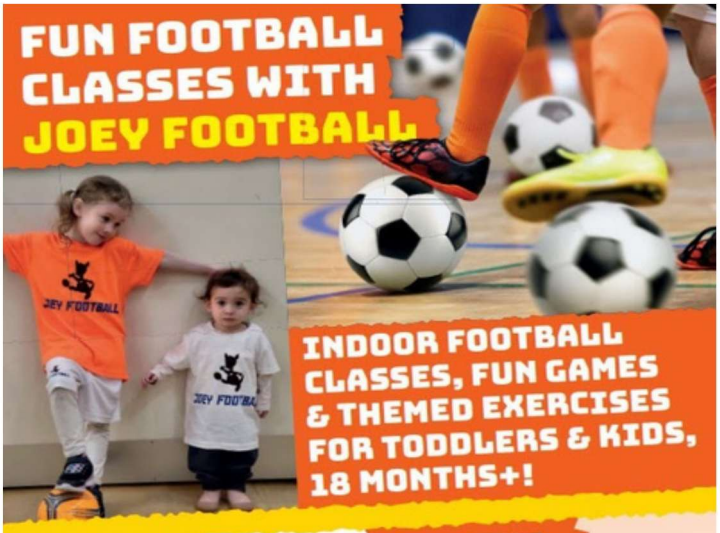
FUN FOOTBALL CLASSES WITH JOEY FOOTBALL



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