

BRICKENDON

Newsletter

Number 79

www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

February 2007

BRICKENDON LIBERTY LOOKS FORWARD TO 2007!

It's February – the shortest month – taking us away (we hope) from the dismal weather we seem to be experiencing now – to the balmy days of Spring and of course, lighter evenings! Already plans for 2007 indicate a momentous year. The most important event will be the election of a new Parish Council in May, with two or three new faces.

The Parish Plan will be completed – and a start made on implementing suggestions which have arisen from the questionnaire. Fanshaws Social Committee has set the dates (see Diary on back page) and is already making plans for our traditional annual events - the Car Boot Sale, the Barbecue on the Green, the Fete, the Christmas Party and Lunch! Our various clubs are going from strength to strength (did you include a New Year resolution to find the time to join one - or more?) Then there's the 'Village of the Year' to think about. Hopefully we'll be allowed to water our gardens as well!

'THE FARMERS BOY'

New Year's Eve was not, we hope, a one-off event. For the first time in years the pub was packed with local people celebrating. Taken over a few days before Christmas by new landlords **Gary and Nicola Estherby** (note: not just *managers*) their New Year's Resolution was a promise that the pub would revert to being Brickendon's local once again. Gary formerly spent five years managing Café Rouge in Hitchin and before that spent ten years managing a Wetherspoon's pub. He has already demonstrated social skills which have been lacking for some years in the pub - and has joined the Boules Club. Even as we go to press renovations and improvements are taking place in the kitchen, and the new chef now in post, is discussing the new a la carte and bar menus which will be available early in February.

Smokers are being confined to the small bar until 1st July when, by law, smoking in pubs will be banned altogether. Celebrations are expected in March, too, when Nicola is expecting their first baby!

Long may the goodwill continue and their New Year resolution come to fruition!

Farmers Boy telephone number: 01992 511610

The Gardening Club AGM

7.30pm on 14th February

The Club promises a full and interesting programme for the forthcoming year. Meanwhile, its most important meeting in 2007 is its AGM. Particularly so as there will be places to fill on the committee. The formal business of the meeting will be followed by an informative and judging from past experience - most amusing - talk by Maurice Smith our very own, well-travelled plantsman.

**Further details of gardening club activities from:
Vickey Jackson 01992 511303**

Brickendon Book Club

Being discussed on 1st February is Alexander McCall Smith's 'The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency' – a light hearted and amusing read. This will be followed on 1st March by 'Birds without wings' by Louis de Bernieres

Further details: Sally Chandler 01992 479315.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Brickendon Liberty Parish includes Brickendon Village, Brickendon Lane, Clementsbury, Pembridge Lane, Wormley West End, Mangrove Lane and Highgrove Farm as well as the area in between. The Parish Council meets every other month and consists of five Councillors elected every four years. Elections will be held on 4th May this year. Anyone prepared to do more than just attend six meetings a year can really make a difference to the quality of life in the parish. Would you like to consider being a Councillor? Like to know more? Then please ring our Parish Clerk or any Councillor (numbers on back page)

Mobile Library

Contrary to any rumours that the Library would no longer be providing a service in 2007 – it is very much in evidence, so make a note in your diary that it will be at the carpark on Brickendon Green every other Tuesday from

6th February at 1.45 to 2.15pm

The librarian is very friendly and helpful. If you're not a member of the library then you can join immediately on the van which carries an impressive range of books (even the latest being **read by the book club**). There's also an excellent selection of children's books, although, sadly, most children will be at school when it calls – except for school holidays.

*More details from Michelle or Muriel on 01438 737333
www.hertsdirect.org/libraries*

Report of Parish Council meeting 25th January 2007

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly PCSO Karen Broad (community police officer) and Gary Estherby (new landlord of The Farmer's Boy pub).

Parishioners' comments

Road warning signs outside Chapel of the Holy Cross and St Alban. Councillor Ray Peters undertook to provide two double-sided portable signs.

Bus shelter – seat urgently needs replacing.

Brickendon Lane – bushes and trees are encroaching on the road particularly opposite Well Green Common. Council to report to Herts Highways.

Bayford Station – request from community police for double yellow lines at the bus stop layby outside the station. Cars park there all day creating a dangerous sightline problem for exiting cars; difficulty for buses to stop there and danger for passengers boarding and alighting from buses.

PRECEPT 2007/8

This was set at £9,800, allowing for any unplanned contingencies which may arise during the year.

Footpath 28 has been upgraded to bridleway.

THE GREEN – PLAY AREA surfaces under the equipment have been repaired. All repairs will have been completed shortly.

VILLAGE COMPUTER Thanks to a quick response from John Ingham, our Parish Clerk, we are to receive a substantial grant to cover most of the cost of a computer. But first, the PC has to decide the use it will be put to.

POST OFFICE CLOSURES CONSULTATION The PC is to send a strong letter objecting to the closures.

GULLY EMPTYING SCHEDULES have not been met over the past year. Highways to be chased.

NEW NOTICE BOARD Prize money awarded over the last four years for our Village of the Year successes is to be spent on replacing the Parish Council notice board opposite the Farmers Boy pub. Consideration also to be given to replace the board at Wormley West End

RISK ASSESSMENT IN FANSHAW'S ROOM The council expressed its thanks to John Rees and Mike King for undertaking this. And a special thanks to John for donating all the necessary equipment and signs.

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE Special thanks also to Paradise Wildlife Park for designing and printing all the questionnaires free of charge.

SPEEDING TRAFFIC Councillors have accompanied the police in various parts of the Parish to identify, stop and warn motorists breaking the 30 mile speed limit. Three local residents have also volunteered. If you're at all alarmed at the dangers posed by these motorists then why don't you volunteer to take a turn too? (Ring PC Neal Dyton on 533013).

WELL GREEN COMMON

Papers are being filed by Herts legal division on 31 January. The Court has given us a 'window' when the case will be heard between 23rd April and 1st June. Several local people have expressed a wish to be there.

So as soon as we have the date we'll let you know.

Mr Simpson, being under the impression that Brickendon Green is a 'common' has raised the issue of the fencing around the Green. However, there is totally different legislation covering 'Greens'. So on this occasion no delay has been caused.

Planning decisions

Planning permission granted by EHDC

29 Brickendon Lane demolishing 2 sheds and erecting new building.

Highfield Farm change of use of agricultural land to informal garden. Re-siting of gates, Erection of fencing.

Tylers Cottage Wormley West End amended application for single storey extension over garage with pitched roof.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
& ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
will be held on Tuesday 15th May at 7.30pm.

East of England plan – DRAFT REPORT

One of the questions in the recent **Parish Plan** asked for a comment on the original **East of England Plan**. Before the Draft Report was prepared there was extensive consultation. Brickendon PC held a meeting on the issue in the village hall in February 2005 which was packed, demonstrating many people's concerns and its importance. The plan is a rolling programme touching on every aspect of life in the East of England until the year 2021.

It was initiated by John Prescott, who divided the country into regions, lumping together in our case: Herts, Beds, Cambs, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. A quango of 107 unelected members was then set up representing various interests to form the **East Of England Regional Assembly (EERA)** administered by a government body (**Go East**) and accountable to the government and ultimately the EEC. The Isle of Ely is considered the centre of our region.

All our local authorities and numerous other bodies were appalled by the undemocratic nature of EERA and the plans put forward, as well as there being no indication of how they would be financed.

In all 21,500 objections in writing were made by individuals and organisations in the region. A public inquiry took place between Nov 2005 & March 2006 resulting in a further draft 'Sustainability Appraisal of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy'.

Sadly we have to face the fact – we've lost the battle!

Objections have been swept aside. The plan will go ahead. The draft we considered has been modified and added to.

Some aspects for East Herts are worse than before. Specifically, one of the key proposed changes is that there is a 20% increase on the former housing target of 478,000 to 508,000. And nothing in the plans ensures a percentage of affordable housing.

The current Draft, has taken into consideration EERA's comments and recognises that there are still considerable problems to be overcome. Harlow North, has been earmarked for enormous expansion to turn it into a key centre of industry creating thousands of jobs and building on the Green Belt. But research just released by pressure group **Stop Harlow North** indicates that if the plans go ahead there would be more houses than jobs and what people want is the regeneration of the existing Harlow not a bigger Harlow with even more problems!

The actual document is long, extremely technical and not at all easy for the layman to understand its implications. The simplified version alone runs to 35 pages and is not much easier. It is available on DVD which, if you originally objected, you will have received. If not and you are interested then any members of the Parish Council would be happy to lend you a copy.

Comments on it have to arrive by 5pm on 9th March

Table tennis

Drop in one Tuesday evening after 8pm and have a game with us. We're not top notch but we'll give you a run for your money and even have a go at teaching you the rules. We've got the table, got the bats and got the balls! All we need now is you! If you've only ever played on holiday and found it fun – come along and play with us, you could even beat us. Look forward to seeing you any Tuesday evening 8-10pm. For more details call Marion Todd on 01992 511497.

Rural Brickendon

It's been mooted by some members of the Parish Council that it would be a nice idea to produce a calendar for 2008 featuring photos of the wonderful countryside within our Parish. An opportunity also to put in all the dates for major annual events and meetings in the Parish.

Coincidentally, the Parish Plan team would like to illustrate its final report with some stunning photos. The idea is for everyone to take a photo(s) on the same day, say Sunday 6th May (or if raining) Sunday 13th May.

There'll be prizes for the best photos featured. The go-ahead for the calendar will depend if the project can be self-financing. Would you be interested in buying one or more? *More details in the next Newsletter.*

Broxbourne Woods NNR project Award

Broxbourne Woods, which of course is in our Parish, is the site of Hertfordshire's only National Nature Reserve. The

Woods are well maintained and sensitively managed thanks to work put in throughout the year by volunteer wood wardens supported by The Woodland Trust and Countryside Management Services.

The Trust entered the award scheme (funded by the National Lottery and National Biffawards) in the Natural Environment Category and came top out of the 173 projects entered. The judges were particularly impressed with its creation of the new Easy Access Sculpture Trail and 11 mile National Nature Reserve Trail together with accompanying pack of leaflets (and beer mats!)

Volunteers are always welcome! Want to know more about what Wood Wardens do and how the woods are managed or have a go at coppicing and making deer baskets? Then come along to Bencroft Wood West Car Park on 4th March from 10am-3.30pm when a 'Work with the woodwardens' day is planned on a 'come and have a try' basis. *Wear sturdy footwear, old clothes, and wet weather gear. Tea and coffee provided. Bring a packed lunch if going all day – or just go along for an hour or so.*

Other events:

Sunday 11th February Hedgelaying at Monk's Green Farm. No experience necessary. Meet at Celtic Harmony Camp car park.

25th February Coppicing at Bencroft Wood. Meet at Bencroft Wood West Car Park.

Please ring beforehand to confirm the projects are going ahead as detailed Further information 01462 459395

POTHOLES – reminder!

Please report potholes directly to the **Highways fault reporting line on 01438 737320**, make sure you are given a number and note the date you reported it.

Hearty Congratulations to

Reverend Pauline Higham

who, in December, was appointed a Canon of St Albans Cathedral. A well-deserved accolade. We just hope her duties don't take her away too much from us

Sunday Services

*at the Chapel of the Holy Cross and St Alban
Brickendon Lane*

4 Feb 11am Parish Communion

18 Feb 11am Family Service

*Rector: Rev Canon Pauline Higham 01707 875940
Services are usually held in the Chapel of the Holy Cross
and St Alban on the 1st and 3rd Sunday every month*

Bayford School vandalised

Sadly, Bayford School was broken into sometime during the night of 10/11 February and all its new computer equipment was stolen. Four other schools had been broken into over preceding weeks. All had been warned about the break-ins and the police are now reiterating warnings to everyone living near schools to be extra vigilant and to alert them to any suspicious activity.

Brickendon Petanque/Boules Club

11th & 25th Feb and March 9.30 - noon

John Lambie, our Captain, was delighted with the excellent turnout for our first game this year when 16 players turned up – including the new landlord of the 'Farmers Boy Pub'. The Club is now preparing to join the 'Rhubarb' league. Brickendon acquitted itself well at its recent match - a friendly, in January against the 'Bell at Bennington' petanque team, while other home members played socially on the adjoining pistes.

So don't just think about it. Come along and have a go! You don't have to be experienced and we'll supply the boules. Further details John Lambie 01992 511551

PENGUINS IN PARADISE?

Humboldt Penguins usually inhabit the wilds of Antarctica but in April, ten of them will be arriving to inhabit the wilds of Paradise Wildlife Park! The Park is undertaking a conservation programme with the penguins and activities are now being planned to raise funds for the project.

Tumble Jungle

Even before it is officially opened, 'Tumble Jungle' a new soft play facility within the Park is proving to be very popular with kids (under 1.5m tall) while parents indulge themselves in the adjoining new Coffee Shop.

Tickets can be bought in advance by phoning 01992 470490 or 07769 894174 or email:lynn@pwpark.com

CELTIC HARMONY CAMP

Celtic Harmony's newly formed **Longbow Archery Club** has proved very successful. Members meet Saturdays and Sundays from 9.30am-1.30pm Mondays and Thursdays are volunteer days – come along and give a hand and learn woodland skills.

*For details of the above and future activities contact
http://www.celticharmony.org/pages/family_courses.php
or phone 01438 718543*

PARTIALLY SIGHTED?
Would you like a copy
Of the newsletter twice
as large as this one?
Phone Beryl on 511617

Village Walks

We're putting our guided walks on hold until the Spring when we'll have better weather – hopefully!

CORRECTIONS TO DEC/JAN 'services' list

Please note the following corrections to the above list.

Page 2. Photocopying Thurlows of Cuffley

Tel: 01707 875271 (not 01707 872378)

And delete: Garden Landscaping

Add under 'Services within the Parish'

Uknight Landscape and Build. William Knight,

Tel: 01992 445514, Wormley West End

Add: Cleaners For recommendations, rates, availability etc call Kathy (h) 01992 462644 (mob) 07930482646

To hire the Village Hall (Fanshaws Room) or any equipment in it and for details call

Margaret Robertson on 01992 511582

USEFUL CONTACTS

Member of Parliament

Mark Prisk (Conservative) 01920 462182

Herts County Councillor

Mike Tucker (Conservative) 01920 464826

East Herts District Council

William Ashley (Conservative) 01992 511313

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Clerk John Ingham 01920 438280

Parish Councillors (until May 2007)

Chairman Graham Irwin 511697

Vice Chairman William Ashley 511313

Desné Boulton 511483; Ray Peters 511205;

Beryl Scott Smith 511617

Fanshaws Room Social Committee

Chairman Frank Harrison 511202

Secretary Mike King 511405

Treasurer Simon Ross 666336

William Ashley 511313; Brian Chandler 479315;

Ruby Oakes 511656; Jean Retallick 511226;

Margaret Robertson 511582; Beryl Scott Smith 511617

POLICE

Emergency call 999

General non-emergency call 0845 3300222

Neighbourhood Watch Organiser

Mike King 511405

Police Community Liaison Officers

PC Neal Dyton 533013

PCSO Karen Broad 533013

For non-emergency matters

ALWAYS call 0845 3300222

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Bayford Friendly Club meets monthly on a Monday 2-4pm at Bayford Memorial Hall. Lifts can be arranged.

Details Beryl Callaby 511371

Bayford Jazz Club every 4th Friday 8.15pm at Bayford Memorial Hall. *Details John Softly 511254*

Bayford Mother, Baby and Toddlers Group. Thursday mornings (term time only) 9.15-11.15am at Bayford Memorial Hall. *Details Jane 511306 or Katie 511400*

Brickendon Book Club 1st Thursday monthly *Details Sally Chandler 479315*

Brickendon Petanque/Boules club 2nd & 4th Sunday 9.30am-12noon *Details John Lambie 511551*

Brickendon & District Gardening Club 2nd Wednesday each month 7.45pm. *Details Vickey Jackson 511303*

Bridge Club Every Monday 7.30pm (numbers limited) *Details May Nicholls 466534*

Easy Bridge Hertford meets in the village hall. *Details Paul Quayle 01992 589660*

Broxbourne Woods Conservation Society *Details John Lucas 440507 or Les Adkins 446107*

Celtic Harmony Camp in Bourne Wood. *Details of open days and activities from Clare or Luca on 01438 718543*

Countryside Management Services (CMS) *Details 01462 459395*

Five-a-side football *Details Oliver Peters 511422*

History Group *Details John Lucas 446107*

Parish Environmental Action Plan (PEAP) *Details Graham Irwin 511697*

Parish Plan Preparing for the future of Brickendon Liberty. *Details John Lambie 511551*

Table Tennis – Adults (Winter) Tuesday 8-10pm; (Summer Thursdays) *Details Marion Todd 511497*

Tennis Courts to book and for keys *contact Annie or Mike Wallis 511304 (or Beryl Scott Smith 511617 if Annie or Mike are unavailable)*

Village Walk once a month around the environs of the parish. *Details Beryl Scott Smith 511617*

Whist Drive 3rd Thursday every month 7.45pm. *Details Jean Retallick 511226*

Woodman Land Rover Owners Club meets 1st Monday Monthly at The Woodman pub, Wormley West End.

Details Julian Kotting (julian@globallandroversf9.co.uk

DIARY DATES

1	Feb	8pm	Book Club
11 & 25 th		9.30am-12	Boules/petanque
14	“	7.30pm	Gardening Club
21	“	7.45pm	Whist Drive
	“	8pm	Bayford Jazz Club
22	March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
11	May	11.30-2pm	Car Boot Sale
18	“	7.30pm	Margaret Knight Harp concert
17	June	6.30pm	BBQ
2	Sept	11.30-4pm	Fete
9	Dec	3-5	Kids Christmas Party
10	“	12.30 for 1	Christmas lunch

Please send information for March 2007 Newsletter by 22nd February to: Beryl Scott Smith, Editor, Hill Cottage,

30 Brickendon Green, SG13 8PB

Tel: 01992 511617

e-mail: beryl.scottsmith@lineone.net

www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

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