

Brickendon's 100th Newsletter

Number 100

www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

Dec 2009/Jan 2010

Brickendon's first Newsletter was delivered on 1st December 1999 and thereafter published monthly, until 2008 when it became bi-monthly.

Thanks to a great team effort it has been delivered regularly ever since, to every home in Brickendon Liberty within a few days of the 1st of the month by volunteers: William Ashley, Tim Barnard, Frank Harrison, Peter Hillyard, Mike King, Helen Knight, Eileen Mercer, Desne Nicholls and Ann Reay (*helped in many instances by their families!*)

Editor Beryl Scott Smith is most appreciative of the support and co-operation, particularly of John Matthews, Grahame Irwin and Priscilla Holliday. The Brickendon Newsletter (*or 'The Bugle' as it is affectionately called by some*) was the initial stimulus which led to the success of most of our established clubs and enabled those who felt lonely and isolated to feel part of the community and participate in events based around Brickendon Green.

Beryl made it known that, when she reached its century, she would be stepping down as editor. We are very lucky that Nigel Rorke has volunteered to take over the editorship (*as well as juggling with a very demanding and responsible day job*).

So he will need your co-operation and help if it is to continue.

So, we wish Nigel every success and look forward to celebrating his 100th issue!

Saturday 5th December 11.30am-2.30pm Children's Christmas Party at Celtic Camp

Fingers crossed for a bright, sunny, rain-free day. Over forty children between 3 and 10 years old have received their special invitations to have a great day at Celtic camp making Christmassy things, going on a treasure hunt, eating in the Round House and finally meeting Father Christmas for their very first Christmas present this year. All very efficiently organised by Chrissy Stevens who has commandeered Father Christmas' elves to wrap up their presents the night before!
Helpers welcomed!

Brickendon Boules/Petanque Club AGM 1st December 6.45pm

The festive season starts promptly with the boules/petanque club's fifth AGM in Fanshaws Room after which members will adjourn to The Farmers Boy pub for their annual Christmas Dinner and a snifter or two.

Play continues at 5.30pm under floodlight every Tuesday from 8th December and on Sundays 13th and 27th December starting at 9.30am - an opportunity to work off all those excessive Christmas treats! If you haven't tried it yet - come along and have a go!

Further details John Lambie 01992 511551

F'kukvw p dv#Oxqfk Sunday 13th December - 12.30 for 1pm

We are now fully booked for this, probably our most popular social event of the year - The Christmas lunch - which promises to be a really jolly occasion as always. Starting with a glass of mulled wine and finishing with Rosemary's surprise entertainment! With a delicious traditional turkey (and all the trimmings) followed by Christmas pudding in between.
If you have booked but not yet paid then please do so NOW as we have a waiting list and your place will be reallocated if payment is not received by 6th December.

Brickendon Book Club

Meets on Thursday 3rd December at 8pm to discuss **The Glasspainter's Daughter** by **Rachel Hore** whilst sipping a glass of mulled wine and, no doubt, nibbling a mince pie. The book under discussion at its first meeting in the New Year on 7th January is **David Ebershoff's 'The Nineteenth Wife'**. If you have read and have an opinion on either book then why not make a New Year's resolution to come along and discuss it? We're quite a sociable lot. Further details from: **Sally Chandler 01992 479315 or Beryl Scott Smith 01992 511617.**

Brickendon Green - pond clearance

Sunday 6th December 10am

In preparing the Green for the fete, the Parish Council became aware that it had been somewhat neglected over the past year.

The pond area in particular. Advice has been sought on the best time of the year to take action bearing in mind the preservation of wildlife - especially crested newts. The answer was early December. Countryside Management Services' volunteers are going to help to clear and clean the pond. If you value the Green and enjoy using it then our hands-on Parish Councillors, all of whom will be there, would appreciate your help also.

Contact Graham Irwin for details on 01992 511697

Brickendon & District Gardening Club

On Wednesday 9th December at 7.45pm, the Gardening Club will be holding its own Christmas celebrations. No doubt to earn our supper (from a table groaning with food) we will again have to attempt to identify plants and respond to a quiz or two! Always a very sociable and jolly evening.

This will be followed on 13th January with a talk by June Crew on fungi. *Please note this meeting will take place in The Chapel of the Holy Cross and St Alban, Brickendon Lane.*

June is very knowledgeable and in the past has taken us on a Fungal Foray. Hopefully, she might be persuaded to escort us on another later in the year.

A full programme is already being prepared for 2010.

Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday each month in Fanshaws Room. For further details please contact Judith Fawcett 01992 552341 or Sally Chandler 01992 479315.

Fanshaws Room kitchen refurbishment

As we go to press, the refurbishment is planned to take place during January. It is anticipated that the work will be completed within three weeks.

However, it does mean that our usual meetings cannot take place there and alternative arrangements will have to be made.

So before setting out, please check the venue.

FRMC apologises for any inconvenience caused during this period - but it will all prove worthwhile in the end.

Further information: Beryl Scott Smith 01992 511617

'More bits and pieces about our County Town'

Friday 29th January 7.30pm in Fanshaws Room

You will certainly remember the fascinating illustrated talk given by Peter Raffles earlier this year on the history of Hertford. He has been persuaded to follow this up, elaborating a bit more on some different aspects of its history. A fish and chip supper will be provided at approximately 8.30 and it is suggested that to wash it down you may wish to bring your own tippie and glasses.

Tickets cost £8.50 (*and are limited in number*)

Available from: Margaret Hills 01992 511302

(NB the kitchen refurbishment should be completed)

Well rotted compost - free!

A good time to remind you that this is available from Linda and Les Barnes at Birch Farm, White Stubbs Lane. It's efficacy in improving vegetable growth is legendary! All you have to do is phone them on 01582493350 to let them know you are coming and make sure you have a shovel and sacks to put it in.

1950's party!

It really started at around about 10am on the morning. Nikki and Jackie did an amazing job decorating the hall with balloons and discs and when the juke box arrived to be 'tested', all the helpers were choosing numbers to jig around to.

But come the evening, sadly less people turned up than expected, having acquired their free ticket.

However this did not dampen the spirits of those present. The atmosphere was great and the food table was bulging. Everyone enjoyed themselves and already those who were there are talking about next year's party!

Watt Watchers Club Prize Night

At a very sociable meeting in The Farmers Boy the best 'electricity slimmers' over the past quarter - living in the parish of Brickendon Liberty - who saved the most electricity, were presented with their prizes. They were: 1st prize £25 to Jean Retallick; 2nd prize of £15 to Mike and Rosemary King and 3rd prize of £10 to Beryl and John Matthews.

Burns Night celebration

The Farmers' Boy pub is celebrating Burns night on 27th January with a piper, dancers and a poetry reading.

To book or for further details phone 01992 511610 or email: enquiries @thefarmersboy.net

Lost Tennis Raquet

On one of the last days of play on the tennis courts, a fairly old tennis raquet - of sentimental value - was left behind by mistake and disappeared. If anyone knows of its whereabouts would they please be kind enough to phone its owner:

Melanie Outram 01992 511486

Highways fault reporting

Please note there is now a new number 0300 1234047

Calendars, notelets and Christmas cards

The campaign to 'Stop Stansted Expansion' has produced some really lovely calendars, and packs of notelets (8), featuring beautiful photographs of scenery and cottages threatened with extinction should the expansion of Stansted go ahead. Packs of 8 Christmas cards featuring a robin are also available. For £6 each pack and calendar is excellent value. To buy contact Beryl Scott Smith on 01992 511617.

Neighbourhood Watch Organisers

Mike King is our Parish Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator (01992 511405). We have neighbourhood watch organisers for Fanshaws Lane (Graham Irwin 511697) and for Wormley West End (Dennis Downes 446700) but we still need volunteers to represent Brickendon Green, Brickendon Lane, Clementsbury, Highfield Farm and Mangrove Lane.

If you could undertake this then would you please contact Graham Irwin or Mike King.

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Brickendon Lane

Long bow archery courses being held on 5th and 12th December, and 16th and 23rd January. *Join by booking online at www.celticharmony.org or tel: 01438 718543*

Fete 2010? - testing the waters!

Until Bill Bircham decided to take the bull by the horns and organise the fete in 2009 - there was *not* going to be a fete. However, it did take place and was so successful, that people were talking about a 2010 fete before we'd cleared the Green!

But even Bill had to admit it was hard work for one person and it was agreed that a sub-committee would be formed to organise the next one and share the workload.

So, if you want a fete in 2010 are you prepared undertake the commitment of being a member of its organising committee and take on certain responsibilities for it?

At the moment, for personal reasons, Bill is unable to commit himself as its organiser, fingers crossed though that the situation will change in the New Year.

Meanwhile, if you are interested then would you please initially contact Beryl Scott Smith on 01992 511617.

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Many thanks to everyone who so generously contributed home made cakes, fudge and preserves as well as bottles and items to be sold or won at the bazaar. And a special thanks to all those who came to give a hand on the day - without whom most of the above would never have been bought anyway! It was a very jolly event and although there were not as many punters - or children coming to see Santa Claus as we had hoped, at the end of the day we had raised **over £400 in aid of the Isabel Hospice** - as well as filling one or two of their shops with some very nice new items to sell as Christmas presents, demonstrating a community spirit to be proud of.

'BOING'

This is a new service offered to the public by Hertfordshire Police Service if you have cause to ring the non-emergency number (0845 3300222)

Every day people phone the police on the non-emergency number for help with what may be an emergency to them but is not really a police matter. It might be about a cat stuck up a tree, a broken window, a bath overflowing and so on. The police have linked up with an organisation called BOING which has a large database of non-emergency contacts - all of which have been vetted and approved by the police.

Having ensured no criminal activity is involved, the caller will be transferred by the police to BOING. The services it covers includes boarding up and glazing, undertakers, plumbers, key holding, solicitors and pest control.

BOING can also be contacted directly on 0800 587 0548

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Group

Several of our members as well as thousands of others have committed themselves to cutting their remissions of carbon by 10% during 2010. If you are able to, please take a look at www.1010uk.org and then, hopefully, join them.

On 14th December the group is meeting for an informal getting-to-know you from 7-8 in The Farmers Boy.

At 7.45pm on 25th January at the Farmers Boy, a double bill, 'Economic driving' and 'On the cusp of a lighting revolution. Please be here to support our our local expert Tim Barnard.

Several interesting speakers and visits are planned for 2010

Further details: Ava Geenwell 01992 511662

Watt Watchers Club

Suggested Christmas present solution?

Members may now sponsor their friends and families for Watt Watchers' Club membership with an Eco-eye electricity monitor costing £15, providing they live in Hertfordshire and within ten miles of Brickendon Liberty parish. Help them save electricity, carbon emissions and money - by giving them one for Christmas. Contact John Lambie 511551 - only a few left !

Paradise Wildlife Park

White Stubbs Lane

Christmas Carol Service

2pm Saturday 19th December

In the Jungle Theatre with Rev. David Bradburn - join the animal park staff to sing carols and see the reindeer.

Afterwards pop into the Discovery Centre for warmed mulled wine and mince pies and browse the craft stalls

Special entry price of £2 if you take along this Newsletter.

Further details from: Katy on 01992 470490 or email

katy@pwpark.com

Bayford Friendly Club

Bayford Friendly Club meets on a Monday afternoon once a month. Recent meetings have been held in Fanshaws Room.

The next meeting of members is on 21st December for a Christmas Lunch at The Baker Arms in Bayford generously sponsored by proceeds from Bayford's open gardens day.

The future of the club is now under discussion. Should it continue and should it meet in Fanshaws Room? Is there enough interest from enough members to keep it going? If you are retired and would like to get out of the house for an hour or two, meet other people and have a chat over a cup of tea, listen to a talk or perhaps play a board game then would you like to come along? Everyone is welcome. And if you need a lift then we can arrange that too. If you are interested please contact Beryl Scott Smith on 01992 511617.

Fanshaws Room

Just to remind you , the hall will not be available for use during January when the kitchen will be completely refurbished. After which, Fanshaws Room Management Committee will be reassessing its hire charges

To hire the hall or any equipment in it, please contact

Brenda Lambie on 01992 511551

St George's Day

Yes, alright, alright, we haven't even had Christmas yet let alone Easter so what are we doing talking about an event in April 2010 - well 24th April actually.

It's all Brickendon Grange Golf Club's fault testing the waters! It is more than likely to be celebrated next year, in which case we are to be invited. So just make it the first date you put in one of those diaries you will be receiving shortly in your Christmas stockings.

Watch out!

Make sure you keep your back door locked. Twice recently in White Stubbs Lane, thieves have walked in unlocked back doors, picked up car keys and driven off in the vehicles. Also, Christmas is bonus time for pick pockets, and handbag snatchers - keep your bag close to you at all times.

Don't give them the chance to steal your belongings!

Parish Council meeting 26.11.09

Our representative on Herts County Council, Cllr Rose Cheswright, attended the meeting and brought to members attention the existence of a fund for capital expenditure. Apparently not all the money for 2009/10 had yet been used.

The committee's attention was brought to a wrecked car at the back of the Green which was gradually being dismantled. The police would be informed about it.

Parish Plan Cllr Lambie was investigating the provision of permissive paths to nearby towns and woods for walkers.

Mains Drainage at Wormley West End It appears that the chief enthusiast for this has since moved. At Thames Water's suggestion, local householders are to be approached by Cllr Downes to determine who would be interested in having mains drainage and contribute towards its cost. The PC was pessimistic about Thames Water's response even following any positive outcome.

Brickendon Telephone Box British Telecom has offered the box to the village without the phone facility for £1. The PC considered that, as it was difficult in the area to get mobile phone connections, and the phone had been used (in spite of its unsavoury condition) about 87 times over the last month, it was an asset. The PC therefore agreed to seek listing for the box which would also overcome the problem of maintenance.

Truck Watch scheme deferred until Spring 2010.

Wooden barriers around the ditch by the telephone box are to be replaced to improve safety. Meanwhile the inadequate tapes remain as an interim measure.

Planning Matters & Applications

Current applications - None to report.

Planning Permission granted by East Herts Council

Clements Farm, Brickendon Lane. Erection of cattle housing and hay barn, also siting of temporary mobile home and retention of landscaped bunds.

Planning Permission refused by East Herts Council

Hedgegrove Farm, Pembridge Lane. Two storey front, & rear extension with balcony and new roof.

Appeals refused by East Herts

The Studio, Broxbourne Common. Retrospective application for tree house/hide in paddock at rear.

Highfield Farm. Change of use of existing paddock to residential. Partial demolition and refurbishment of existing paddock, construction of glass link between 2 paddocks

Next Parish Council meeting Thursday 28th January 2010

Consumer News

This is a quarterly publication put out by Herts Trading Standards Office. Copies are available in Fanshaws Room. The current issue is an 'Energy Special'. It has tips on saving money and energy in the home, the pitfalls of people knocking on your door to try to sell you energy, tips on changing your energy suppliers and getting the best deals, and a round up of prosecutions of traders giving false addresses or falsely claiming qualifications they don't have and so on.

A list of approved traders is available from:

*Hertfordshire Trading Standards tel: 08454 040506
e-mail: tradingstandards@herts.gov.uk*

Services

**in The Chapel of the Holy Cross and St Alban
Brickendon Lane**

6 December 11am BCP Communion

3pm on 20th December

CHRISTMAS PRAISE

*This is a lovely time to celebrate Christmas in our
beautifully decorated Church with favourite carols and
readings, followed by a festive drink!*

Come and get into the Christmas spirit!

27 December 10.15am Group Communion

2010 3 January 11am BCP Communion

17 " 11am Family Service

All services are followed by refreshments

Rector: Rev Canon Pauline Higham 01707 875940

Services are usually held on 1st & 3rd Sundays monthly

DIARY DATES

December

1	6.45pm	Boules/Petanque Club AGM (FR)
1	8pm	Boules Christmas dinner (FB)
1,8,15,22	8pm	Table Tennis (FR)
3	8pm	Book Club (The Glasspainters Daughter)
5	11.30-2.30	Childrens party at Celtic Camp
6	10am	The Green - pond clearance
8,13,27	9.30am - noon	Boules (& every Tues 5.30-7.30)
8 & 22	1.45-2.15pm	Mobile Library on the Green
9	7.45	Gardening Club party (FR)
11	8.15--10.45pm	Just the Job Jazz at Bayford
13	12.30 for 1pm	Christmas Lunch (FR)
14	7-8pm	RRR getting-to-know-you (FB)
17	7.30pm	Whist Drive (FR)
19	2pm	Paradise Wildlife Park - Carols
21	12.30pm	Friendly Club Xmas lunch (BA)

January 2010

*(Note: Fanshaws Room will be closed until the end of
January due to the refurbishment of the kitchen. You are
advised to check the venue of meetings you wish to attend)*

7	8pm	Book Club (<i>The 19th Wife</i>)
5,19	1.45-2.15pm	Mobile library
8	8.15-10.45pm	Jazz Club (Bayford)
10,24	9.30am-12	Boules (& every Tues 5.30-7.30)
13	7.45	Gardening Club (in Chapel)
20	8pm	Fanshaws meeting
21	7.30pm	Whist Drive
25	7.45	RRR talk (FB)
27		Burns Night (FB)
28	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (FR)
29	7.30pm	Peter Raffles talk on Hertford (FR)

Note: (FR) Fanshaws Room (FB) The Farmers Boy

Deadline for Feb/March issue is 15 January 2010

Editor: Nigel Rorke, 10 Brickendon Green SG13 8PB

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Committee & Brickendon Liberty Parish Council.

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**Wishing all our readers
a very Happy Christmas
and a healthy and peaceful new
Year!**