



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

You may be asking why we are producing this newsletter when we already have a very good publication in the "Common Round".

We are applying for Quality Parish Council Status a new Government initiative to help modernise local government and ensure that all local authorities are more in touch with the people they serve.

Parish and town councils are the democratic bodies with the closest direct links to their communities. As such they are ideally placed to contribute to the long-term vision and the priorities contained in the community strategies which principal local authorities are responsible for preparing.

Through this scheme the Government wants to encourage all parish councils to reach the standards of the best and, in doing so, to demonstrate their status as the local representatives of their communities. This should help them to work more closely with partners in the delivery of local services.

Achieving Quality Parish status demonstrates that a council has met certain minimum standards expected from an effective, representative and active parish council. The scheme is voluntary and is open to all parish councils in England. It is hoped that a



The High Street in bloom

large proportion of parish councils will apply for accreditation.

A Quality Parish Council will provide leadership in promoting an inclusive community through, for example, supporting community transport schemes and childcare provision and helping to develop youth activities and services for the elderly.

A Quality Parish Council will work with others, including the voluntary and community sector, to undertake services funded from its own resources to look after the parish environment and provide public facilities such as playgrounds. Quality Parish Councils, with the agreement of their principal local authorities, may take on the delivery of some services on their behalf, where this gives the local community the best deal.

If Redbourn Parish Council is to achieve Quality Status, we must be seen to be engaging with the public

and keeping them informed of our activities. This quarterly publication is intended to do just that and to give an overview of local issues. We shall continue to use the "Common Round" and the village website for regular bulletins.

Who Cares Wins!

Redbourn Parish Council is your local council yet how many of you are aware of what the Council does?

We work closely with other Local Authorities and Statutory Bodies to voice your concerns and to promote the interests of the village. We have regular meetings with Hertfordshire Highways, the Police and the County Gypsy Officer. Let us know of any issues you wish raised at these meetings.

See page 2 for a list of all the areas within our responsibility. For more information on Quality Parish Status visit www.defra.gov.uk.

For more information visit the village website www.redbourn.org.uk. Here you can view Council agendas and minutes and send your comments. The website is full of useful information about life in the village. It includes advice about clubs and societies, local birdlife, walks, events, history and so much more. If you wish you can attend our meetings which are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. (December's meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month). Meetings of the Common Footpaths and Open Spaces are held on the first Thursday of the month.

Concerned at the lack of BT Broadband in the village? Redbourn has already passed the half way mark to meet the criteria for consideration. Registration does not mean you have to sign up for Broadband. If you wish to register your interest you should do so on www.demandbroadband.com.

Parish Council for the People

The Redbourn Parish Council represents you at local, county and national levels. Our aim is to ensure that Redbourn citizens have a secure, clean, happy and interesting environment in which to live, work and play. **Your Parish Council is responsible for all this:**

- Redbourn Common and The Moor
- Millennium Site (Old Station Yard)
- Play Areas in Silk Mill Road, Long Cutt, Flamsteadbury Lane and East Common
- Seats, litter bins and dog litter bins
- Bus Shelters
- Allotments (managed by Redbourn Allotment Association)
- Redbourn Youth Centre
- Nicky Line (agency agreement)
- Awarding grants from a small grants budget
- Entry into Village of Year Competition
- Rose Garden in High Street
- Beating the Bounds
- Flower tubs in the High Street
- Village Clock
- Christmas Lights
- Christmas Window Competition
- Christmas Carols in High Street
- Definitive Paths

Please let us know if you encounter a rickety stile or blocked footpath - this may be added to next year's Parish Paths programme of improvements.

The Redbourn Parish Council also holds development funds for Redbourn Village Hall, the Bowling Green Project, Youth Centre, Redbourn Care Group Minibus, Scout Hut, Museum, Tennis Club and St Mary's Church Hall. We work in close liaison with village organisations and have representation on most of their committees.



Two friends enjoying the new facility

Silk Mill Play Area

Parents living on the former Brooke Bond site no longer have to trek to the Common to give toddlers a ride on the swings. They are now able to use the recently completed toddlers play area in Silk Mill Road. The Play Area was funded by the developer and is being maintained by the Parish Council.

Redbourn in Bloom

Have you noticed how every year the village is beginning to bloom? If you would like to help the Redbourn in Bloom Committee, volunteers are required to assist in planting, weeding and generally improving the village environment. Contact Isobel Wells 01582 794329.

The Moor

You may have noticed that the management of The Moor has changed. In the past, the river was cleared mechanically once a year. Unfortunately, this did not stop the channel becoming clogged with vegetation. Maintenance is now carried out regularly by hand. Although this is obviously labour intensive it is a more environmentally friendly way of managing this sensitive part of the Common.

Crossing the Common

We would welcome your views on proposals from residents living in Silk Mill Road, Brooke End and Mulberry Place, for a safe crossing area on the road near The Cricketers Public House, which is on the route to the local schools. This matter is being investigated and has been raised with Hertfordshire Highways.

A Village for All Ages

Youth Council

Redbourn is fortunate in having its very own enthusiastic Youth Council to represent the views of young people in the village. At the recent Annual General Meeting Alex Carney was elected Chairman, Sophie Picton Vice Chairman and Diane Aughton continues in the post of Treasurer.

The Youth Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6p.m. in the Village Hall. New members are very welcome. Currently, the Youth Council members are assisting Phil Findlay, Skabbor, in raising funds towards a skateboard park in the village. Over the past year almost £500 has been raised. Members assist organisations in the village. A representative sits on Redbourn in Bloom and members have assisted at various village functions including the Redbourn Fun Day, the Charities Fair and the Sealed Knot Event which was an excellent event organised by the Museum staff.

Youth Centre

Anyone who has used the Youth Centre will know that the building is cold, damp and well past its sell-by date. The Parish Council is looking at redeveloping the building to provide improved facilities for the village. The new facilities will include a parish office, a base for the community police officer, a meeting room (available for public hire) and facilities for young people. Built as a temporary structure, the existing Youth Centre must be one of the longest standing temporary buildings in the village. As it is not worth spending the estimated £70,000 to upgrade the building, a decision was taken to redevelop the site.

The Parish Council wishes to take this project forward with your approval. The construction may be financed through monies paid to the Council for rights of way across the Common. The alternative solution would be to demolish the building and return the site to Common. You have an opportunity to let us know your views on this proposal by completing the relevant question in the Vital Villages questionnaire.

Your help needed! The Youth Centre Management Committee is desperately seeking a Chairman and Treasurer. The current Chairman has been in post for over ten years and wishes to retire. The Clerk to the Parish Council acts as Secretary to the Management Committee and is currently also acting Treasurer. Anyone willing to relieve her of the Treasurer's post would be welcomed with open arms.



Sealed Knot marching to battle

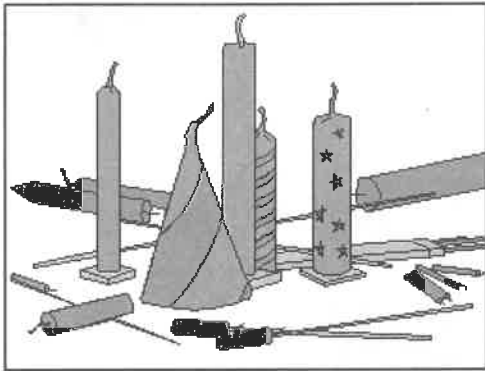
Cumberland House Development

No one could have missed hearing the noisy demolition works currently being undertaken on the Cumberland House site. The ugly modern extensions are being removed to make way for a development of 23 houses and a new medical centre. There is still some way to go but we understand the contracts have been signed and the construction of the Medical Centre should be underway next Spring.

Were you aware that the Parish Council lobbied for a medical centre, public car park and garden on the development site? We look forward to quiet contemplation in the garden which should provide a secluded haven away from the hustle and bustle of the High Street.

Vital Villages

Unhappy with facilities in the village? Want burning issues in Redbourn to be tackled? Then be sure to take a few minutes to complete the Vital Villages questionnaire delivered with this Newsletter. The survey is your chance to have a say in how Redbourn progresses over the coming years.



Firework Display

Report by Cllr O'Donovan,
Chairman, Firework Working
Party

A cracking firework display was held on the Common on 2nd November. This is a well established village event organised by the

Parish Council working in partnership with volunteers. Thanks are due to everyone involved in the organisation, especially those who turned out in the downpour on Sunday morning to clear the Common of litter and the last remnants of spent fireworks. Redbourn Scouts ran a hot dog stall sponsored by Redbourn Village Stores and the Redbourn Playing Fields Trust provided very welcome hot soup and refreshments.

The event was very successful and has raised approximately £1,500 for local organisations and charities. This would not have been possible without the financial support of our sponsors: Colin Mason (Estate Agents), Co operative Welcome, DG Clements & Son, Halsey Builders, Leisure Connection, Little Revel End Kennels, Jarvis Ltd, James Femley, J Hill & Son, J & N Antiques, JR Hill (Contractors) Mr Malski, Oakbridge Homes, RPM Contractors, Third Floor Limited, Wall Street Interiors and Wedlake Saint.

The names of the Prize Draw winners were published in the Common Round and displayed on the village noticeboards.

Diary note: This year's display is to be held on Saturday 6th November

Firework Poster Competition

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr O'Donovan, presented certificates and vouchers to the talented artists who achieved placements in this year's Poster Competition

St Luke's School

Jamie Scales 1st prize
Douglas Jennings 2nd prize
Danny Elkins 3rd Prize

Redbourn Junior School

Ava Bajpai 1st prize
Harry Birch 2nd prize
Lewis Hickey 3rd prize

Redbourn Infant School

Isabelle Jenkins 1st prize
Danielle Doherty-Ray 2nd prize
Paul Roscoe 3rd prize

Congratulations to you all

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

beaumont ward

◆
Maria Maynard
2 High Street

◆
James Lowen
2 Mulberry Place t: 01582 794039

◆
Colin O'Donovan (Chairman)
7 Ver Road t: 01582 792382

◆
Tony Swendell
6 Monks Close t: 01582 792076

◆
Ron Stent (Chairman Finance)
10 Saberton Close t: 01582 793151

nicholls ward

◆
Anthony Bull
10 Crouch Hall Gardens t: 01582 793756

◆
Vivienne Windle
1 Coopers Meadow t: 01582 626351

◆
Paul Finigan
107 Lybury Lane t: 01582 793149

◆
Stan Pierpont (Chairman Commons)
4 Wheatlock Mead t: 01582 792117

◆
Philip Rosen (Chairman Planning)
34 Bettespole Meadows t: 01582 792585

◆
Pat Schofield
82 The Park t: 01582 793096

◆
parish clerk
Diane Whiskin
Village Hall 63 High Street, Redbourn AL3 7LW
t: 01582 794832

◆
district councillors
Pat Schofield, Colin O'Donovan, Tony Swendell

◆
county councillor
Derek Hills
t: 01582 629433

◆
member of parliament
Rt Hon Peter Lilley
t: 01582 834344

New Member

Over the past few months there have been two resignations from Redbourn Parish Council. Both Albert Prince and Barbara Robinson are moving out of the village. James Lowen was recently co-opted to replace Albert Prince. He has the dubious honour of being the youngest member on the Council! Barbara Robinson has been involved in local politics for over 30 years and will be missed by all. Mrs Jill Barnes has been co-opted to replace Barbara Robinson.

REDBOURN NEWS will be printed quarterly. We welcome your comments. If there are subjects you would like to see in the newsletter or if you have an article/letter you would like published please write to: Diane Whiskin the Parish Clerk or e-mail redbournpc@talk21.com