



Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area Refurbishment Nears Completion

The refurbishment of the Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area, which was a joint venture with the ACORN Group who sourced some of the new equipment, has nearly been completed. Two new slides have been added, plus a springy crazy horse. The old set of swings nearest the fields has been removed, and replaced by new swings at the Stephens Way side. The safety matting for all the apparatus has been renewed. The ACORN Group is making an application to the lottery Awards for All to finance the fencing of the site.

This area is complicated by the fact that there is Right of Access for farm equipment such as combine-harvesters, to reach the neighbouring fields (albeit infrequently). Such equipment had been entering via the pedestrian access point in Stephens Way, because the entrance from Flamsteadbury Lane was difficult for large vehicles. This has now been rectified, and a new gate added, which should make it safer for all concerned. The removal of the old swings was necessary because the clearance required between swings and fencing would not have allowed wide-enough access.

A grand opening is being planned.

60th Anniversary of VE Day

Like towns and villages around the country, Redbourn celebrated Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945, with singing and dancing in the streets, bonfires and fireworks. Recollections of this day will be the finale of a presentation by the Redbourn Players on Saturday 7 May in the Village Hall, which will recall wartime experiences on the "Home Front". Prose readings, poetry, dramatic reconstructions, and songs by a number of guest artists (some with audience participation) will trace that experience from the declaration of war, through the evacuation of children (several to Redbourn), rationing and the blackout, entertainment during the war, and bombing raids, to VE Day itself.

A hot supper will be served and there will be a licensed bar (sadly, not with 1945 prices).

If any reader has any mementoes of the war that they would be prepared to loan for the exhibition, or any particular memories of Redbourn during the war years that could be used in the performance, we should be delighted to hear from them.

Please contact either Martin Howe on 01582 792074 or Jean Cooper on 01442 258331.

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.

Redbourn Youth Centre

The Youth Centre is in urgent need of a Chairman and a Treasurer. Although the current Chairman, Gordon Allcroft, has expressed a wish to retire he has kindly continued in the post. We don't know how much longer we can persuade him to do so. If you feel you would be interested in taking over as Chairman Gordon would be more than pleased to discuss the duties with you. He can be contacted on 01582 792821. The Secretary, Diane Whiskin, has been acting as Treasurer for the past few years and would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to take over these duties. Tel No 01582 794832.

Free Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation for your Home

Did you know that up to 35% of your home's heating could be lost through the walls and 25% through the roof. Insulation will dramatically reduce this and save your money. The District Council is working with Scottish Power and Miller Pattison (a local insulation company) to offer 100% grants for home insulation. If you are on benefit you may qualify for free home insulation. Contact Kirsten Elder (Energy Officer) at St Albans City & District Council on **01727 819380**

LINK PATH ON COMMON

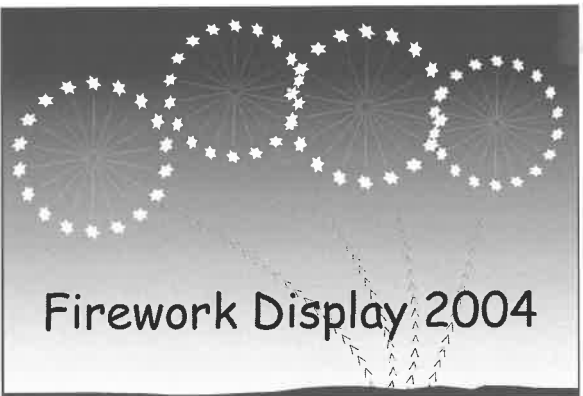
To improve access around the Common a path is to be constructed to join the corner of North Common and Flamsteadbury Lane with The Avenue. This should make for a safer route from that corner, particularly for wheelchairs, baby buggies etc. It is intended later to extend the path from The Avenue down to Hemel Hempstead Road (by the Jolly Gardner). Redbourn Care Group is hoping to provide a riverside walk on The Moor to link up with this extension.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Thursday, 28th April 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Why not attend and discover what the Parish Council has been achieved over the past year and what is planned for the future.

WHO CAN GROW THE LARGEST SUNFLOWER?

Redbourn in Bloom is organising a Sunflower Competition for Redbourn children. Judging to take place at the Horticultural Show on 10th September. If you do not go to a local school but wish to enter you may obtain seeds from Barbara Corbett, 01582 792738 or Diane Whiskin, Redbourn Village Hall 01582794832



Firework Display 2004

Poster Competition Results

Many thanks to the talented artists at St Luke's School who provided exciting bonfire posters. The winners were:

- 1st Charlie Smith
- 2nd Sean Morris
- 3rd Ruairidh Harding

This year's judge, Mr E Leahy, said the entries were of such a high standard it was difficult to choose the winning three.

Additional Sponsor

We would also like to thank James Fernley & Partners (Life Pensions) for its sponsorship

Profits Distributed

The evening was a great success enabling donations of £100 to be made to:

Redbourn Infant School, Redbourn Junior School, St. Luke's School, Redbourn Scouts, Redbourn Brownies, Redbourn Rainbows, Redbourn Playing Fields Trust, Redbourn in Bloom, Tiddlywinks, Redbourn Care Group, Redbourn Day Care Centre, Redbourn Museum, Redbourn Youth Centre, Good Companions, Redbourn Pop-In.

The Firework Working Party
wishes to thank
Dawn and Jim Quinn
at

The Bull Public House
for kindly providing
accommodation for its meetings.

Parish Centre

We are now well underway with the initial stages of this project. The Youth Centre site was surveyed in November, and a Parish Centre Development Committee has been established to progress the project. The first meeting was held on December 7th 2004, when various ideas were discussed. A local resident has produced some very exciting draft plans and sketches.

Meanwhile, a Working Party has been set up (which had its first meeting on Tuesday 18th January), to look at additional ways of financing the development, and to assess the likely income and ongoing costs of the Centre. It is intended that the Centre will provide a permanent office for the Parish Council, facilities for the Youth Club, and an attractive venue for many small events, which will make it self-financing as far as running-costs are concerned.

REDBOURN RECREATION CENTRE

The Parish Council is looking for residents with a small amount of spare time who could act as representatives of the Council on the Management Committee of the Redbourn Recreation Centre. People with accounting, marketing or general organisation skills would be particularly welcome. Please contact Cllr Lowen if you want to discuss this opportunity.



Christmas Lights

You may have been disappointed at the limited Christmas Lighting in the High Street. While many shops and businesses produced their own displays, we had intended to festoon as much of the street as possible with coloured lights.

To that end we had 14 businesses prepared to offer an electricity supply for lights to be provided and installed by the Parish Council.

Unfortunately we were unable to obtain sufficient quantities in the time available. In 2005, we intend to make sure we have sufficient lights well in advance.

PART TIME ADMINISTRATOR WANTED

Clerk/Manager for Redbourn Village Hall

The Clerk ensures the smooth running of Redbourn Village Hall with regard to all administrative, financial and operational aspects. This is an interesting and enjoyable position, with a high level of responsibility. Applicants need a good working knowledge of Word and Excel, an eye for detail and commitment in developing village societies and activities.

20 hours per week on average, based at the Village Hall.
Five mornings per week, with flexibility.

Please send your CV to

Geraldine Aughton
Redbourn Village Hall Management Committee
63 High Street
Redbourn, Herts,
AL3 7LW

Redbourn Village Hall Management Committee is a registered charity (no. 302450)

PRESERVE your POST OFFICE

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- Travel: Foreign currency, travel insurance, holiday phone cards, E111
- Insurance: motor and home
- Finance: personal loans, growth bonds, guaranteed equity bonds
- Bill Payments: BT, TV, rent, rates, water (there is a charge for this); Various other businesses, some of which will be free
- Post Office savings stamps
- Gifts: Gift Postal orders, Argos postal orders, Post Office Gift catalogue, Littlewoods catalogue, Music vouchers for Napster
- E-Top Ups
- Car Tax, Fishing licences
- Royal Mail special delivery, Flowers by mail

To ensure that we retain a vibrant High Street we must support our local shops.

DELIVERERS WANTED

This newsletter is delivered by Councillors and volunteers. We have 2000+ to deliver four times a year. If you would be prepared to deliver to one or two roads each quarter, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01582 794832. Since the last newsletter, we have had several offers of help. Obviously, the more people we have, the easier and quicker is the distribution

BROADBAND IS FINALLY HERE!

The Redbourn exchange now supports Broadband Internet access

Faulty Road Surface, Pavement Problems, or Street Light Faults

All highway faults may be reported by calling 01438 737320 or 01923 471320 or via the web on <http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk>

COUNCIL VACANCY

Owing to the resignation of Cllr. Jill Barnes, there exists another vacancy on the Parish Council. If there is no call for an election, the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Parish Clerk. The closing date for applications is 25th February.

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council welcomes new Councillor Kevin Maidment, replacing Paul Finigan, who resigned last year.

Pavement Parking

We are receiving more and more complaints about thoughtless parking on pavements. Some motorists are parking foursquare on the pavements making it impossible for pedestrians to pass without walking into the road. This is extremely dangerous particularly for mothers with push chairs and young children in tow. Please think of others when you park your car. Think particularly of the safety of children and park in a considerate manner.

Policing in Redbourn

We were very sorry to lose the services of Alan Thorpe who has retired from the police force. He worked diligently for Redbourn and we shall miss his presence. Before his departure he introduced the new PCSO, Lisa Garrity to her new duties. Lisa has lost no time in getting to grips with policing the village and is doing a splendid job. The Parish Council has purchased a mobile phone for Lisa, tel no 07845 219523, and we would urge you to contact Lisa if you have anything suspicious to report. Provided she is on duty this form of instant contact should help to make our streets safer. If you have a non-emergency incident you wish to report to the police you may do so on 0845 33 00 222. **STOP PRESS: Christine Clayton is the new community police officer.**

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Beaumont Ward

◆
VACANCY
(See left)

◆
James Lowen (Chairman Finance)
2 Mulberry Place - 01582 794039

◆
Maria Maynard
2 High Street

◆
Colin O'Donovan (Chairman Commons)
7 Ver Road - 01582 792382

◆
Ron Stent
10 Saberton Close - 01582 793151

◆
Tony Swendell
6 Monks Close - 01582 792076



Nicholls Ward

◆
Anthony Bull (Chairman)
10 Crouch Hall Gardens - 01582 793756

◆
Kevin Maidment
Scout Farmhouse, Dunstable Road - 01582 794259

◆
Stan Pierpoint
4 Wheatlock Mead - 01582 792117

◆
Philip Rosen (Chairman Planning)
34 Bettespol Meadows - 01582 792585

◆
Pat Schofield
82 The Park - 01582 793096

◆
Vivienne Windle
1 Coopers Meadow - 01582 626351



Parish Clerk

Diane Whiskin
Village Hall, 63 High Street Redbourn AL3 7LW
01582 794832



District Councillors

Colin O'Donovan, Pat Schofield, Tony Swendell

County Councillor

Derek Hills
01582 629433

Member of Parliament

Rt Hon Peter Lilley
01582 834344



It is intended that REDBOURN NEWS will be printed quarterly. If there are any subjects you would like to see in the newsletter or if you have an article/letter you would like published please write to the Parish Clerk Diane Whiskin, or e-mail redbournpc@talk21.com