



MEDIVET VETERINARY GROUP OPENS IN REDBOURN

Earlier this year, Bridge House, High Street, Redbourn became the new home to the first veterinary practice in the parish! The Redbourn practice is headed by veterinarian Mirjam van der Wel and veterinary nurses Amey Montgomery and Claire Russell make up the rest of the "in-house" team. This practice belongs to the Medivet Partnership and is an integral part of their unique animal health care network which features a 24 hour 365 day specialist referral hospital and intensive care facility in neighbouring Watford. Pop into the Redbourn practice and meet a friendly, caring and dedicated team.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Now that Spring has arrived, why not join us on the annual Beating of the Bounds - a regular event held on Rogation Sunday which, this year, falls on Sunday, 1st May 2005. The meeting point is the Harpenden Lane roundabout at 8.45am. It's worth getting up early to enjoy the beautiful views of the Redbourn countryside. Don't feel you have to walk the whole route - which is approximately 15 miles. Many people join (or leave) the walk at St Mary's Church at 11.15am when a stop is made for refreshments. From Harpenden Lane to St Mary's is 5 miles. Bring a packed lunch if you decide to "go for broke". The complete walk takes all day and ends at approximately 5pm at the Chequers Roundabout.



Bound-beaters take a break

LITTER PICK

Many thanks to everyone who turned out on Saturday, 2nd April, to help with the litter pick. Twelve gallant souls gave up their Saturday morning to assist, and over 20 bags of rubbish were collected. One team cleared the Nicky Line from Ver Meadows to just beyond The Park. Over eight bags of rubbish, including takeaway cartons, drinks cartons and cigarette packets, were collected close to the Millennium site. Another eight bags were collected from Footpath 7, leading from Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area.

TRAVEL PLAN FEEDBACK

By now you all should have received a leaflet from Herts Highways giving feedback from the Redbourn Travel Plan Consultation process. If you have not received a copy, these are available from Diane Whiskin - 01582 794832

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.

- NEEDED - SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a governor to Redbourn Infants/Junior School. You need not be a parent, but do need to have an interest in promoting a well-run local school, and be able to spare a few hours a term to share your expertise on one or more of the governing committees. Training is available.

Redbourn Youth Centre Management

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.

RUBBISH DUMPING

Please do not spoil our countryside by dumping garden rubbish or rubble on the footpaths, Nicky Line or open spaces. Some people living adjacent to these areas have thrown garden refuse over the fence. This is not only unsightly but may be hazardous. Last year dumped branches caught fire, setting a garden fence alight, which resulted in a visit from the fire brigade. The District Council now collects garden rubbish every fortnight and we are ever hopeful that this will lead to a reduction in the dumping of garden rubbish.

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. We have had many offers of help since we first ran this advertisement, and we would like to thank all our deliverers. Obviously, the more people assisting, the quicker the distribution.

PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre Development Committee and the Finance Committee have been meeting regularly to progress plans for the Parish Centre. The Centre is to be built in the grounds of the current Youth Centre on South Common.

The Centre was built in the 1940s as a temporary school building and a previous Parish Councillor taught at the school. It has been used by the community for many activities including a luncheon club, a nursery, tap dancing etc. Sadly, as the building has deteriorated, its use has declined. It is still used as a youth centre on Monday evenings and occasionally for band practice, neighbourhood watch meetings, parties and as a polling station but as it does not meet modern standards it is difficult to attract hirers. It is cold and damp and the cost of upgrading the building is prohibitive.

The views of the village were sought in a recent Village Survey. There was an overwhelming response (over 90%), supporting its redevelopment, and the Parish Council believe that the best option would be to demolish the existing Youth Centre and replace it with a new Parish Centre. The building will still be used as a Youth Centre on Monday evenings but will be available for hire to the community at other times. The building will contain an office for the Parish Clerk and an office for the Youth Worker/Community Police Officer.

The Finance Committee has estimated the running costs of the proposed centre based on a compilation of those of the existing building and the Village Hall and is satisfied that these will be affordable. It has therefore decided to proceed to the next stage, which is to appoint a Quantity Surveyor who will carry out an analysis of the construction costs. If the estimated prices are satisfactory the next step is to appoint an architect to provide drawings for submission to the District Council for planning approval. Once planning approval is received permission has to be obtained from the Secretary of State as the site is Common land. In the meantime the Finance Committee is liaising with the Community Development Agency and the Council for Voluntary Services to ascertain avenues of funding for the project. Some of the monies from wayleaves across the Common have been set aside to part finance the Parish Centre and we hope to make up the difference will be made up through grants.



REDBOURN IN BLOOM

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME 2004-05

Month	Date(s)	Event
April	22 nd - 25 th	Trip to Shrewsbury Poster competition judging
May	14 th 18 th	Plant Sale. 10 am. Silver Birch, Chequer Lane Hanging Basket, evening. Godly's Roses
June	4 th TBA	Summer planting. Volunteers, please. Talk: Presenting flowers and vegetables for show Bernard Gane, Harpenden Hort. Soc.
July	1 st - 22 nd 29 th	Anglia in Bloom judging (1 day, date TBA) Local Competition judging Shrewsbury reunion.
August	17 th	Presentation of local competition prizes
September	10 th 10 th	Horticultural Show Sunflower Competition judging

Note: For further information, phone Don or Barbara Corbett on 792738. The dates given for some of the events are provisional, so you would be well advised to check before making plans for any of the events.

Link Path Update

Contracts have been placed for the construction of the footpath on The Common to link Flamsteadbury Lane to The Avenue, and also for its continuation to the corner near The Jolly Gardener. Construction has been delayed by the damp conditions, but we hope this will start soon

Play Area Fencing

Erection of fencing around the play equipment in the Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area is due to start soon, and may even be complete by the time you read this. The work is being done by a local contractor.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

As part of the REDBOURN PARISH TRAVEL PLAN consultation, Hertfordshire Highways are considering designs for a pedestrian crossing near The Cricketers. This should make it easier for those in the East Common and Brooke End areas to cross Hemel Hempstead Road to reach The Common, Lybury Lane, Lords Meadow etc., and in doing so make walking to school safer.

This is not a *fait accompli* however, and plans for this, and other identified village problems will be presented in due course for public approval at an exhibition. The RPTP feedback leaflet delivered recently (see front page), gives an outline of the village problems being investigated.

If you have any comments, contact the Travel Plan team at **Village Travel Plans, Hertfordshire Highways, Highways House, 41-45 Broadwater Rd., Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3SP**, or ring **01707 356271**, or attend the next Travel Plan meeting on Thursday 26th May at 4pm at the Redbourn Recreation Centre.



Redbourn in Bloom spring planting, lower High Street

FAREWELL...

The Parish Council bids farewell to Jill Barnes, who has resigned from the Council. We thank her for all her work for the village, and wish her well for the future.

... & WELCOME

The Parish Council welcomes new Councillor Christine Cardy who works for the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government, and who is taking the seat vacated by Jill Barnes.

Redbourn Recreation Centre

We can offer you so much ...

Planning a Wedding? Want a room for a party? Need a training venue? Why not use your local Recreation Centre in Dunstable Road? The Centre offers a bar, meeting room for up to 60, and has the advantage of ample parking.

Feeling the need to increase your fitness? There are some vacant slots in the Main Hall available for individual recreational use.

School holidays a problem? Phone now for details about Kids Kamp. Places available every school holiday, and a fun programme of varied activities.

Call us now for further information on 01582 626202

Plans for the **Bowling Green** are progressing well - contracts for construction are about to be placed and the target date for completion is the end of August.

The Committee would be pleased to hear from any companies or individuals wishing to provide sponsorship or donations.

For further details contact:

Pat Schofield 793096, Joan Vardy 792303, Inger Cooper 793624, Mary Picken 792093 or the Recreation Centre 626202.

DOGGY DO'S AND DON'TS

Dogs are wonderful pets and great companions; it's a pity that some owners do not seem to understand the importance of cleaning up after them. The Parish Council has provided five dog bins at various locations around the village but unfortunately these are not always used and complaints are received that children cannot walk on the Common, in Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area or on the Recreation Centre land without the risk of stepping in dogs' mess. Most dog owners are thoughtful and carry a plastic bag to remove the offending article. We would ask those few that have not yet got into the habit of clearing up after their pets to please change their ways and help to make the environment safe for children.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Beaumont Ward

Christine Cardy
16 Cumberland Drive - 01582 794744

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