



The Village of the Year judges, with Parish Clerk and Chairman – Photo by Bob Boutland

BOWLING GREEN WELL UNDER WAY

The new all-weather bowling green is under construction at the Redbourn Recreation Centre. Paid-for by fund-raising, and by grants from the Parish and District Councils, Redbourn Playing Fields Trust, and a last-minute grant from *Biffawards*, the 6-rink green is well under way. The recent picture shows it at a stage where the area has been excavated, and the drains laid. Precision levelling is the next step. It is hoped to be ready to open in early September.



Meanwhile a bowling club has been set-up jointly with Redbourners and bowlers from Markyate, with about 60 potential members. Membership will cost £60 per year, (£50 if you join before January 2006). One rink will normally be available for casual users, charged at £1.50 an hour, or £2.50 for 2 hours. Bowls will be available for hire.

To join, or for more information, contact:

Martin Smith (Chairman) (01582 849093),

Joan Vardy (01582 792303), or Gill Howe (01582 793440),

or call the Recreation Centre on 01582 626202

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The bad news is that we did not win the 2005 Hertfordshire Village of the Year - we were beaten by Potten End and we send them our congratulations.

The good news is that Redbourn were awarded two category prizes:

BEST COMMUNITY PROJECT

for the new link path on The Common, which runs from near Woolams to opposite The Jolly Gardener. This was completed just in time for the competition. We plan to add a path on The Moor to extend disabled access and provide a riverside walk.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

for the village website. The judges were impressed with the speed with which events appear on the Web site including the publishing of a photograph of the judges' visit to Redbourn within hours of the judging (see above, left). Redbourn now goes forward to the regional competition in Information Technology. Many thanks to Martin Cleaver and Bob Boutland, who set-up and manage the website, and to all those who have contributed to it in any way. Those of you who have not visited the village website should do so on www.redbourn.org.uk - you will be surprised at the information shown.

The Redbourn website is sponsored by the Parish Council, and local businesses, but Bob & Martin would appreciate more sponsorship – web space & bandwidth cost money! So if anyone is interested, please contact Bob Boutland or Diane Whiskin.

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 IN BLOOM Poster Competition Winners

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Poster Competition to design a poster to help publicise Redbourn in Bloom and the Horticultural Show. The judge, Ernest Leahy, a local artist, said that everyone was a winner and he found it very difficult to choose the following:

St Luke's School

- 1st Jazmin D'Amarco
- 2nd Mukakkir Hassain
- 3rd Georgina Sitek

Junior School

- 1st Megan Lloyd
- 2nd Mary Kate Smith
- 3rd Lauren Atwell

Infant School

- 1st Mia Saunders
- 2nd Natasha Edgell
- 3rd Emily Bowen

Ravenstone School

- Commendation Zoe

REDBOURN NEEDS YOU!

A big thank you to those who put their names forward to become School Governors. We understand that the Junior School has selected two and the Infant School has yet to reach a decision. The incredible response would seem to indicate that many of you are willing to give a few hours for voluntary work in the village. There are a number of very worthy organisations that are in need of additional help.

The Redbourn in Bloom Committee has been working hard to improve the village in time for the judging of the Anglia in Bloom Competition. Together with a small band of volunteers they were to be seen one week planting out the stupendous display at the entrance to the village in blazing sun and another week grappling with the weeds in Hemel Hempstead Road in between drizzly showers. More hands make less work!! If you admire the work undertaken by this small band why not put your name forward to help. You could elect to look after one of the planters, or an untidy area near you which you feel needs some tender loving care, or simply offer to turn up at one of the tidying/planting sessions.

If gardening is not your forte there are other organisations seeking help. The Museum needs people to assist for a couple of hours every now and then on Saturday or Sunday afternoons; the Youth Centre desperately needs a Treasurer and a Chairman and the Redbourn Playing Fields Trust is looking for a Chairman and a Secretary.

If you would like to get more involved in village life, or would like to make use of your skills, please contact Diane Whiskin 01582 794832, and she will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

DON'T MISS OUT

Government statistics show that millions of pensioners are still missing out on money that is due to them – could this be you? This money has been put aside for your benefit. Don't pay more council tax than you have to.

Forget the rumours and get the facts. You can still get help with your council tax:

- If you live in a big house
- If you have up to £16,000 in savings (or even more in some cases)
- Own your own property
- Have a private or occupational pension
- Have another adult living with you who is not your partner (it's their income that counts – not yours)

If you own your own house, no matter how big or small, maybe you are now on your own, maybe with a small pension, you could be eligible for help with your council tax. If you have another adult living with you, maybe a member of your family, who is not paying you rent on a commercial basis and is not liable for council tax, no matter what your income, you could get a reduction on your council tax. Everyone's circumstances are of course different, but there is nothing to lose by finding out if you could get a reduction in your council tax.

If it is the thought of filling in the form that is putting you off, help is at hand. You can even get a home visit, and once you have successfully applied you don't have to reapply every year. Just return the form to the address below and we will pass it on to your local council.

.....✂.....

Name

Address

Tel No

Please return to Hertfordshire County Council
Money Advice Unit (HBOP)
Hertford
SG13 8DE
www.hertsdirect.org/benefits



REDBOURN CARE GROUP'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Redbourn Care Group was formed almost twenty-five years ago, in 1980, (a fact they intend to celebrate later this year), when representatives from a number of local bands of community spirited people were invited to a meeting by the Parish Council. These good folk were trying in their various ways to help the community with care and transport of the sick, elderly, and otherwise vulnerable villagers. They were invited to join together into one co-ordinated, village wide group, with the backing of the Parish Council.

The meeting was held in the Village Hall, and was very well attended by representatives from all the faith groups, the Red Cross, doctors' surgeries, Womens Institute, Mothers Union, Good Companions, councillors, and others. From this meeting the Redbourn Care Group was born, and with the continued strong backing of the Parish Council and the others mentioned, has thrived and become widely recognised as a very valuable community asset.

Its constitution states that the RCG will try to respond to any call for help of a caring nature from local residents, without regard for creed, race, where you live, or ability to pay. The executive committee is elected annually at a widely publicised annual general meeting, and that committee then appoints the various officers. It is an entirely voluntary body and holds registered charity status. Its audited accounts are published annually and offered for adoption at the AGM. In addition the quarterly balance sheet is published, and offered for adoption at the quarterly executive committee meetings. The officers also meet less formally each week.

These days the RCG has its own well-appointed office in the village hall, manned each weekday morning by a splendidly loyal band of volunteers. They respond to the numerous requests received, and arrange the appropriate action.

RCG operates the village care bus on behalf of residents, and to serve the various groups such as the Good Companions, the Day Centre, the "Pop In", The Monday Club, and Jubilee Centre. In addition, twice weekly shopping trips are laid on, as well as weekly swimming trips and monthly outings for those who have mobility difficulties.

Still on the transport front RCG also operates an "own car volunteer driver scheme." From a list of their volunteer car drivers the office staff arrange transport for hospital and other appointments where residents need mobility assistance.

RCG runs monthly outings from door to door for those who cannot otherwise readily get out and about. These take the form of an afternoon drive in the Care Bus through the countryside, usually with points of interest, and include a refreshment stop. **The next dates are Sept. 8th, Oct. 13th, Nov. 10th, and Dec. 1st**, the last date with an eye on Christmas shopping. The cost is minimal, the companionship great! **To book, call 794550.**

RCG has a Street Contact Scheme with over fifty volunteers keeping a watchful but unobtrusive eye on the elderly, sick, and those living alone who may need a little help from time to time. These Street Contact volunteers also give new residents a welcome pack of useful local information.

RCG try to maintain close links with local councillors, the police, the Meals on Wheels service, the churches, the schools, and other charitable groups. They are all trying to combat loneliness.

The Care Group hold the Queen's Jubilee Award for community effort, and has been closely involved in all the successful best village awards coming Redbourn's way over recent years.

To carry out this range of activity plus other work RCG does, and initiatives it gets involved with, which are designed to help people feel safer, and to protect, and where possible, enhance the quality of village life, means it is always in need of new volunteers. Even a couple of hours a month could well be very useful. Please come forward and help if you value your community.

To find out more please contact Redbourn Care Group in one of the following ways, or visit the Redbourn website.

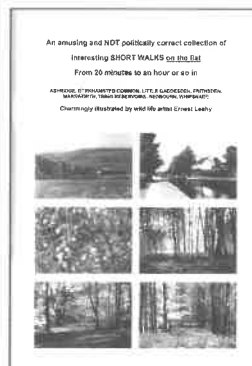
Care Group Office, Village Hall
9.30am to 12noon each weekday morning. Tel.794550.

Manager Jane Spreull 792684.

Street Contact Co-ordinator. Steve Lillywhite. 792881

President Cyril Lambert, 794739. Chairman Peter Fox 793303.

Treasurer Ralph Goold. 792716.



SHORT WALKS

on the flat from 20 minutes to an hour or so.

REDBOURN, ASHRIDGE, BERKHAMSTED COMMON, FRITHSDEN, LITTLE GADDESSEN, MARSWORTH, TRING RESERVOIRS, and WHIPSDAEN.

by Haydn Davies, illustrated by Ernest Leahy.

Price **£5** from

The Redbourn Care Group Office
9.30 am to 12 noon. Tel: 794550

**Proceeds to Charities, including
The Redbourn Care Group**

Do you know where and when the last great battle of Redbourn was fought?

Would you like to know the location of the wartime airfield in Redbourn?

Would you like to know what birds and wildlife can be seen in the village?

Do you know that our Common is home to one of the oldest Cricket Clubs in the country?

Would you like to know where there are some very interesting short walks on the flat in Redbourn and in and around local

If you would like the answers, then we recommend that you buy the limited edition book written by the Honorary Keeper of The Common. It is amusing and an "excellent read" – Redbourn Website.

Has your child lost a bike?

A child's "Coventry" bike was found a few weeks ago in the bus shelter in Lybury Lane. The bike is being kept safely at Harpenden Police Station. Please call 01727 796143 for further information.

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>

Are you interested in youth work?

Can you spare a few hours in the week to invest in Redbourn's up and coming youth? (Other locations are available) If so, then a vacancy has become available for a part-time youth worker with Herts County Council. Why not give Martin Cooke (Area Manager) a ring for an informal chat on 01727 753100 to find more about this very exciting and highly rewarding opportunity.

DATES for your DIARY

REDBOURN FIRE STATION
Saturday 10th September

Charity Car Wash: 10am – 12noon
Open Day: 1pm – 4pm

REDBOURN VILLAGE TRAVEL PLAN

The next meeting of the Travel Plan Forum is at 4pm on Wednesday September 21st at Redbourn Recreation Centre

LITTER PICK

Following the success of the Spring Litter Pick another is being held on

Sunday 25th September 2005 at 10am
Meeting point: Village Hall Car Park

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER

Our firework display will be on November 5th this year. Volunteers are needed for stewarding, bucket collecting, and raffle-ticket selling.

If you can help, please Contact Diane Whiskin or Colin O'Donovan.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Service of Remembrance will be held at 11am on Sunday 13th November at the War Memorial on The Common. Join in the act of remembrance for those who gave their lives in two world wars.

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 Bettespole 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