



**Bow Brickhill Parish Council**  
 Parish Clerk: Julie Godden 07904 339391  
 clerk@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk

**Councillors:**

Chairman: Julian Price julian.price@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk  
 Vice-Chair: Philip Ball philip.ball@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk  
 Cllr: Clare Evans clare.evans@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk  
 Cllr: Maria Ferguson-Ford maria.ferguson-ford@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk  
 Cllr: Sunitha Pangala sunitha.pangala@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk  
 Pavilion Caretaker: Andy Wright 07773 671094  
 Pavilion Cleaner: Maybright Cleaning Ltd maybright@aol.com

**Bow Brickhill History Society**

**Wednesday, 5th February 2025 at 8.00 pm**  
**Bow Brickhill Community Hall, Church Road, Bow Brickhill**

*The Commonwealth War Graves Commission:*  
*an introduction to the history and ongoing work of the Commission*

Mike Chapman is a speaker and volunteer from the CWGC



7.45 pm refreshments for an 8.00 pm start. Non-members £3.00.  
 (There is no car park at the Hall, so please consider parking at the Pavilion, Rushmere Close MK17 9JB a few minutes' walk away.)

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE**

**21ST FEBRUARY 2025**



**Contributions please to:** Ann - email: annasatraining@gmail.com  
**With a Copy to:** Chris - email: bobchrisfrench@gmail.com

**BOW BRICKHILL VILLAGE NEWS**  
**FEBRUARY 2025**



Issue 129/2025/498

**Welcome to Bow Brickhill Pavilion**

**Your Ideal Venue for Every Occasion**

Looking for a versatile, welcoming space for your next event? Bow Brickhill Pavilion has it all!

Weekday hire now available at competitive rates, discounts can be given for block bookings



**Why Choose Us?**

- **Flexible Venue:** Perfect for exercise classes, meetings, parties, or family gatherings
- **Capacity:** Fits up to 99 people standing or 90 seated
- Includes 12 long tables for your setup needs
- **Fully Equipped Kitchen:**
  - \* Gas range, microwave, fridge freezer, and crockery for 50 people
  - \* Convenient serving area for your DIY bar
- **Ample Parking:** Up to 40 cars (availability may vary)
- **Breathtaking Surroundings:**
  - \* Nestled in a picturesque village setting, perfect for photos and relaxation
  - \* Adjacent to a children's play park, exercise area with the main hall leading out onto a veranda overlooking large playing fields for your outdoor activities

**The perfect venue is waiting for you—let us make your event unforgettable!**

You can see more information, availability and make a provisional booking via our Website : [www.bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk)



**Book Your Event Today!**

Address: Rushmere Close, Bow Brickhill, Milton Keynes MK17 9JB  
 Phone: 07904339391

*The Village News is hand delivered to all the homes in Bow Brickhill and a few beyond*  
**Joint Editors: Ann Sidgwick & Chris French**  
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 Funded with thanks to: Bow Brickhill Villagers, BBPC, BBPCC & The Lunch Club

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY 2025

DATE	ACTIVITY/TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
Sun 2nd	Church Family Service 11.00 a.m.	Community Hall	Phillipa Cook pjcook@gmail.com
Tues 4th	Parish Council Meeting 7.00 p.m.	Pavilion	Parish Clerk clerk@bowbrickhill-pc.gov.uk
Wed 5th	BBHS - Talk about the CWGC 7.45 p.m.	Community Hall	Mary Preen marypreen@gmail.com
Sun 9th	Sunday Lunch Club 12.30 p.m.	Community Hall	Sally Pepper 07831 633653
Sun 9th & 16th	Snowdrop Walks (if they're out)	GB Church & Manor grounds	S Meekums meekums@btinternet.com
Thurs 27th	BB WI - Chair Yoga - 7.30 p.m.	Pavilion	Stephanie Warren 01908 671394
Weekly Mon:	Yoga 6.00 p.m.	Community Hall	Elli Flitton <a href="https://Bookwhen.com/">https://Bookwhen.com/</a>
Weekly Wed:	Drop In : 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.	Community Hall	Andrea Spurdle Andrea_spurdle@earthling.net
Weekly Wed:	Brownies 6.00 p.m.	Community Hall	Sally Pepper 01908 375365
Weekly Sat:	Kick Boxing : 9.30 a.m.  Tai Chi : 12 Noon	Pavilion  Pavilion	Mark Mackrill mark.ecka@outlook.com  Frank Purcell fjmp1953@yahoo.co.uk
Alternate: Thursdays	Acoustic Guitar Club 8.00 pm	Community Hall	Martin Bishop mbishop61@googlemail.com
Monthly:	Buccaneers : Model Making 3rd Weds : 8.00 p.m.	Pavilion	Derek Giles Derek.giles@skedda.test 01908 374494
Monthly: 1st,3rd,4th	Old Apostolic Church Group Sun 9.15 a.m.	Pavilion	Fatima Cronje 07577 478037 fatima.cronje@Oldvwfs.co.uk



**Rector - Reverend John Waller Tel: 01525 261062**  
The Rectory, 10 Pound Hill, Great Brickhill MK17 9AS

**Churchwarden: John Wales Tel: 01908 373907**  
To contact the Rector and Churchwarden email:  
**bowbrickhillchurch@gmail.com**

Please remember that the Benefice website will be the best way to obtain information and updates on any of the services etc: [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk)

### RECTOR'S DECEMBER MESSAGE:

#### This Is Love

Dear friends,

During February we come again to Valentine's Day, and all the associated customs and celebrations of romantic love.

We use that one word 'love' to speak of many different things, not just for the love of romantic partners, but also for the love that holds families together, the love that grows between friends, and for many other things as well, from the most serious, to the trivial.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the good news of God's love shown to us in the life, death and rising again of Jesus, and Christian people believe that every other expression of love is to be seen and understood in the light of this. As we read in the New Testament:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

(1 John 4, v. 7-10)

**Revd John Waller**



### RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AT THE RECTORY

The date of the next Bible Study at The Rectory is:-

**Thursday 13th February at 8.00pm.**

All are welcome to come and discuss the passages from the bible from one of our forthcoming services. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

**For further information please contact:-**

Phillipa Cook 01525 261521 07788 740969 [pjcook6@gmail.com](mailto:pjcook6@gmail.com)



## THE GENTLE CRAFT OF GRAVE TENDING

'A gentle craft, carried out by gentle people in gentle surroundings' would be my summing up of Grave Tending, a niche industry which is slowly but surely growing in the U.K. The idea is to clean and restore graves and headstones in a non destructive manner (i.e. no sand blasting !), using environmentally friendly products as far as possible and doing so in as gentle way as is feasible.

No matter what I do, I can never return the stone to its original state, as constant exposure to the weather and the environment will inevitably weather and age it, but it is certainly possible to return it to a condition that a customer 'can be proud of', as one of my clients said to me. Those sort of feelings are always in my thoughts when I'm working for a client and cleaning their loved one's resting place – I'm acutely aware of their investment in feelings, time, money and memories, hence the name of my company Memories Grave Tending.

It's safe to say that Grave Tending is not widely known in the Dioceses of St. Albans and Oxford, the 2 areas which I cover. Although there's no authentic history of the trade, I think it's safe to say it has its roots in Eire, with it's centuries old tradition of 'Cemetery Sunday'. This was an annual day, usually in the summer, where graves were garlanded and decorated , but has slowly but surely morphed into a day of remembrance, flower laying and grave cleaning.

Interestingly the biggest firms in England tend to be in the North West/Merseyside, areas with a long history of Irish immigration. Having said that the sector has spread throughout much of the U.K. to the extent that there is now a national Association of Grave Tenders (of which I am proud to say, I am a member of) which encourages best practice, professionalism and environmentally friendly processes. Many of the best practises are taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)) , which it would be remiss of me to ignore. They are a wonderful organisation, which somehow manages to maintain 1.75 million graves over 23,000 burial sites in 153 countries, all in impeccable condition. If it's good enough for them then it's good enough for me!

I think this gradual expansion has to do with 2 trends, namely longevity and mobility. We are all living longer with the increased mobility of families. Youngsters today will usually spend many years knowing their grandparents and even great grandparents. This just didn't happen 50-75 years ago. and means that today's generation have, in my humble opinion, a far more intense bond to their grandparents. This results in work for me (!), as they don't want their much loved relatives to be forgotten or neglected. I'll sign off with, inevitably, a little sales pitch. If you want to see examples of what I can do , or require any further information please visit my website [www.memoriesgravetending.co.uk](http://www.memoriesgravetending.co.uk).

**ANDY STEPHENSON**

## SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE TO THE END OF FEBRUARY:

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January

9.30	(St. H.)	Holy Communion	JW
11.00	(Lt. Br.)	Family Service	JW
11.00	(Bw. Br.)	Mattins (BCP)	Jeremy Hopkinson

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

9.30	(Gt. Br.)	Holy Communion	JW
9.30	(St. H.)	Café Church	Dave Webber
11.00	(Bw. Br.)	Family Service <i>in the Hall</i>	JW

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February

10.00	(Lt. Br.)	Holy Communion <i>Benefice</i>	JW
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This is a joint service for everyone in the villages of the Brickhills & Stoke Hammond

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February (JW away)

9.30	(Bw. Br.)	Holy Communion	Revd Simon Faulks
9.30	(St. H.)	Morning Worship	Jeremy Hopkinson
11.00	(Gt. Br.)	Family Service	Phillipa Cook

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

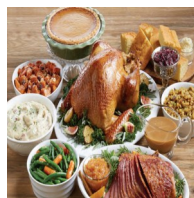
9.30	(St. H.)	Holy Communion	JW
11.00	(Lt. Br.)	Family Service	JW
11.00	(Bw. Br.)	Mattins	Jeremy Hopkinson



Choirmaster, Jerry Breslin, who is looking to bring back The Messiah on **Sunday 28th September** at a venue to be decided. Jerry would love to see old faces and new.

If you would like to commit to taking part, or would like further details, please e-mail Jerry so that he has some idea of numbers. He would also welcome orchestral volunteers:- [jerrybreslin@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrybreslin@hotmail.com)

## SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 9TH FEBRUARY



Join us on **Sunday 9th February at 12.30 p.m.**  
For our Sunday Lunch Club in the Community Hall

We look forward to seeing existing and new members ...

Please contact Sally or Alistair on 07831 633653  
if you want to join us or help in any way

## ASTRA 500 Club



The results from the November draw of the 500 club are:

1st prize:	£21.75	ticket	81	Terri Riley
2nd prize:	£15.23	ticket	35	Peter Willis
3rd prize:	£ 6.53	ticket	97	Georgy Holden

The results from the December draw of the 500 club are:

1st prize:	£20.75	ticket	12	Sally Robinson
2nd prize:	£14.53	ticket	185	Andrea Spurdle
3rd prize:	£ 6.23	ticket	22	Sally Pepper

Draws are held on the last Thursday of every month

*A big thank you to Andrea Spurdle who manages these monthly draws*

## Drop-in Wednesday afternoons



Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting room in the Community Hall on Church Road any time from **2.30 - 4.30pm on a Wednesday** for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat with fellow villagers in a **warm space**

*We'd love to see you there!*

The drop-in is possible thanks to a lovely team of volunteers who give up one afternoon a month to open the room and make the tea. If you could help with this, please contact:

Andrea on 01908 648373 or [andrea\\_spurdle@earthling.net](mailto:andrea_spurdle@earthling.net)



## THREE PARISHES COACH TRIP STARTS AGAIN ST ALBANS : WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH

cost is £14.50 for Parishioners over 60  
£16.00 for Non Parishioners (if space available)

**Departing 9.30am : Return from Location 4pm**

**For more info and to Book a Ticket  
contact Brenda**

**01908 375151 or 07792610055**

## Go Ahead for New Women's & Children's Hospital



Following the review of the New Hospital Programme (NHP) by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, it was announced that the new Women's and Children's Hospital at **Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH)** will be delivered. It is expected that construction will take place between 2025 and 2030. The new hospital building will significantly increase clinical capacity and meet the future healthcare needs of the growing city.

The NHP-funded work at MKUH will also enable the introduction of new technology that will create 'smarter' hospital facilities.

To date, NHP enabling work has resulted in a number of site improvements getting underway at MKUH including the construction of a new Imaging Centre and an additional multi-storey car park.


  
**THE GARDENS TRUST**

 Historic England
  Funded by UK Government



# Green Futures

new infrastructure and historic gardens in the East of England

Join us as we launch a new project researching historic parks and gardens within the area of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Find out more about our **free training** and how you can **volunteer** to help uncover more about historic designed landscapes for future generations.

SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE WEBINAR

[thegardenstrust.org/events](http://thegardenstrust.org/events)

Thursday 30th January  
 Online / Zoom  
 12pm - 1pm

[thegardenstrust.org/green-futures](http://thegardenstrust.org/green-futures)

Sign up to receive access to a recording of the webinar after the event

**REMINDER: don't forget the Snowdrop Walks at Great Brickhill Church and Manor grounds which are planned for the afternoons of 9th and 16th of February if the snowdrops are out by then.**

### Christmas Tree

As most of you know Alistair and I have organised the lights on the tree every Year for sometime.



However this year the tree is in need of a " Haircut " as it has grown too tall and too wide.

So to help raise the money for this project Alistair and I are planning a **fun chilli and quiz evening on March 15th** in the community hall.

Please let us know if you are interested **£15.00 a ticket.**

I would also like to thank the lunch club for their donation to this cause to start the ball rolling.

Sally @ [pepper-agency.co.uk](mailto:pepper-agency.co.uk) : 07831633653



### !!! NEWSLETTER FUNDING !!!

To all who enjoy this monthly newsletter it is that time of year again where we are asking for funding help

Like Sally we are also very grateful to the Lunch Club for their donation and also to BBPC and Trish (in memory of Adam) but we do still need some more so if anyone would like to contribute then your donation will help to ensure this newsletter survives

*Please email me at [annasatraining@gmail.com](mailto:annasatraining@gmail.com) or phone 01908 368685 to let me know if you are able to help.*

Thank you very much



On **23 January 2025** current members of Bow Brickhill Women's Institute were delighted to celebrate its **75th Birthday**

The first meeting was held on 26 January 1949 and its first meetings were held in the Church Hall.

At an early meeting, members were challenged to write a limerick commencing "There was a young lady from Bucks". Unfortunately there are no records of any of the entries!

Bow Brickhill Women's Institute meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Rushmere Close, Bow Brickhill, MK17 9JB

New members and guests are very welcome

**Our meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025 will be Chair Yoga**

For further details please email [bowbrickhillwi@gmail.com](mailto:bowbrickhillwi@gmail.com)

Parish Council Update  
Village News - February 2025

### PAVILION

The Project 25 group lead by Alan Preen is working away on proposals to modernise the Pavilion and make it more attractive to hire out. We currently do not have a long term hire of the premises and this does impact our financial position. Meanwhile we are remarketing the Pavilion to pre school groups, businesses and leisure groups.

**If you know of anyone who would like to utilise the Pavilion, please contact the Parish Clerk.**

### EAST WEST RAIL

The EWR informal consultation started on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and they have run local drop in sessions in Bletchley and Woburn Sands in January 2025. Formal consultation will be sometime in 2025. Trains from Bedford to Oxford are due to run in 2030, then Cambridge to Oxford will be 2040. The service from MK to Oxford will initially be an hourly service from Aug 2025, the contract has been awarded to West Chiltern rail.

It looks increasingly likely that Bow Brickhill station will be closed and a flyover built on the Red Bull side of Brickhill Street. This is part of the consolidation of stations along the Bletchley to Bedford section of the rail service where nine stations will be reduced to four and the existing Woburn Sands station will be closed and a new one built to the west of the current site. There are plans to run three trains an hour each way stopping at the four stations and one freight train each way. Passenger trains will run at 75mph as opposed to 60mph with the current service. Preliminary traffic assessments indicate a barrier down time of 25 minutes in an hour at Woburn Sands.

### FAST BROADBAND

For far too long, parts of Bow Brickhill have suffered from very slow internet speeds as only some of the village had this installed. Greenways and part of Station Road were the worst affected but work has now almost been completed to install fibre cabling up to each property boundary. It is anticipated that service providers will be in a position to offer a high speed connection in **April**.

### BUS SERVICE

Arriva have started a new bus service called The Loop that picks up from the Railway station and bus stops in the village and travels via Woburn Sands, Kingston and Oakgrove to the Point in Central Milton Keynes. A timetable is shown on the Parish Council's Facebook page and has been circulated via the e-Group.

**Julian Price, Chairman  
Bow Brickhill Parish Council**

## Danesborough Chorus Choral Workshop

# Come and Sing Mozart's Requiem



**What** Join Danesborough Chorus members for a fun day, led by our conductor Ian Smith, singing the chorus parts of this ever popular work with our accompanist, Tim Grant-Jones.

**Who** This workshop is open to all who enjoy singing, whether you sing regularly or not.

**Where** Aspley Guise Village Hall  
9 Woburn Lane, Aspley Guise, Beds. MK17 8JH

**When** Saturday 1st March 2025 10.00-16.00  
Doors open for registration at 09.30.  
It will end with a full run through.

**How** The cost will be £15 per person (£5 if under 25); this covers a loaned copy of the score plus tea and coffee; you also need to bring your own packed lunch. Tickets available via scanning the adjacent QR code or by going to [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com).



**Any Queries** Email [admin@danborough.org.uk](mailto:admin@danborough.org.uk).

Registered charity no. 1188026 [www.danesborough.org.uk](http://www.danesborough.org.uk)