

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



Children bored to tears in their big holiday?

Burbage needs someone to signal 'play on' MISERY on the roads, chaos at airports, furious families and fractious children.

Add over-the-top temperatures on foreign beaches, throw in a forest fire or two . . . they're among the pitfalls we accept and endure as part of the annual getaway from native shores. Small wonder if families don't wonder sometimes if they'd be better off staying at home.

Ah, yes, but . . . and anyway, a fully-fledged vacation normally fills only a portion of the big holiday. Summer play schemes are one answer for families with children. Designed to help them survive the "stay-at-home" weeks, activity sessions have long since evolved to provide highly valued respite for hard-pressed mums, dads and grandparents. Various agencies promote and organise the schemes, but for the past eight years Burbage has been lucky enough to enjoy a "home-grown" version to keep kids happy and occupied.

So it's sad to record that this is the last year the Meadows Community Group will be organising any

summer holiday play scheme activities. It has been unable to recruit the activity coaches needed and will run only a restricted programme. Unless volunteers come forward, 2017 will be the last year the group is involved in children's holiday activities.

It was the summer of 2010 that the Meadows team established a programme providing free sports coaching, cookery and craft sessions, dance and drama, roller skating, circus skills and water sport activities for youngsters between 6 and 12 years. Funds were secured (Burbage Parish Council has always been among contributors) to make sure no child was excluded on the grounds of cost.

Over those years many hundreds of children from Burbage have been entertained and instructed while families have enjoyed the benefits the play schemes provided. Unless the community can come up with fresh solutions, that's all now threatened.

If anyone would consider coming forward to organise future play schemes, contact Irene Ashton at e72irene@btinternet.com

It all adds up to courses offering something for all

THE list of "stuff" that goes on at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road has expanded throughout the 17 years the building has existed . . . and its catalogue of community-targeted activities shows no sign of slowing down. Courses new to the centre this autumn include:

- **ADULT** learning courses sponsored by Leicestershire County Council through its GoLearn programme, are being extended to Burbage in a 30-week course offering functional skills in English and Maths. These are basic courses offering adults who, for whatever reason, may have missed the opportunity to learn in the past. It's a chance to gain or update skills, confidence and qualifications, from Beginner to Level 2. They are a great place to start filling the gaps – and the courses are free. The Burbage programme starts on 27th September and will run on Wednesday afternoons between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. To find out whether the English and Maths functional courses would be right for you, call FREEphone 0800 988 0308 and get advice from the enrolment team. A further option is to attend a relaxed and informal enrolment event, to talk to tutors and staff about the range of courses offered by GoLearn. There's one at Hinckley Library on 6th September (4.00pm – 6.00pm). Other contacts are leicester.gov.uk/GoLearn or Facebook/LeicsGoLearn.

- **ALREADY** started, but going on at the Millennium Hall into late autumn, is a course that will help minimise a risk that anyone, old or young, faces in everyday life. The trauma of tripping, slipping, loss of balance or anything that causes a fall can range from embarrassing to devastating for the victim. This falls prevention course (it's also FREE), presented by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire & Rutland Sport, aims to reduce the risks by encouraging simple exercises to improve strength, balance, co-ordination and flexibility. It is running on Monday afternoons, 3.30pm to 5.00pm.

For more information email jezedwards@hotmail.co.uk

Burbage Spotlight

The Meadows Community Group

- The Meadows Community Group in Burbage was set up in 2000 to foster improvements to an area considered to have been neglected and subject to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Householders were encouraged to put forward ideas to enhance the environment and make people feel safer. The neighbourhood community centre was the focus for activities, a committee was formed and funds raised to refurbish the building and encourage small groups to meet there. The garden around the centre was landscaped and made easier to use.

A front garden competition was staged for many years to encourage residents to be proud of their horticultural achievements. A regular coffee morning was begun, luncheons organised and outside visits made to places of interest. The community group took part in local carnivals to raise awareness - and to raise money for a much larger project that had begun to take shape in the minds of the committee.

The adjacent Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground was then a bare expanse of land used by children and dog walkers, but without any focal interest to encourage better use. By 2009 sufficient cash had been found (more than £100,000) from various sources to create a children's playground and a multi-use games area. These were formally opened in 2010.

• SNAP Dragon on Tour,

a comprehensive programme of entertainment and activities for young folk in Hinckley and Bosworth borough, got off to the greatest of starts by opening the curtains on its 2017 scheme at Burbage. A beach scene transformed the green grass of Britannia Fields, where there were donkeys and sandcastles, Punch and Judy shows and circus skills, craft activities and scavenger hunts. Lots of families took a picnic and enjoyed fun and games with a seaside flavour.



- **Burbage Community Library** was the venue for a mini Snap Dragon event, a subsidiary of the programme arranged in partnership with community organisations. The session at the reshaped Church Street venue included stories, crafts and a chance to meet animal friends. The tour went on to bring holiday fun to three other corners of Hinckley and Bosworth borough, leading up to a festival week at Argents Mead and Hollycroft Park in Hinckley and culminating in a spectacular music festival showcasing talented young performers from the area.

Looking good 1

PLENTY of rain, just enough sun in between, fertiliser by the bucketful and hard work in spades. It's a formula for a successful allotment garden and tenants of Burbage Parish Council plots have been harvesting some great produce this season, with a lot more to come from Woodland Avenue and Blackways Meadow in the weeks ahead. Nice one, you green-fingered growers! Both sites have 100 per cent tenancy at the moment but the waiting list of applicants is not seriously long, so if you fancy joining the allotments brigade and growing the best food you'll ever taste, file an application for a tenancy.

Looking good 2

OUR thanks to the group of volunteers who have been making sure public flower displays in Burbage don't go thirsty. Planters, providing vibrant splashes of sidewalk colour, have been as good as ever this summer and make their mark in the village. While our grounds maintenance operatives take care of the major watering tasks, help from the volunteer water carriers is always appreciated.

COUNCIL and committee meetings at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road normally start at 7.30pm and follow this rota, subject to change if clashing with Bank Holidays: First Monday of month – Parish Council; second Monday, Planning Committee; third Monday, Finance & General Purposes Committee; fourth Monday, Planning Committee. Meetings in the weeks ahead: Monday, 14th August, Planning; Monday, 21st August, Finance and General Purposes. Monday, 4th September, Planning 6.30pm; Parish Council 7.30pm; Monday, 11th September, Planning; Monday, 18th September, Finance and General Purposes; Monday, 25th September, Planning.