

Update

Welcome to our Spring issue with updates on the amazing work of our volunteers. We're widening our brief and making a difference for people and families in our community in response to key issues. Please share our most recent news with friends and family and remember to give us plenty of feedback which will be warmly welcomed! Thank you.

Making a difference across the generations

As part of the wider support we offer, Redbourn Community Group has been delighted to fund some lovely new equipment for Redbourn Pre-School at the Methodist Church on North Common.

We were welcomed by Lorraine and her staff to visit and view the new equipment being used by the children. It was rewarding to see what a difference the colourful tables and chairs, and rainbow emotions rug, have made to the look and feel of the space and to the enjoyment of the children.

Read here some comments made by parents of children that attend the Preschool:



'I think the rug is beautiful with vibrant colours. All the different faces showing different feelings will also help the children to learn about emotions.'

The chairs look strong and sturdy alongside practical folding tables, all in lovely bright colours - perfect for a preschool.

We are so lucky to have the support of the Redbourn Community Group. Thankyou!'

And some happy comments made by the children:

'I like the new rug because it has lots of colours and is big.'
'I like the chairs because you can choose a colour.'

'I like the different colour tables and the shapes.'

Thanks to the staff, parents and children for their comments and giving permission to share these lovely photographs. Also thanks to Sally Yates for writing this piece.

Litter and our Community – can we help?

Ever since we moved to Redbourn in 1982 I have been clearing up litter in my local area – not always very frequently it is true! I know that there are many in the community of Redbourn who also do the same.

So, when we changed our name to Redbourn Community Group, and with that started to broaden how we could best support the community, I decided that I would dig a little deeper into litter.

Why might you ask? Well having moaned about litter ever since the pandemic started (probably because we were walking around the village much more and also being newly retired) I wanted to turn my grumpiness into action. And I would love to see if there are others in RCG and around the village who would like to help. So, what's the progress so far.

Firstly, I wanted to investigate who is responsible for what when it comes to litter and bin emptying so let me share...

Redbourn Parish Council (and a big thanks to the Facilities Officer and Clerk to the Council for this information) schedule 8 hours per week, 52 weeks of the year for litter picking across the whole village, mainly the areas below, and empty 12 bins (usually biweekly) at a total cost in the last full financial year of close to £9000. Redbourn Parish Council (RPC) are responsible for emptying only the following bins:

Central avenue of The Common x 4 (not the outer edges!)	Long Cutt Play Area x 2
Cumberland Gardens x 1	Millennium Site x 1
East Common Play Area x 2	Silk Mill Play Area x 1

St Albans City & District Council (and thanks to Luke from SADC) are responsible for all other bins and litter. Generally, the rule is that RPC are not responsible for grounds maintenance where the land or asset is adjacent to a highway. Therefore, RPC are not responsible for the outer edges of the common or any verges, because they are adjacent to a highway. SADC are responsible for the whole of the High Street, including the bins closest to the High Street in Cumberland Gardens, and all other Redbourn Streets.

Hertfordshire County Council are responsible for managing all the verges on the edge of a Highway. These can add to the problem if HCC do not cut back any plants or hedges growing over the paths or verges and litter accumulates.



So, what can we do to help ...

Tell the right people!

For example, if you see full litter bins, or the litter in a public area and it is the responsibility of SADC the best place to start would be to click on this address

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/street-cleaning>

Here you can report litter in the following categories:

- Street and public areas
- Fly tipping
- Emptying litter bins
- The High Street
- Dog fouling

To report a problem with a verge that may be contributing to the volume of litter, you need to follow this link here.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-highway-fault/what-type-of-fault-are-you-reporting.aspx>

Continued overleaf ...

Share your ideas or offer to help

I know many of you are keen to support us in making Redbourn a more pleasant place to live in and walk around. If you would be interested in discussing what we could do to help (no commitment needed at this stage – promise) I would love to talk to you. It may be that you could occasionally help us pick litter in the High Street or a road close to you that requires some attention. It may be that you would just like a litter picker, and we could supply you with one. Or you know of someone else who is interested in this. Or you have many ideas that you could share. Please get in touch with me.

Spring Clean – Join me on 8-9th April

And as it's almost April – and the Great British Spring Clean (run by Keep Britain Tidy) is underway between 25th March to 10th April – would you like join me in a mini-Spring Clean? Provisional dates and times are 8th and 9th April between 9 and 11. If you can help in any way, please contact me. Equipment provided!

My e-mail is peta@redbourncg.org
or my mobile is **07836553264**.

*Thank you for
your interest in keeping
our village clean.*

*Thanks to **Peta Gunson**,
writer, and **Stephen Boffey**,
photographer*

Redbourn Community Group's New President

It was a proud moment for me when Sally, on behalf of the Redbourn Community Group (RCG) trustees, invited me to become President of this, in my view, the village's most loved and highly regarded charity, working hard to help all the residents of Redbourn.

The Community Group, formerly the Care Group, has been in my blood since 1998, the year we moved to the village after retiring from the Hertfordshire Constabulary. We had purchased a new property on the site of the old Brooke Bond estate, and I was asked to become the RCG's first Street Contact for the development. Not really knowing much about RCG at this time, I was suitably convinced that I should take on the role on behalf of all the new residents, most of whom had moved into the village, just like me, to take up a new life.

As time progressed, I got more and more involved with the group and soon became a minibus (Care Bus, as it was affectionately known) and car driver, to take clients here and there, either for pleasure or necessity, such as getting to NHS appointments.

Pretty soon, I was invited by Podge Fox, the Chairman, to attend a committee meeting and, within no time at all, found myself elevated to the board of trustees, meeting every week to discuss the operational needs around the provision of services for villagers.

Having learned the ropes from this highly esteemed 'village treasure', Podge invited me to succeed him as Chairman, a role I was honoured to hold for 11 years before standing down three years ago.

As Chairman, I was delighted to appoint my good friend and former Constabulary colleague, Councillor Tony Swendell, another village treasure, as our second President. Tony held this honorary position for 10 years, until his sad and untimely death last year.

Tony gave his unstinting support to all the trustees and volunteers for all that they did in aid of their fellow villagers. I am honoured to follow in his footsteps with my admiration and support as we traverse what is likely to be a testing time for people throughout our fifth decade as a charity, serving the citizens in our lovely village of Redbourn.



Barry Welch
President of RCG

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ...

April 27th - **St George's Day** Sing-a-long Tea Party
Harebell Club (RCG)

May 8th – **Redbourn Fun Run**

June 5th – Jubilee Lunch – **St Mary's Church**
in partnership with Harebell Club (RCG)

July 2nd – Redbourn Festival, **Active in Redbourn**

September 3rd – **Redbourn Classics Motor Show**

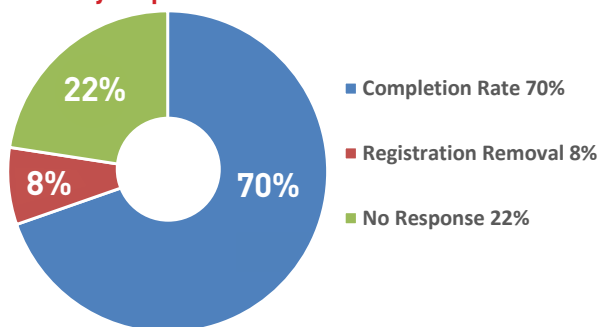
September 7th – Cheese & Wine, Harebell Club
(RCG)



We asked, you said ...

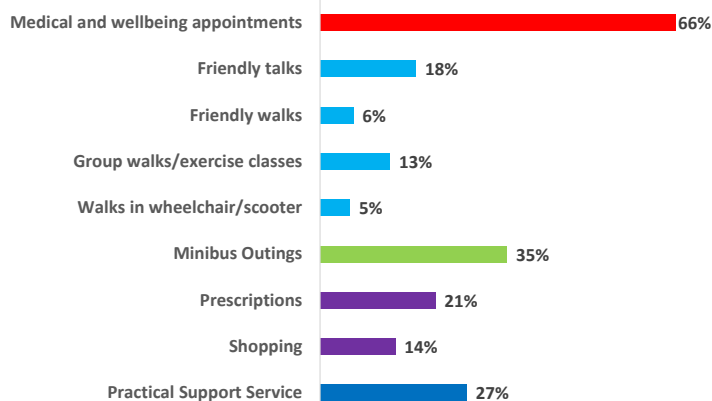
Thank you to everyone who returned February's survey. We delivered a print copy of a questionnaire to everyone who was registered with us. Part of our registration involves keeping preferences, (which are retained in a confidential and secure way) and we wanted to be sure that the services we are providing are helpful and meeting needs. We have collated the responses which will assist our forward planning.

Survey response rate



In response we are looking into several new services as well as retaining those that are fundamental to RCG, such transport to medical and wellbeing appointments.

Interest in RCG Services



We will be investigating a service which could provide one-off practical support for example:

- Fix minor household issues
- Occasional minor gardening help
- Take items to charity shop
- Putting up curtains
- Changing light bulb

We will be working in partnership with other organisations such as Active in Redbourn (AIR) to develop opportunities for walks and exercise.

We will be planning a programme of outings and lunches based on the many suggested venues.

We are following up on your feedback and you may receive a further call. Many thanks to all of you for participating in this survey.

The Trussell Trust

RCG is working hard for the benefit of residents in Redbourn to build relationships with Trussell Trust – Stop UK Hunger. We are concerned that rising heating costs could put people under additional financial pressure where they might feel tempted to choose to eat or heat their homes and sadly we are aware such difficult choices are now being faced by families. RCG is working in partnership and collaborating on projects with other groups in Redbourn to find solutions to food and fuel insecurity.

Household Grant

In January St Albans District Council allocated RCG a finite Household Grant to assist families and individuals with fuel and food insufficiency costs. It was distributed on advice from third party organisations such as Citizens Advice. RCG has submitted a further grant application to Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) for funding to provide support with food and energy. Should this be successful, RCG will work in partnership with organisations to ensure the funds are distributed to those in need in Redbourn.

James Marshall Foundation

RCG is developing strong links with JMF who have extended their catchment area to Redbourn. They offer financial grants for those between 4-24 years old to support all kinds of educational or career-related activities. This includes funding towards school uniform (including shoes); residential school trips; extra-curricular activities such as music, sport, DofE, Scouts/Guides; specific clothing and equipment required for courses or work; courses; accommodation related to further education; laptops (from year 3); printers and more! JMF has eligibility criteria, excellent guidance and an online application form included on its website and JMF are looking forward to working collaboratively with RCG to provide support to individuals and families in Redbourn.

Please contact JMF via its website

James Marshall Foundation

or email grants@jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk

or email info@redbournrcg.org

if you have any questions.

Redbourn Community Group

Village Hall, High Street, Redbourn AL3 7LW

Telephone: **01582 794550** Email: info@redbournrcg.org

www.redbournrcg.org



www.facebook.com/RedbournCommunityGroup/

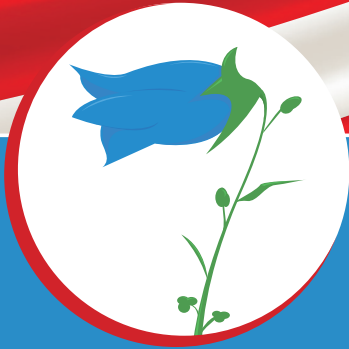


ST GEORGE'S DAY

Singalong Tea Party!

2:30pm
until
4:30pm

Doors open
2:15pm



The Harebell Club is a social forum for former volunteers, former trustees and other supporters of Redbourn Community Group to socialise and to support its work.

**Saturday 23 April 2022
at the Village Hall**

Afternoon Tea with music from U3A Ukulele Band, and Janet Collins leading the singing

- Tickets £5 each bought in advance
- Available from RCG Office in Village Hall between 10-2pm weekdays
- No entry on the day without a ticket
- Raffle Tickets £1 available on the day

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