

# ***STEVINGTON MAGAZINE***



*St Mary's Church and Holy Well*

*REW March 2012*

***JUNE 2012  
Number 161***

## VILLAGE DIARY

### May

28 Planning Committee re Dane Hill Farm Traveller Site. Corn Exchange 6.30pm

### June

- 2 to 5 **JUBILEE EVENTS** (see back page)
- 7 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 10 Bulky Waste Collection
- 12 Over 50's Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. TBC
- 14 WI Putting an End to Putting it Off. Church Room 7.30pm
- 16 Fossil Fun Day. Harrold Odell Country Park. 11am to 4.00pm
- 21 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 24 Oakley Open Gardens. 1 to 6pm
- 30 Friends of St Mary's Tea Party. 12 Church Road. 2.30 to 4.30pm
- 30 Turvey Lower School Summer Fete. 3 to 6pm

### July

- 1 Bedford Guild House Bunyan Car Run
- 5 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 7 Fynnius Fogg. Social Centre. TBC
- 12 WI Guided Walk in Bedford.
- 12 Bat Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 9pm
- 19 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 22 Manor House Open Garden (Sue Ryder). 12 to 5pm
- 28 Guided Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 2 to 4pm

### August

- 19 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 26 Friends of St Mary's Wyton House, Huntingdon Organ Concert

### September

- 8 Beds & Herts Historic Churches Bike 'n Hike
- 13 WI Harvest Supper Church Room 7.30pm
- 16 Manor House Open Garden (Community Shop). 12 to 5pm

### October

- 20 Royal British Legion Thrapston Town Band at Turvey

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Cover drawn by Bob Westwood.

Opinions expressed in the Stevington Magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the Editor.  
Some features may be kept for future issues.

## HELLO STEVINGTON!

Well we survived our first issue and here is our second. Thanks to everyone who has offered us support while we find our feet.

This edition includes a lovely article from Joanna and Thomas Collins about the birth of their new lambs. It would be great hear from other budding young journalists in the village. The magazine is for everybody.

From time to time we will have to hold back some articles for future editions – this has happened this time as we have had to give priority to time specific material, especially that relating to the Diamond Jubilee. But please keep sending your articles to us. Everything will be used as soon as we can fit it in!

Village directory – if your group or organisation has had, or will soon have, an AGM or a change in contact details, would you please let us have an updated list of committee members or any changes to contacts for the directory which will be included in the September magazine.

Christmas greetings – yes we know it's only June but we need suggestions from you about which charity you would like us to support this year. We need to publish the Gift Aid form in the September issue.

### Queen's Diamond Jubilee

There are lots of exciting events taking place in the village over the Jubilee Weekend. See the back page for a special events diary. We would like to make the September issue a Jubilee Commemorative Issue but we can only do this is you send in articles about the events over the weekend or looking back to the village at the time of the Coronation and other Jubilees. Please get writing and send us your photos too!



Heather and Keith

### NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 1-2 September. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 19 August 2012. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, e-mail [stevington.magazine@googlemail.com](mailto:stevington.magazine@googlemail.com)) before 5.00pm on that day, although we will be delighted to receive copy at any time before then!!!



## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone for the cards, phone calls and offers of help over the past five months. Ian has just completed his last chemotherapy session and we now wait and hope that it has all been worthwhile. It has been, and still is, a massive support to us to know that there is always someone to help when needed.

Pat and Ian Pickup

## **A KELLY INVASION**

We did not know, but we were first spotted by Joyce Keech keeping watch by her window as we walked down West End on our way from Carlton on a Sunday morning. There were nine of us and she wondered who these strangers were. We were not quite strangers, just the Kelly family returning after 25 years. There was Michael and Jennifer with Joanna, Louisa and Katie and eight of their children (three missing) - unfortunately Nicholas could not make it.

We had a lovely weekend revisiting the church, the windmill, the footpaths and, most of all, old friends in the village. We all congregated in the church room for a Sunday picnic lunch with friends and swapped stories and looked at old photos - a big dose of nostalgia! Next year it will be 50 years since we moved into our first house as newlyweds at 10 Burridges Close.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to keeping Stevington in such good heart, it is still the best ever village. It was lovely to see you all and thank you.

Jennifer and Michael Kelly

## **12K RUN KITCHEN**

Many thanks to Dave for his fantastically good humoured help in the kitchen on Sunday 13 May 2012. Thanks too to the ladies who made welcome donations to the costs. It was a very busy morning and we had to replenish some of the goodies on sale. The weather was kind to us and quite a few families turned up. Once again we exceeded the previous year's refreshments takings, as we have in each of the last few years. Long may it continue. Thank you all.

Barbara Collins

## **THE PUCKETTS ON THE MOVE**

By the time you read this article we will have moved to Tideswell in Derbyshire. We moved to Stevington in 1976, having both been born and bred in Bedford town. So this move was a huge wrench not only from Stevington, but from Bedfordshire also.

We treasure our time in Stevy and it was a wonderful place to bring up our kids. We have loved being part of, and contributing to, the community but we came to the conclusion that we wanted to start a new phase of our lives and move closer (but not too close) to our kids who both live near Sheffield. But we are only too aware that we will have moments of doubt and regret because the thing that we are going to miss mostly will not be the house or the fabric of the village but all the valued friends that we have made over the thirty six years that we lived in Stevington.

Tideswell is a much larger village and has many facilities and we will be able to pop to the Co-op for a bottle of gin on our mobility scooters – so that's a bonus.

Thank you so much for all the cards and good wishes that we have received and also for the beautiful table that we bought with the cash that was collected.

Our email address is [robgedpuck@gmail.com](mailto:robgedpuck@gmail.com) and our telephone no. is 01298 872331 so keep us in touch with what is going on.

Ged and Rob Puckett

## **WEDDING WISHES**

Just a note to wish Lucy Meakin and Richard Parsons all the best for their wedding on Saturday 2 June. We hope you have a lovely day and wish you a long and happy future together.

Your friends from Stevington Book Club

## **LENT LUNCHES**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Christian Aid by supporting the frugal lent lunches. Many people made soup, donated accompaniments and gave their time and effort. Thank you too to all those who attended at Monday lunch times. Everyone seemed to enjoy the conviviality! £313.70 was raised for Christian Aid.

MR



## JIM BRANDON

It is with great sadness that the Council has learned of the death of former Mayor and Honorary Alderman, Jim Brandon.

Jim Brandon was one of the Council's longest serving councillors representing Carlton Ward until 2011 and had been the Leader of the Independent group. On retirement as a Councillor he was made Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Bedford in recognition of his long and distinguished service. He was Mayor of Bedford Borough Council in 1992-1993 and was a member of a number of Council committees including latterly Executive 2002-2004 (Planning Portfolio Holder), Community and Culture Policy Review and Development Committee 2004-2006 and the Licensing Committees 2010-11.



*Photo - Bedford Borough Council*

Jim Brandon had also been a Trustee of the Municipal Charities since 1994.

Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, Philip Simpkins, said:

'Honorary Alderman Jim Brandon was one of Bedford Borough Council's longest serving councillors with over 50 years service and a familiar face within his ward and across the borough. The news that he has passed away will be met with sadness across the Council. Over the years he achieved great things in each role he took on as a Councillor, Mayor and Honorary Alderman. I enjoyed a good working relationship with him over many years as did other Borough Council staff. Our condolences go out to his wife Pam, their family and friends at this time.'

Bedford Borough Council

### HALL AVAILABLE



Come and use our hall at the Baptist Church, West End. You are welcome as guests; all we ask is for a voluntary contribution towards costs.

Feel free to bring your own food and drink; providing such items are not sold on the premises.

If you are interested, simply ring **Carol Wareing** on **01234 825661**, she will be pleased to hear from you.



## **AN INTRODUCTION TO ABBEEYFIELD**

I would like to introduce you to Abbeyfield. Part of a national overseeing organisation, Abbeyfield Bedford Society is a small sheltered housing association with two properties; one in Chaucer Road and the other in Linden Road. Both houses are converted residences dating from the turn of the 20th Century, set in pleasant, leafy roads. Abbeyfield offers very special facilities for the elderly, who are looked after by caring staff members.

My uncle spent six very happy years at Linden House and I was so impressed with the organisation that I became a Trustee. Both houses are close to Bedford Town Centre and provide excellent home-cooked food. Whenever I visit, I am always impressed by the menus on offer. Both houses have support workers and night staff and if residents need extra help outside carers can be arranged.

I am keen to let Stevington residents know more about Abbeyfield as the houses have a completely different atmosphere from all the other residential homes I looked at for my uncle. Residents have spacious en-suite rooms with a kitchenette and use of a communal lounge, dining room and pleasant gardens. If you are thinking about sheltered accommodation for yourself or a family member I would highly recommend Abbeyfield.

My role as a Trustee is to co-ordinate volunteers. We organise outings, theatre trips and in-house activities. If anyone could spare a little time to help, it would be much appreciated. Please contact me now or in the future if you would like further details of the Society or to join my band of volunteers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hilary O'Dell  
34 Court Lane, Stevington (01234 824612)

## **TURVEY LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER FETE**

Turvey Lower School will be holding a Summer Fete in the school grounds from 3 to 6pm on Saturday 30 June. There will be a bouncy castle, games, face painting, a balloon release and various stalls. Refreshments include a barbeque, cream teas and a licensed bar.

If you would like any further information or would be interested in running a stall please contact Charlie Stanbridge on 07801 754545.

Charlie Stanbridge



## COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE

Please take your domestic waste to the following locations on  
**Sunday 10 June 2012:**

West End	08.30 to 09.00
Playing Field	09.00 to 10.00
Crossroads, Church Road	10.00 to 11.00
Burridges Close	11.00 to 12.00
Foxbrook	12.00 to 12.30

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites.

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## STEVINGTON ROAD RACE

The annual Stevington road race was held on Sunday 13 May. As usual the event proved to be a roaring success and an opportunity to catch a quick glimpse of those athletes that are unlikely to quite make the qualifying standard for London 2012.

In total we had 100 runners and 100 outstanding performances, with all athletes coping admirably with the almost tropical race conditions - though a couple of them looked more than a little jaded as they plopped over the finish line. It was great to see the next generation of 'good old boys and girls' handing out medals and amusing to watch Tracy very professionally inform each athlete of their finishing position.

Well done to Steve Upton the overall men's winner flying around the course in a scintillating 46.51 and to Abigail Schofield who led the ladies home in a marvellous time of 52.51. Notable mentions to Steve Cumming and Charlie Stanbridge the quickest and most Olympic worthy of the local Stevington talent.

It was very enjoyable to be part of such a fantastic team effort, with too many people to thank individually in this article. It is important however to note that Gary Thomas did a particu-

larly sterling job as race director whilst offering encouraging words such as 'pump your arms' over the microphone. Barbara Collins also produced a quite fantastic spread and Andy Sutcliffe was integral to the planning and organisation on the day. Lots and lots more people contributed and I hope to thank each individually when I next see them.

The money is still being counted and we anticipate making a nice profit to put towards the Village Hall.

[www.stevingtonroadrace.co.uk](http://www.stevingtonroadrace.co.uk)



*Photo by Pat Pickup*

Olly Morrison

*The Friends of*  
**ST MARY'S STEVINGTON**

Thank you to everyone who has become a Friend for 2012/13. If you have not already renewed your membership, but are intending to do so, we can now provide you with a standing order form for your bank. Please contact me if you would like to take advantage of this painless way of renewing your annual membership. Don't forget that becoming a Friend entitles you to a free ticket to a specified event each year, probably a musical concert this autumn.

Needless to say, your support is invaluable in our aim to provide funds for the improvement and maintenance of the historic Church buildings, including the Church Room. With the approval of the PCC, and the kind co-operation of the Community Shop, we are about to embark on a refurbishment of the flooring in the Church Room and before long we hope to have some new curtains at the windows. We are also collecting quotations for more major works for which we would hope to achieve grant funding, if they are approved by the PCC.

Our first event this year was the very successful and well-attended Spring Feast & Tales which raised a magnificent £500 and we have an outline programme for the coming months which we very much hope you will enjoy supporting.

We are all looking forward to Saturday 30 June (2.30 to 4.30pm), when Barbara Cattermole is once again generously hosting a Summer Tea Party in her beautiful garden. We were blessed with a gloriously sunny afternoon last year, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet for a chat over a cuppa and a plate of delicious sandwiches and cake. Tickets priced at £5 will be available in the Shop or from me, and you will also be able to pay at the gate on the day. Come along, bring your family and friends and treat yourself to a slap-up tea.

Wyton House, Huntingdon, is the home of a very special Compton Cinema Organ originally installed in the Astoria Cinema, Southend in 1935. Its present owner, Ilse Palmer, holds regular concerts with visiting organists and we have been lucky enough to hire the venue on Sunday 26 August. £15 per head will take you by coach from Stevington to Wyton House in time to enjoy a varied programme of organ favourites, with tea and biscuits provided in the interval of course. Tickets are being sold in Pavenham and Turvey too, so be sure get yours early in order to

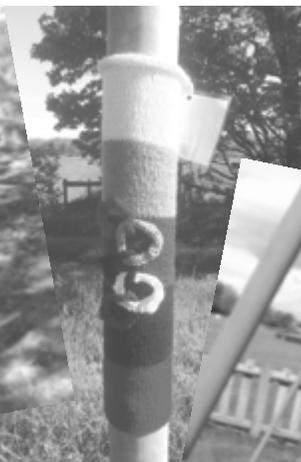
secure a place on the coach. They will be available at the Community Shop – watch out for notices.

We look forward very much to seeing you on one or all of these occasions, which are not only valuable fundraisers, but also offer an opportunity for our village community to get together.

Chrissie Galley  
Chairman, Friends of St. Mary's Stevington (823276)

### **NEWSFLASH! STEVINGTON HIT BY YARN BOMBS!**

The first bomb that was reported to the magazine was the one that landed on the front of Pat and Ian Pickup's house. Further bombs were later discovered on the bend on the road to Oakley, on the village sign on Park Road and on the swings at the playing field.



If you haven't heard of this new craze, its knitted graffiti - decorating fences, lamp posts, trees, etc with knitted decorations. Rumour has it that there will be a lot more around Bedford over the summer for the Jubilee and Olympics - although of course we have no idea who is doing it!

*Photos by Pat Pickup*

## FAREWELL TO ROB AND GED PUCKETT

*'So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night. I hate for you to go and leave this pretty sight.'*

We came to Stevington twenty years ago to take over The Red Lion accompanied by our three Siamese cats Rosy, Daisy and **Eric**. Rob was the first Stevingtonian I met, he was doing some DIY outside his house with a hammer and beside him, almost like a foreman, was this beautiful Siamese cat. 'What's his name?' I enquired. '**Derek**' was Rob's reply. It was an omen - two Siamese cats in the village with such incongruous names!

We soon came to realise that Rob and Ged were a superb team and great organisers. We had only been in the pub a few months when Rob roped Brian into a secret part in a war time review they were performing at the Church Room. I was astonished at the quality and talent of all the cast and the finale was Jackie, Ged and Carol Woods miming to the Andrews Sisters - they were so good that an encore was demanded! To the delight of the audience this was what the secret part was all about because instead of the girls it was the boys. Rob, John and Brian dressed as the singers and belting out 'Boogie Boys from Company B'. There followed many shows over the years and even a Stevington Festival. We were all inspired by Rob's dedication and we are all convinced he made us Stars.

Ged was a leading light in getting our village hall extension and Rob was involved with the Social Centre - finally getting the car park completed. His time as a parish councillor was also very valuable. His efforts were rewarded just before he left by a presentation from the Parish Council where Brian (as a retired councillor) and myself were honoured to be included.

I could of course go on and on and I haven't even mentioned the Sailing Club and their picnics with Rob organising the river trips. Actually it was more like kidnapping with people begging to be put ashore as they passed the compound for the third time fretting that the food would all be gone! Sorry - I think it was that the wine might run out! (Only joking Rob), I have recently heard that Rob has been made an honorary member of the Sailing Club and I believe that he is the first person to receive this honour. I don't know if it comes with a title or perhaps a 'First Mate's Ticket'! If it does he can add it to his Lord of the Manor title that was presented to him on his retirement along with a section of The British

Isles. Rob, being a lifelong socialist, has never used this title but it could be his entree into Tideswell society!

We had the 12K run recently and this is really Ged's baby - she has worked tirelessly for this event for many years. I am sure she has left it in very good hands and if they can find me a more stylish safety jacket I will stand at Oakley Bridge clapping and saying 'Well done', 'Wish it was me' etc.

I am sure we all wish Rob and Ged well in their new home but I for one will really miss them. I hope they shut the door as they left Stevington - I know they switched the light off.

*So long, adieu adieu, to you and you and you. We hate for you to leave this pretty place.*

Anne and Brian Westbrook

## JUBILEE COMPETITIONS



1. Decorating the Cross - this will be split into sections
  2. Decorating the 8 water pumps. Please can you volunteer to decorate a pump near your house, maybe as a team with your neighbours?
  3. Patriotic decoration of houses - we leave this to you for ideas. Colours, themes, plants and other materials will be judged.
4. Art competition with two categories
- a) Queen's Diamond Jubilee
  - b) Stevington Natural History

Entries could be paintings, sketches, photos or models - in fact anything that you would like to submit. Prizes will be awarded for each category in 3 age groups - under 9's, 9 to 14 and over 14. Please submit entries by **6.00pm on Saturday 2 June**. They will then be put on display in the Social Centre on Monday 4 June.

Prizes will be awarded at 7.30pm on Monday 4 June.

To enter any of these competitions please register your name with Heather Eadie (826198) or Barbara Collins (822296).

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## BOROUGH EXTENDS KERBSIDE BATTERY COLLECTIONS



After a successful trial to 13,000 residents Bedford Borough Council has now rolled out the kerbside collection of used household batteries to all households in the Borough as part of ongoing efforts to increase recycling rates.

In recent weeks residents across the Borough should have received plastic battery bags in which they can recycle their used household batteries. Residents simply fill their battery bag with used batteries, seal it and leave it on top of the black refuse bin or sacks on the normal day of collection. Battery bags will then be collected and replaced by the collection crews.

6V, D, C, AA, AAA, 9V and button batteries can be recycled. Please note that we cannot accept car or other non-household batteries through this scheme.

For more information about the kerbside battery recycling scheme or to receive a recycling bag please contact the Council on 01234 267422 or email: [recycling@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@bedford.gov.uk).



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## **BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Councillor Jim Brandon**

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Jim. He and Pam were friends and also, as you all know, Jim was a wise and supportive colleague of mine on the Bedford Borough Council. He was always ready to listen and give advice when asked. However it was all the work he did for 'HIS' villages that was so important to him. You will all have your individual memories of him.

When I visited Pam I was shown the cards and letters she had received. She was very touched by all the comments that said how he helped them as individuals and how much he was respected in the community. As one councillor commented at the Full Council:

*'Jim was always courteous. However he was a wily fox. And on one occasion when group leaders were being assessed by the inspectors and they were desperately thinking of a reply, Jim interrupted and said 'when I was first on the council 40 years ago....' and recalled something. The pause gave them time to answer the question'.*

I am sure all our sympathies go to Pam and their family.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Update**

The Stevington application on Dane Hill should go to planning on 28 May. A huge thank you to everyone who has campaigned on this. Helen has been an inspiration and kept everyone motivated. It has been a pleasure to work with you all. Hopefully there will be a successful outcome by the time this newsletter is published.

The rest of my report is an update from the borough perspective.

Much has happened since you were all campaigning against the proposal for the rural sites originally suggested in the Allocation and Designation Plan. The Gypsy and Traveller policy was withdrawn from this plan whilst the whole issue of how many pitches were needed was addressed. Meadow Lane, Bedford was given planning permission for 14 pitches on 26 March 2012. This has relieved the immediate pressure on providing sites for gypsies and travellers.

The government has now published their Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. It has immediate effect. Bedford Borough now has to publish their local planning policy. This will require them to develop a methodology to determine the number of pitches required, their overall policy and the sites required.

How does this affect us in the rural area?

- Sites should respect the scale of and not dominate the nearest settled community.
- If there is a lack of affordable land to meet travellers' needs then, where viable and practical, the Council should consider releasing sites using the rural exception policy. However the travellers should either be resident or have an existing family or employment connection.
- Local planning authorities should not permit mixed use on rural exception sites (i.e. those outside the village settlement area.)
- Sites should be strictly limited in open countryside - brownfield sites should be used before greenfield sites.

The policy must be used when determining the current rural sites that are seeking permission. There are currently four applications in the local area - Stevington, Bletsoe, Felmersham and Bromham. They should be heard at the end of May or in June.

The future is to ensure the Borough Council policy is robust and any planning permission can be enforced at all times. The Council will publish their policy for consultation possibly in the autumn. Watch this space.

### **Bedford Events**

I do hope everyone one enjoys the Jubilee celebrations.

I look forward to the Olympic Flame coming to Bedford on 8 July and the Para-Olympic flame celebrations on 26 August. Several Para-Olympic teams will be training in Bedford in August. Bedford International Stadium has been chosen as a 'Live Site' for the Olympics offering free activities for residents including the opportunity to watch events on a big screen.

Remember that the Bedford River Festival takes place on 21 and 22 July this year.

Councillor Pat Olney



## THE MANOR HOUSE GARDEN AND WELL DRESSING

We had a very happy day on our National Garden Scheme Charities Day on Sunday 22 April with 36 children and their families enjoying the Winnie the Pooh house and all the associated Bear hunts and egg and spoon races! We are so grateful to Doreen Pendlington and her super team for organising the teas and to Helen Dunster and her friend for welcoming everyone on the gate. The weather was rather drizzly but nothing compared to 4.30pm when the heavens opened and the thunder rolled! We were extremely pleased to raise nearly £950 to help finance nursing and caring charities especially Marie Curie Nursing Service and Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are now looking forward to our celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend with Stevington's 'Well Dressing' beside the ancient Holy Well. It is a tradition more often seen in Derbyshire and Simon, Bob Westwood, Jane O'Connor and I have already been to see the making of one at Waingrove prior to creating our Stevington masterpiece! It is an intricate craft pressing very many individual petals into clay to slowly build up the picture. We are so grateful to be able to use the scene from The Pilgrim's Progress where Christian comes to the Cross and then his burden tumbles into the Sepulchre; as depicted in the tercentenary window of Stevington Baptist Church.



We plan to create the Well Dressing in the garage of the vicarage during the week beginning Monday 28 May. It would be fantastic to have some helping hands for an hour or two on either the morning 9-12am, afternoon 2-5pm or evenings 6-8pm of Wednesday 30, Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June. Groups of 2-3 helpers would be wonderful at any one time with much chattering and tea drinking as part of the process. Any offers of red or blue flowers or greenery would come in useful too...but any offered should have been soaked in water for 24 hours prior to use. Please would you either phone me on 01234 822064



or leave your name and number on a sheet in the Church Room. No prior knowledge necessary but a steady hand and good eyesight would be helpful! The Well Dressing itself should be on view near the Holy Well from Saturday 2 June to Wednesday 6 June.

Simon is planning a celebratory Procession enacting part of The Pilgrim's Progress – A Stevington Tale - at 11am on Monday 4 June with lots of local figures acting out the scenes, many of which are very humorous. If anyone is willing to help perform, or help out with music and costumes then we would be very grateful....it will all be part of the fun of the day. Again we will leave a notice in the Church Room or call 01234 822064.

We would like to commemorate the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** by opening on **Monday 4 June** with a 'sparkling' fun filled garden. This is our 25th year of living in Stevington and thus making the garden, and on this happy occasion we would like to welcome as many friends and neighbours and villagers as possible in the hope of raising funds for the refurbishment of the Church Room. It is here that the Diamond Jubilee Teas and Cakes will be served under the guidance of Tricia Lennie.



I am sure she would be grateful for offers of cakes. (825169). Entrance to the garden will be free for those living in Stevington. Look out for the special free pass on the Stevington Jubilee leaflets which each household will receive and bring it with you when you visit. It is hoped that many outside paying visitors might come as well, (the more the merrier as all proceeds will go to the Church Room!) and that everyone will help to raise money by drinking lots of wine, tea or coffee and eating lots of the delicious Jubilee Cakes.

We are also open on 22 July (tea monies for Sue Ryder through the help of Clare Stapleton) and 16 September (tea monies for the Community Shop). We are also continuing the idea of 'informal afternoons' on Tuesdays through May to mid September from 1-5pm when people can bring a picnic along if it is fine and enjoy a relaxing afternoon as the seasons change. I generally leave some spare leaflets in the Church Room if anyone wants to send one to a friend.

A final note; two of our bee hives survived the winter while two were invaded by wasps last autumn. Imagine my surprise on 30 April (unusually in April 2012 this was a warm and sunny day) to hear a swarm of bees low down in the dog rose hedge in our wild flower meadow. We managed to capture it and pop it into one of the empty hives. It seems so early, but that

same day four swallows returned to nest in the barn and in the evening I heard the cuckoo - all in all a wonderful day! Beekeeper, Chris Lewis from Milton Ernest sells the honey at our open days and on 4 June he is going to donate the money to the Church Room Refurbishment Fund so come along and stock up with honey marmalade, honey mustard and delicious Stevington honey.



*Photos by Kathy Brown*

Simon and Kathy Brown



### STEVINGTON JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE MUG

Stevington Parish Council would like to present all of the children (under 18) who live in Stevington with the gift of a Commemorative Mug (bone china) to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The mug will have the Queen in colour on one side, and Stevington Windmill on the other.

If you would like to buy one for other family members you are very welcome. The mugs will be available to buy at £5 each.

Please make cheques payable to Stevington Parish Council and hand with this slip to one of the following before the Jubilee.

Heather Eadie (826198) 62 Park Road  
 Barbara Collins (822296) 15 Court Lane  
 Graham Follett (826119) 10 Park Road



For the **Village Children** - Please enter your child's / children's name, age and address for delivery of their gift:

Child's Name			
Child's Age			
Address			
Number of <b>additional mugs</b> you would like to purchase at £5 each:			

## STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First of all we would like to thank Heather and Keith for taking on the Stevington Magazine and say how much we appreciate Ian and Pat Pickup's hard work over the past 25 years.



We have been very fortunate in recent months to have had two very entertaining meetings.

Mick Boyce, a very interesting gentleman, gave us such an informative talk and slideshow about Rockingham Castle where he is a guide. He had very good knowledge of everyday life upstairs and downstairs and we discovered so much including, while looking at the slides of the kitchen, why the windows are so high! Daylight is allowed in but if the kitchen maids are 'a'courtin' the gardeners or young men working outside then they must keep their minds on the job in hand and not on who is doing what outside! We have now decided that we ought to go and see it all for ourselves.

At our second meeting we were entertained by the Ionian Singers - a group of ladies and gentlemen who sang unaccompanied songs from various periods of history including Shakespeare and passing through periods of time to some more up to date classical songs. Some of our members were spotted absolutely enthralled and quietly singing along!

In between the two meetings some of us went to the Group Meeting which was held at Milton Ernest - this is a get-together with other local WIs. The Group Meeting has a business element, a speaker, an opportunity for WIs to share what they have been getting up to and tea and cakes of course!

In March we had a Willow Support workshop in the Church Room. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fun learning all about 'the world of willow' - thin branches and thick branches with such descriptions as 'ends, tips and weavers' weaving in, round the back and out again. On the whole I think we did quite well but if you see any 'unusual looking' willow supports in the village gardens this summer you will know why!

Our darts team did really well and came third in the Bedfordshire Finals - well done girls!!

Our quiz team also did well and are through to the Three Counties Quiz in Hertfordshire in June – we wish them the best of luck.

We have just held our 'WI Pantry' at the Cross – a stall selling cakes, plants and other goodies. We were so lucky with the weather. Once people spotted us word was quickly passed around the village and we had a very successful morning.

We hold our Annual Meeting in May so we start a new year with a new programme from June. We will of course be toasting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at our next meeting. Our new programme and contact details will be pinned on our notice board in the Church Room if you feel like paying us a visit - we welcome visitors, new members and new ideas and will make you feel very welcome. Details of forthcoming events are also displayed in Sally Macdonald's window. We are now hoping that the weather will allow us to do more walks and litter picks and will also encourage us to take part in more outdoor pursuits.

Pat Gibson



## **OAKLEY OPEN GARDENS 2012**

Sunday 24 June 1pm to 6pm  
in aid of Oakley Preschool Playgroup

### **Come and see:-**

The Allotments and Community Orchard  
The new garden at Oakley House  
The garden at the Old School  
The garden at Oakley Lower School  
Changes to the garden at 33 Station Road  
and 12 others that have not stood still.

All this for £4.00 children under 12 Free

Great Cream Teas at the Preschool  
Plants for Sale at 37 Station Road

If it stops raining vegetables might be available  
at the Allotments.

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## NEWS FROM HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK



I am writing this at the beginning of May. After a drought lasting 18 months we are now suffering the worst flooding since 2003. Almost all of the river meadows are under water as is the nature reserve. You can almost hear the trees heaving a sigh of relief although we humans are moaning in the usual way. Harrold Bridge is closed and we struggle to get about. Some of our birds have had their nests swept away but hopefully, it has happened early enough in the season that they can have another go.



*Photo courtesy of HOCP*

Many of you are probably aware that we lost our beautifully refurbished bird hide to an arson attack on 15 April. It has been a feature of the park for 25 years. If there is any information about the perpetrator of this crime then please get in touch with the police at Riseley or Harrold Fire Station. We fully intend to rebuild but we are discussing options and researching the costs. Some

wonderful people have already pressed donations towards us to help with this and we are so grateful for all the messages of support.

We are planning some events in the coming months which may be of interest. Please look at the **dates in your diary** section of this article, posters on the park notice board or on the website run by our Friends Group ([www.hocp.co.uk](http://www.hocp.co.uk)).

The willow fencing constructed along the northern edge of the large lake is now almost complete. We used coppiced willow from within the park, the idea being to prevent further erosion of the banks in this area. Over the coming months we will repair some of the worst damage by back-filling with branches and soil. We also have a beautifully carved memorial bench and new trees to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee year. The work was carried out by staff and volunteers over the last 6 months. Our thanks to everyone involved particularly Trevor Sudds, Simon Carter, John Donovan and Bob Collyer.

Park Ranger Richard Dowsett is planning to set up beehives on the island in the big lake. We will see over the coming months whether this experiment is worthwhile. There are plenty of gardens and our community orchard nearby as well as the wild flowers growing in the park for them to feed on. Watch this space.

With the departure of Vauxhall Angling Club we are looking to run the fishing ourselves. As I write this, a meeting is being arranged with Bedford Borough Council to discuss options. When there is something to report about this I will let you know.

Finally, Tea-Zels Café is open from Mon to Fri from 9am to 4pm and on Sat and Sun from 9am to 5pm. Contact them on 01234 721525.

### **Dates for your diary**

Sat 16 June Fossil Fun Day 11am to 4pm. Come and discover more about rocks and fossils with the Bedfordshire Geology Group. Maybe you want to find out more about a fossil you own? Children's activities and fossils to buy. Contact [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk)

Fri 22 to Sun 24 June 10.30am to 4.30pm. Come and join in activities with the RSPB. Contact [Stephanie.Morren@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Morren@rspb.org.uk)

Thurs 12 July Public Bat Walk 9pm. Run by Bedfordshire Bat Group. 20 places only so **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** Contact [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk)

Sunday 22 July Craft Fair 11am to 4pm. Contact Derek Henderson: [derek@derekhenderson.co.uk](mailto:derek@derekhenderson.co.uk)

Sat 28 July 2pm to 4pm Guided Walk to celebrate Love Parks Week. Contact [richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk)

### **Friends Conservation Tasks**

Meet at the park office at 10am to assist with a variety of tasks around the park. Please bring sturdy clothing and footwear. Gloves, good company and refreshments provided. Tel. 01234 720016 for information.

### **Health Walks**

These take place every other Thursday at 10.30am. Meet at the café and walk for an hour to increase your fitness and wellbeing and meet new people. There is an option afterwards to have coffee and natter in the café. Leader Janet Munro 01234 720016.

Janet Munro  
Ranger

## STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB



On 30 April we had our twenty third AGM which marked our twenty second birthday; the club was formed with an AGM 22 years ago. Bill Harris was re-elected as chairman and Barbara Collins as secretary. Barbara has also taken on the role of treasurer possibly just for one year. We have dispensed with the role of club captain and have reverted to one of our old systems – as soon as a minimum of 6 members arrive they move on to a carpet and start playing (no waiting for somebody to sort out teams.) Toby Haggerwood was voted by the members to be the Most Improved Player in 2001/12. Toby also won the 2012 knockout pairs in partnership with Bill Harris. Andy Frost won the 2012 knockout singles. Well done to you all.

Our numbers are now down to 13 – nowhere near enough to enable us to play matches against other clubs – some weeks we are as few as 8 or 9. We are endeavouring to keep our subscriptions down again this year – it is only with the help of the (donated) raffle rota that we keep going. Please come along to the Social Centre on a Monday evening (except Bank Holidays) from 7.30pm and ‘have a go’. The first two visits are free. Subs are £3 per annum and £1 per week for adults and 50p per week for juniors up to 16 years old. For this huge sum we supply tea, coffee, biscuits and a friendly enjoyable evening.

We are aware that there are quite a few newcomers in the village and would love to meet you. Just turn up on a club night – no need to ask first. We look forward to seeing you.

Barbara Collins

## HARROLD MEDICAL PRACTICE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTIONS

Here are the dates (Wednesdays) to the end of 2012. Please remember to tick the items required on your repeat prescription forms and write a large letter 'S' on the front page of your form.

### **Barbara (822296)**

30 May & 6 June  
25 July & 1 August  
19 & 26 September  
14 & 21 November

### **Pat (823250)**

27 June & 4 July  
22 & 29 August  
17 & 24 October  
12 & 19 December

Barbara Collins and Pat Pickup

## JAZZ WITH EVERYTHING

Stevington turned out in force for the Jazz'n'Chips evening at the Social Centre on 18 February in aid of Pastor Eric Machila's orphanage in Chirimba, Malawi. Thanks to the Committee, the Social Centre was made available for free; Steve Cole was indispensable with everything with wires attached; John Duffield set the stage; Dita and Tony Hollins distributed flyers; The George provided a licensed bar; Alice Hirst raised an impressive amount from the 'Guess The Weight Of The Bass' competition; and Sally whisked up a few vegetarian treats in the kitchens. Stevington helped in the usual neighbourly way, and didn't seem to mind



*Photo courtesy of PD3*

a slightly bohemian atmosphere on the night. The band loved their reception: since by the end nearly everyone was (almost) dancing (!), it seems to have been a highly successful evening. Thanks to the tremendous support everyone showed, we raised an impressive £600. Many thanks to all!

It occurred to some of us that Stevington may not have been showing support just for a good cause, nor even for the excellent fish 'n' chips from **Tasty Tuck** (96 Tavistock Street, Bedford: call 01234 400018). We thought that some actually came purely to listen to **PD3**, a trio led by Pete Downes on guitar, with Andy Coe on double bass and Tim Bruce on drums, playing ambient jazz (see [www.petedownes.com](http://www.petedownes.com)) and we thought that you might like to do this sort of thing again.

So, we want to know who would like to get together for outings to listen to live jazz on a fairly regular basis, whether nearby, in Olney, Wavendon, say, or to venues further afield. We would love to stage occasional events here in Stevington. A lot of you thoroughly enjoyed the PD3 event, so we know it is possible. Please don't delay! Let us know soon if you would be interested, either call Malcolm on 826668 or email [malcolm.r.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.r.macdonald@btinternet.com).

*Jazz? Mmmm, Nice!*

Malcolm Macdonald

## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STEVINGTON**

Canon Peter chaired our Annual PCC Meeting on 20 March, when he reflected on his first six months as Priest in Charge of St Mary's, Stevington and All Saints, Turvey. Summarising, he said that we are a 'small church, but in good heart'. He went on to say that following the direction of the Bishop, we need to give thought to our mission over the next five years. This will be discussed at future meetings.

Bob Westwood was re-elected Churchwarden and Tricia Lennie Assistant Churchwarden. Following thanks to Alison Campion for her three years' service as Treasurer, Nick Serrecchia was nominated and elected her successor. Members of the PCC, including ex-officio member Jane O'Connor, were re-elected en bloc, as too were the Sidesmen.

The six Frugal Lunches for Lent arranged by Mary Ronald and her band of helpers were a great success, having raised £313.70 in donations for the benefit of Christian Aid.

It is always a great joy to welcome young people into the Church and we were not disappointed on Mothering Sunday and at Easter. Mention of these events reminds me of the lovely floral decorations and special thanks are due as always for all who contributed towards the adornment of the Church. Also thanks to our band of cleaners who devote their time to keeping our place of worship so clean and tidy throughout the year.

The Feast of the Annunciation and our Patronal Festival was held on 25 March when we were pleased to welcome some of the congregation from All Saints, Turvey. On this special occasion we enjoyed the presence of our village choir under the direction of Philip Bond, assisted by Robert Eadie as Conductor. It is always a pleasure to listen to them and to have their lead in our songs of praise.

In response to the wishes of the under 16's who attended the first meeting of the Music Makers Club, a further meeting was held in the Church Room at half-term on 10 April. It may be recalled that this Club, which is a holiday pursuit, is led by Tom Lennie, assisted by Claire Stapleton and Tricia Lennie.

Repairs to the eroded stonework surrounding the Holy Well are being made and it is hoped to have this work completed in time for Stevington's Jubilee Celebrations, when the Well will feature in 'The Pilgrims Progress, A Stevington Tale', and the Well Dressing which will be

installed on Saturday 2 June. For details, see elsewhere in this issue of the Stevington Magazine.

The wedding of Lucy Meakin and Richard Parsons will take place on Saturday 2 June and we wish them every happiness on this very special day as well as in the future.

On the same day, following the wedding, a Stevington Natural History Exhibition will be set up in the Church. The Church will be open to visitors - members of the Stevington Historical Trust and the Church will be on hand as guides between the following hours:



Sunday 3 June 2pm – 5pm  
Monday 4 June 10am – 4pm  
Tuesday 5 June 10am – 4pm

On Monday 4 June, the Church Room will be open for tea, coffee and cake between 12 noon and 5.00pm in conjunction with Kathy Brown's Garden. All proceeds in aid of the Church Room renovations. We would be delighted to have your support. If you could bake a cake or biscuits to sell, come and help serve, or simply drop in to enjoy a well-earned afternoon tea it would be very much appreciated. There is a list in the Church Room for you to indicate your willingness to help, or send an email to Tricia Lennie at [mst\\_acorn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mst_acorn@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like more details.

Bob Westwood  
Churchwarden



**BEDS & HERTS**  
HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST  
**Bike 'n Hike**  
Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

**SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**  
**ADVANCE NOTICE CYCLISTS &**  
**HIKERS REQUIRED!**

Please support this worthy cause. Last year raised £102,296 to maintain and restore our churches. Half of the sponsorship we raise will stay with St Mary's, Stevington

More details from Bob Hart on 01234 823769.

## GIANT FRISBEE SPOTTED IN PARK ROAD

That sopping wet Sunday afternoon and strong north winds at the end of April brought a surprise to some of us in Park Road.

The first I knew was when Heather called me to say Graham had noticed something strange in Susan's tree and realised that it was Robert and Heather's trampoline! 'She' (the trampoline, not Heather) must have lifted up off her legs in a strong gust of wind, done a half backward flip and hopped over the hedge - only to get jammed between Susan's Walnut tree and Yew hedge. Some of the legs had been left behind and I believe a puncture was given in rebuke by a branch of the tree.

We all trooped up the garden and were amazed to see what could have been mistaken for a giant frisbee or flying saucer if it had been dark!

We decided to wait until later in the afternoon when the rain had cleared and wind subsided. Methodology for safely manoeuvring the trampoline back over the hedge was discussed and with the help of Paul, Robert, Heather, Sylvia, Alex and Olivia we lifted her up and slid her back over the hedge with ease.



*Photo by Susan Young*

It remains to be seen as to whether 'her' adventure will be the cause of her demise!

Susan Young

<b>Roger Day Photography</b>		<b>7 Park Road Stevington</b>
		
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**STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST**  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1086669  
www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk

The Trust's Natural History Group is mounting an exhibition in St Mary's as part of the Jubilee celebrations. This is a foretaste of the Natural History Book which is now taking shape. The exhibition is open from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday 3 June; and 10am to 4pm on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 June. Admission is free and copies of some of the exhibits may be purchased.

If anyone has any interesting sightings of flora and fauna in the Village please be in touch with us as we may be able to use them in the Book.

The Trust has a programme for transcribing important manuscripts in the Record Office relating to Stevington. Most are in a readable script and we should like to hear from anyone willing to help with the transcription.

Peter Hart (823586)

## **HOW ABOUT A HOLIDAY IN COSTA BRAVA?**

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- \* **Nature Reserve - a day out bird watching - free!**
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**Interested? Phone Jan or Graham on 826119  
or e-mail [gjfollett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gjfollett@yahoo.co.uk) for more info.**



## STEVINGTON BAPTIST MEETING

Like other organisations, the Baptist Church is busy making arrangements for the Jubilee weekend. The church will be open and many visitors are expected to see the stained glass window which is forming the basis of the display at the well dressing. The window was commissioned to mark the 300th anniversary of the church in 1955.

Return shuttle transport will be available to bring people from the well dressing to the Baptist Church to view the window. Visitors will also be able to see into the baptistery, in which believers are immersed as a public statement of their commitment to the Christian life. This is simply a small pool at the front of the church which is uncovered during a Baptism service. However, because of the current water shortage, it will not be filled.

The church is seeking a reliable organist to play at Sunday morning services at 10.45. This is a paid position - for more information contact the Minister, David Eyre, 01234 211581.

Another afternoon tea was held in the hall in March, which proved as successful as the first, so a third tea is now scheduled for Tuesday 12 June, the week after the bank holiday.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the hall. It is a reminder of the close links which were forged between American servicemen based at Alconbury and members of the church.

After listening to those who have taken part in the first two scarecrow competitions, it has been decided that the competition will be run every other year, so you have until summer of 2013 to think up some ideas. (Don't complain that we never give you enough notice!)



*The 'Bunyan window' at the Baptist Church  
Courtesy of Baptist Church*

Peter Evans

## **SOCIAL CENTRE CHRONICLES CONTINUED.....**

### **AGM**

This year's AGM has resulted in a couple of changes with both Trevor Gibson and Rob Puckett standing down as chairman and secretary respectively. Many thanks to them both for having managed the committee and delivered all the events and improvements to the village hall over past years. For my sins I have been persuaded to take the Chair this year and will be ably assisted by Pete Fisher as Secretary, Lucy Meakin as Treasurer and Jean Blayney as Bookings Secretary. Thanks to Lucy and Jean for volunteering for yet another year. Along with the committee we will all do our best to live up to our predecessors and provide some good events and a great facility for the village.

I would like to express the committee's particular thanks to Rob and Ged Puckett who have done a great deal for the Social Centre, from running the youth club in the 80's to delivering extravagant shows in recent times, many thanks and all the best in your new home.

### **Hostess Supper**

The Hostess Supper was well attended again this year with a wealth of good food and drink prepared by the hosts and consumed with much pleasure by their guests. Particularly welcome was a table of 14 of our younger residents (by younger read less than 50) who greatly enjoyed the evening, particularly the events resulting in the prizes of alcohol! We finished the evening with music and dancing and a good time being had by all.

### **Car Park**

As you have no doubt seen the village hall car park has now been resurfaced and we shall no longer have to worry about disappearing down a pothole or drowning in a massive puddle! We now plan to provide new lighting for the path and entrance this summer so you can find your way out.

### **Village Hall**

In preparation for their wedding in June Richard and Lucy have been sprucing up various areas of the hall which has been very welcome, thank you. I would like to say a particular thank you to Lucy's parents, Em and Mike, who have repainted the hall giving it a new lease of life, many thanks.

Also many thanks to Chris Rock who made an excellent job of removing the tree damaging the boundary at the rear of the hall.

## Stevington 12K Run

Many thanks to the run organisers and all the volunteers who delivered yet another successful event. This is a great fund raiser for the village hall and it's brilliant that the village can come together to provide such a popular event for all the runners who return year on year.

## One Hundred Club

A reminder to all the newcomers and anyone else with £5 to invest in one of the few things these days that can return a possible £100, £50 or £25 once a month - we can always do with new members in the 100 Club. Application forms are available from the village hall and the community shop or ask either myself or Anna or Bob Hart for details.

## What's Next

4 June - Jubilee celebrations

7 July - Fynnius Fogg return to entertain us again. Bop the night away and enjoy a few drinks and supper on a summers evening, what more could you want. Watch the cross for details.

Steve Cole (824571)

## STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last two draws are as follows:

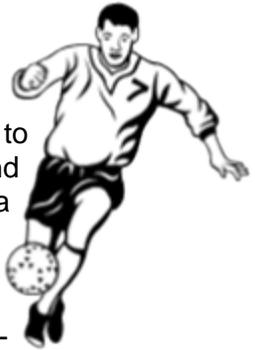
<b>Mar</b>	1st	No 78	J Garrett
	2nd	No 2	R Penney
	3rd	No 60	D Taylor
<b>Apr</b>	1st	No 13	B Collins
	2nd	No 70	A Cockings/J Pearson
	3rd	No 93	B Cattermole

Rob Puckett wrote a very clear article in the March edition of the magazine explaining how the draw helps the Social Centre. Sadly since then we have lost a few members due to a variety of reasons and we very much need to get up to scratch again – partly to be fully legal!

Please do consider making it your 'Jubilee Job' to join the 100 Club – you will find membership forms in the Social Centre or you get them from the Church Room.

Anna and Bob Hart (823769)

## STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB



The 2011/12 Division 3 season drew to a close for us on 28 April with a 5-3 victory against the Royal Oak Kempston. It was a good result for the team to finish on, but had the management team running round that morning getting the game hastily switched to a home fixture after Kempston's pitch was declared waterlogged late in the morning. It was vitally important that the game went ahead as we'd already made arrangements for our end of season presentation evening to follow on straight after the match..... and nothing should stand in the way of a good party! We also had an 'end of season tour' to Majorca planned for the following weekend, so wouldn't be available or in a fit state to play for some time!

We've seen a few new players join the club this season and together with Aaron Coker joining the established club stalwarts to help run the team, I am extremely pleased to be able to report that the standard of football and results has generally improved. I think everyone involved with the club has enjoyed this season a bit more than the last couple of years when we were losing a lot more games than we were drawing or winning. Whoever said 'it's the taking part that counts, not the winning' obviously hasn't played much sport or been on the end of some of the hammerings that we've had in the last couple of years!

We've had a pretty consistent season which saw us finish **5th** out of **14** in the league with the following statistics - Played **26**, Won **16**, Drawn **1**, Lost **9**, Goals For **66**, Goals Against **45**, Goal Difference **+ 21**, Points **23**.

We also reached the Semi-Final of the Watson Shield before losing 0-1 to Bedford Park Rangers, a game in which we lost some of our key players to injury, pre-planned holidays..... and shopping (John Deveraux)! Having said that we still had enough chances to win the game by a cricket score..... but simply couldn't hit the net, a dilemma that was mirrored in a number of our league games. With a bit more luck we would certainly have got to the final and been promoted – possibly as league winners as we were only 9 points, or 3 wins, behind the eventual champions.

In true club tradition, undeterred by the fact that it would be Division 3 football again next season, we all made sure we enjoyed our

end of season presentation evening. The event was extremely well attended and the medals were presented as follows:

Players Player of the Year: **Ben Walsh**  
(Simon Ellis runner up by 1 vote)

Managers Player of the Year **Simon Ellis**

Leading Goalscorer: **Gavin White** (15 goals)

Joe White Sportsman of the Year: **Martin O'Reilly**  
Trevor – for playing in any position requested – and never moaning

Dennis King Clubman of the Year: **Tony Reilly**  
in recognition of many years service to the club and for making himself available when needed and not fully fit this season

Supporter of the Year: **Ralph Jeffries**  
for supporting us in all weathers and attending Xmas and End of Season parties!

In addition to the player's awards Rob and his team at the Royal George were given a memento and thanked for their ongoing support and sponsorship – it was such a shame that the engravers had put 'The Royal Oak' on the memento – the first time they've ever made such a mistake and the first time we've not checked each medal in detail! The hospitality and refreshments on offer every week continue to be the envy of the league.

Gill King was also thanked for her continued hard work and effort laundering the kit each week.

Once again we took the opportunity to give proper recognition to the sterling efforts of Gareth King and Aaron Coker for all their combined efforts in keeping the team going for everyone's benefit and enjoyment, and to Darren King for cutting the playing field and marking the pitch.

Paul O'Flynn was also thanked for organising the Football Pontoon and 2012 Euro's fund raising events that raise essential funds for on-going ground keeping maintenance costs for the playing field.

We would also like thank all those that came to watch our games, both home and away and look forward to seeing you all next season.

Shane King

**STEVINGTON JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**  
**10.40AM MONDAY 4 JUNE**  
**PROCESSION, PROGRESS AND 'WELL DRESSING'**



The ancient Holy Well within the stone wall beneath the church of St Mary the Virgin at Stevington is one of the Holiest Places in Great Britain, according to an authoritative new book on the subject by Nick Mayhew Smith.

The Holy Well is a cavern with an ever flowing pool that has been used since early Christianity for immersion in prayer and as a shrine for pilgrims seeking relief from eye ailments whilst staying at the nearby medieval Hospitium, run by the Order of nuns from Harrold Priory, on a site nearby to where the Manor House now stands.

Based in Bedford by the mid 1650s, John Bunyan would have known the north Bedfordshire villages through his trade as a tinker and in 1656 we know that he disputed Quaker doctrine in the neighbouring village of Pavenham. He is thought to have preached in Stevington. The medieval Stevington Cross and ever flowing Holy Well would surely have been strong symbols in his febrile imagination.

Dr Kathy Brown of the Manor House has studied the historical landscape of Stevington and its environs, the text of *The Pilgrim's Progress* together with his other works and the biblical texts that Bunyan used in his world famous allegorical novel. She undertook this allegorical journey with Clare Balding in *Ramblings* on BBC Radio 4. She considers that Stevington is the world famous allegorical scene of Christian losing his burden at the Cross leaving his burden of woes to fall from his back and roll down into the sepulchre, that is the Holy Well, before drinking from the Spring and making his hazardous narrow way between roaring lions to House Beautiful built for the relief and security of pilgrims - the ancient Hospitium - where he was refreshed by the Virgins of the House nuns and allowed to sleep in a room called Peace.

As part of Stevington's Jubilee Celebrations, a Well Dressing depicting the scene of Christian at the Cross as portrayed by the stained glass window in Stevington's Baptist Chapel at West End, will be created by villagers and placed near the Holy Well. The puddling and petalling has been taught by Derbyshire specialists at Waingroves. For more information on the well dressing please see pdf file, reference 4 June open day, on [www.kathybrownsgarden.com](http://www.kathybrownsgarden.com).



The Progress - everyone is invited to join in - will assemble on Monday 4 June at 10.40am at the Cross. At 11am, the Stevington Tale of the Pilgrim's Progress will be enacted on location by a troupe of villagers with the Bunyan Hymn being sung to the accompaniment of a Krummhorn.

- At 11am the troupe will enact Scenes 1 and 2 at the Cross before making its way down Church Road to the accompaniment of the Krummhorn.
- David Renwick (writer of One Foot in the Grave and Jonathan Creek) will release 'the burden'.
- Scenes 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be enacted down Church Road and at the Holy Well using Bunyan's original text. At the Holy Well, it and the Well Dressing will be blessed and the 'Bunyan hymn' will be sung.
- The Progress will make its way up Church Road and Manor Farm drive following Christian in Scene 7 through the straight but narrow path between fierce village 'lions' to House Beautiful where the Virgins of the House will serve refreshments, including wines and soft drinks, for all deserving pilgrims!



The beautiful four acre garden of the Manor House will be open from 12-5pm with monies raised going to the Church Room Restoration Fund. Also open are St Mary the Virgin Church with its unique natural history display organised under the auspices of Stevington Historical Trust and Stevington Baptist Church with its special stained glass window.

Simon Brown

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## NEWS FROM MALAWI

Many thanks to Sally and Malcolm Macdonald for donating the proceeds of their very successful Jazz Night to the Chirimba orphanage in Malawi. As you know, most of the money we collect in Stevington goes to provide the fees for secondary schooling of the older children. However Pastor Machila has wanted to start up a special project for metal working or carpentry and we hope to help fund this with some of the money from the Jazz Night. We thank you for all your support.

Dita and Tony

Here is Pastor Machila's last letter of thanks:

*Dear Mr and Mrs Hollins*

*The donation is amounting to 350 pounds = MK 87,506.18*

	<u>MK</u>
<i>4 Children at MK18,500 each child</i>	<i>74,000</i>
<i>2 Blankets for new comers at MK4,000 each</i>	<i>8,000</i>
<i>Exercise books, pens and soap lotions</i>	<u><i>5,506</i></u>
	<i>87,506</i>

*As I said, we have received the money last Friday on 20 April, 2012 and paid everything for the children. Thanks from the children goes to you and all friends there in the UK. We have nothing to say at the moment. Our words is The Heart of giving always is blessed: (Proverbs 10 vs 22) (Mathews 13 vs 23-24). Today Monday 23 April 2012, is declared a Public Holiday this year here in Malawi because our Late President who died on 5 April, 2012 will be buried today.*

*Greetings to everybody in Stevington town.*

*All the best,*

*From Pastor Eric and Irene Machila*

### **STEVINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Sunday Mornings at 10:45am**

**Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm**

**BE ASSURED OF A FRIENDLY  
WELCOME**

**For further information contact  
Barbara Courtney on 01234 824354**

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**STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB  
ANNUAL GOLF SOCIETY DAY  
SATURDAY 30 JUNE, 7 OR 14 JULY 2012 TBC**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about our Annual Golf Society Day and Pig Roast..... it's definitely going ahead!

We are conscious that all players are busy at this time of year and for those players who are self employed it is not always possible in these challenging financial times to take an unpaid day off in the week to play golf.

Scheduling this year's event has necessitated protracted discussions with the following organisations;

- UEFA (2012 Euro's)
- IOC (2012 London Olympics)
- Department of Education (School Holidays)
- Darren Lawson (his wedding)
- Shane King (landmark birthday)
- Stevington Clay Pigeon Fanciers Association (just because they fancy themselves and insisted on being consulted)

However, it would appear that there are still a few spare Saturdays in the calendar 30 June, 7 July or 14 July to host this popular event.

Unfortunately at the time of going to press we have not been able to confirm the date or local golf club venue but these will be available shortly and posted on the Cross or in the Royal George. We expect costs to be similar to last year and those wishing to take part should put their names down on the list and give a £5 deposit.

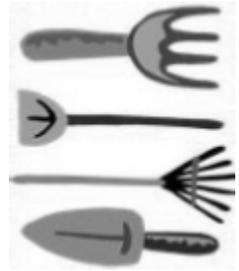
Please note that once again, proceeds from this event will be used to help maintain the playing field. Your support would be most appreciated and will benefit the village as a whole and NOT just the sports clubs.

I am sure you will all agree that it is absolutely essential that the village retains its sports clubs, and as such, thank you for your anticipated continued support at our fund raising events.

Shane King

## SUMMER GARDENING

My first article for the magazine was written when late snow and ice were covering the countryside. Now we are at the end of a record period of rain and every time I squelch round the garden I think how odd it is that we are officially suffering from drought. I wonder what extremes of weather we shall be experiencing by the time you read this. Hopefully it will be good weather for pottering around and doing the many smaller jobs that make up summer gardening.



### Late May and June

If you haven't already done so, plant your greenhouse tomatoes and harden off outdoor tomatoes, dahlias and bedding plants. Remember to bring them back in at night for the first few days, or cover them with fleece, particularly if a late frost is forecast.

It is not too late to sow pumpkin, squash, sweetcorn, cucumbers and courgettes. I usually start mine indoors and move them into the greenhouse when I prick them out.

This is the time of year I take softwood cuttings of edible herbs such as marjoram, sage, thyme and rosemary, and sub-shrubs such as Santolina, Artemisia, lavender and Teucrium. And now is the time for cuttings of Fuchsia and geraniums too. I tend to crowd 4 or 5 cuttings into a small pot and I don't use rooting powder because I always forget to buy it. You can buy special composts for cuttings or you can add around 15% sand and 15% vermiculite to 70% general purpose compost. These help to keep the mix open and stimulate rooting activity. If you dress the pot with grit this helps to avoid splashback from the compost and reduces the possibility of the cuttings going rotten. I don't have a propagator in the greenhouse but I do have a large plastic storage box with a lid. I cover the base of this in sand and keep it slightly damp. This sand warms up during the day and holds the heat a little overnight; it also provides sufficient moisture to keep the cuttings turgid. All cuttings, except the geraniums, go in here and get moved out to a greenhouse bench as soon as there is evidence of root formation. Geranium cuttings are best left uncovered on a windowsill or greenhouse shelf.

As soon as the risk of frost has passed you can put out tender plants like oleanders, Cannas and Agapanthus.

Other jobs include:

- Removing sideshoots from tomatoes and regularly feeding crops in the greenhouse
- Tying in climbers, particularly roses
- Cutting back the old leaves and stems of hellebores
- Cutting down spring bulb foliage
- Succession sowings
- Weeding, more weeding and yet more weeding!

## July and August

These are the months for you to enjoy the results of all your hard work so far this year. Vegetables, particularly salads are beginning to crop and the flower garden should be at its best. Your cuttings will have rooted and will be ready to pot on. Now the work is of a lighter nature.



Tasks include:

- Sowing fennel, kohlrabi and pak choi for autumn cropping
- Succession sowing of runner beans, spinach and salads
- Thinning of apples after the June drop to 2-3 fruits per group
- Dead heading to encourage further flowering
- Trimming topiary and hedges
- Checking for and dealing with pests like red spider mites, aphids and the bright red lily beetle
- Ditto diseases like rust, blackspot and mildew. There are many remedies, both organic and inorganic, on the market
- Taking cuttings of such things as dianthus, osteospermum and penstemon

Good luck with the garden, and I hope that the many cans of water, whether collected from butt or tap, which you probably will have to carry build your muscles up well!

Anthea Harper

## FROM SCHOOL CHILDREN TO SHEPHERDS LIVING LAMBING LIVE

This article is mainly for all the villagers and dog walkers who have shown interest in our sheep. For those of you who haven't seen our sheep yet, let us tell you about how it all started for us. We got our first sheep in July 2011 from our friend John. We have two Jacob sheep, Maggie and Bramble, and our little Jacob cross Dorset, called Gwen.

Let us tell you about our friendliest sheep Gwen. She is a very lovely ewe and she is very mischievous when she sticks her head in the feed bucket when we are trying to dish up their dinner. She is always bleating and sometimes we think we know what she is saying to us! Joanna always says 'Gwen is mine' but really they are all shared.

Bramble was originally called 'Two', because she was due to go to slaughter but then we thought why send a girl to slaughter when she could be used as a breeding ewe? So we politely asked our Dad if we could keep her and he said yes, with a bit of encouragement from our Mum! We were really happy. So that's the story of how 'Two' became Bramble.

Last but not least is Maggie. We named her Maggie because when we first got her she had maggots from fly strike. Maggie is a very skittish sheep and a bit silly and doesn't really like being handled.

There is a saying that goes, 'put the ram to the ewe on Bonfire Night and you will have your lambs by April Fools Day'. This year Maggie was due to lamb. We put the ram to her on 5 November 2011, so the lamb was expected on 1 April. As lambing time approached we had to keep a close eye on her and look for the first signs of lambing which is 'bagging up', this is when the bag that carries all the milk gets bigger and starts to fill up with milk so the ewe can feed her lambs. We noticed Maggie bagging up on Friday 6 April.



**Tuesday 10 April 6.15am**

We all went up the sheep field. Joanna ran ahead and looked over the stable door. Joanna called for us to hurry up and said that she could hear bleating, she then called out to Mum, 'there's one, no there's two'. We unlocked the stable

door and quietly went into the stable to check the lambs. We lifted them up to find one was a girl and one was a boy.

We think the lambs were born about 5.30am because when we arrived the boy lamb was still a bit wet. We had to help dry the boy because he was shivering a bit, so we got a towel and gave him a rub until he felt a bit warmer. But they both looked strong and healthy. They had already had a drink of milk from their mum. We had to do a quick health check. We felt their stomachs with the flat of our hand, to check for fullness of the belly to make sure that that they had been drinking, and we could feel milk in their bellies. We could tell they were strong lambs because they were standing well. We were very surprised to see that the lambs were born with little horns. Mum sprayed a purple antiseptic spray on their umbilical cord, to stop and help prevent infection. Mum pointed out to us the afterbirth and Dad cleared it away.

Tom was so excited he said he wanted to scream his head off, so Mum said 'go on then, but go outside'. He walked out of the stable and screamed whilst doing a silly little dance. Tom said he felt so happy and he had a little giggle. Tom said he needed to try to contain his emotions before coming back into the stable. We were happy that they were alive and doing well.

We thought of a name for the girl lamb, Floss, which is Joanna's nickname and we all agreed. Floss has a little marking on her lip that looks like a fish. We decided to name the boy lamb Fig, Tom's first nickname at school.

We could tell Maggie was a good mother because she kept feeding the lambs and their tails were wagging. She licked Floss and Fig clean. Maggie was bonding with them so she could get to know them and they could get to know her. Occasionally Floss came over to us and then went back to Maggie.

It was a good morning for Maggie to give birth, because it was the first morning all our family had all been up together to check on the sheep. We were so happy we wanted to share it with our friends, so the 'big text' started! The first visitors were our nanny, then our friends Kate and Lucy, then Tom Lennie and Sarah. Sarah said 'this is a great birthday gift' and thanked us for taking her to see the lambs.

### **Wednesday 11 April**

We let the lambs out into the field for the first time, each hop they took was more bouncy they were like a child on a trampoline, the lambs

were very playful and head butting each other it was so funny. When they walked it was as if they were on springs. The lambs were very curious and inquisitive because they had never been out before and everything was new to them. It seemed like the lambs were saying 'hey check this green stuff out, wow it's cold, but milk still tastes better'!

### **Thursday 12 April**

John came up to guide us through the process of docking the lamb's tails, John is our mentor and helps us with the sheep, because he has more experience than us. Docking is where you put a really tight band around the lamb's tail, this stops the blood circulation to the end of the tail which later drops off, docking has to be done within the first few days of the lambs being born. But why do we do it? Well we do it because it can help prevent fly strike, which is where the flies lay eggs on the sheep usually around the tail area, maggots then wriggle into the fleece and the sheep's skin and can make the sheep seriously ill and they can die.

### **Saturday 14 April**

The lambs are getting a lot stronger now as well as bulkier. We will start hand feeding them soon with creep feed which is similar to what their mum eats but much smaller. Floss and Fig are more confident now, Fig is very cheeky but no way near as cheeky as Floss. Floss even escaped from her little pen in the stable today, we thought she might try and suckle from Bramble again, but she didn't otherwise she would have got a little head butt.

We are stroking our lambs all over their bodies to get them use to being handled; it also helps us with other jobs that we need to do with them like dagging (clipping poo off their tails). This will also help them if we take them to a show, because the judges have to touch then all over. Our next goal is to halter train them, this helps us to manage them when they get older.



We hope you enjoyed our story.

Thomas Collins (age 10)  
and Joanna Collins (age 9)

*Photos by The Collins Family*

## MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The Mobile Library visits The Cross from 2.10 - 2.40pm on alternate Wednesdays and the dates for the next three months are:



May 30  
June 13, 27  
July 11, 25

A new timetable will be issued soon for the rest of 2012.

**Please** continue to support this service.

Residents wishing to visit any of the Borough Libraries can find further details of opening hours on our website. Go to [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) and follow the link to 'libraries'. There is so much going on, from Homework Club to Rhymetimes; IT tutorials to Knit and Natter groups, you'll be amazed at what you can find. Alternatively contact any of the branches directly to find out what events are planned.

Jess Taylor  
Kempston Library Manager

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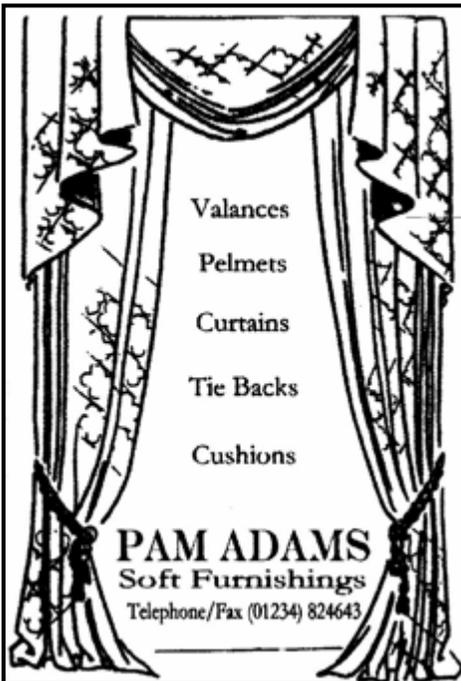
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## WI BOOK CLUB

The WI Book Club has been going a couple of years and we have yet to find a book we all enjoyed but I suppose that's the whole point – we all like different things. We take it in turns to choose the books and I have read books I would never have looked at if it hadn't been for the Book Club although some of them have not been comfortable reads. We get the books through Bromham Library so we are not always presented with a new book when we meet and sometimes we have two. We are indebted to Richard Galley's personal library for filling the gap when the cupboard is bare! We have read two books that have recently been made into films – The Help and The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel - giving some of us a good excuse for a trip to the cinema.

We meet up every month to discuss our latest read, drink tea and eat cake; the social part of the afternoon often lasts longer than the discussion on the book which is fine by us and every year we have a dinner which we all enjoy. The membership of our book club has changed over time as some of our number have left us for a variety of reasons – moved away, too much like homework, too busy to read the books – all very valid reasons, but we have also gained some new members so our numbers remain fairly constant. It is not too erudite and we enjoy our meetings, not only for the cake!

Barbara Davies

### **FRIENDS OF HARROLD MEDICAL PRACTICE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!!**

The volunteer car scheme run from Harrold Medical Practice needs more drivers.

The scheme provides transport for patients who have to travel to the surgery or to hospital and do not have access to transport of their own.

If you have some time to spare to help as a driver or would like more information please contact the surgery on 01234 720225.

Fuel expenses paid.

## STEVINGTON WI DARTS TEAM

For the first time in well over ten years Stevington made it to the Bedfordshire final. Our regular players are Barbara Davies, June Homer, Doreen Pendlington and myself. Vivienne Newell and Rosie Stanbridge play occasionally. We were really worried that we might show ourselves up so had three practice sessions at the Three Cranes in Turvey. We have never practised before and it definitely helped.

The final was held at Stewertby Club in March and we were very well supported from the village – thanks to everyone who came along to give us moral support – we needed it!

There were eight teams in the final which were split into two groups of four. Each team played three matches against the other teams in their group with the winner of each group of four going through to the grand final to decide the overall winner.

Our results were:

Ravensden 2	Stevington 1
Milton Bryan & Battlesden 0	Stevington 3
Studham 1	Stevington 2



As we played the last game against Studham we, and all our supporters, realised that if we won 3:0 we would win our group and that if we won 2:1 we would have the same number of points as Ravensden. The pressure was mounting! We only managed 2:1 so were in a single game play off with Ravensden to see who went through to the grand final. More pressure! Ravensden beat us and went on to beat Tempsford to become overall winners – so we were third overall.

We'd like to thank Barbara for continuing to be our captain and arranging all our matches and Keith for scoring at our home matches – and of course our regular supporters.

We've decided to practise regularly this year but aren't going to take it so seriously that it stops being fun. You never know we might make it to the final again next year – or maybe it was just a one off – we shall see!

Heather Parkinson

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION TURVEY & DISTRICT BRANCH

The Poppy Appeal Concert in Turvey Village Hall on 21 April was very successful raising £523 for the 2012 fund. The Milton Keynes based Heart and Music put on a most enjoyable and entertaining concert of traditional and popular songs and music from the shows, which was well received by a capacity audience. Thanks to all from Stevington who attended, giving a kick start to our local branch's annual appeal.



Our next fund raising event will be the annual concert by the Thrapston Town Band on Saturday 20 October at Turvey Village Hall. This very popular evening will start with a two course supper at 6.00pm.

Tickets should be ordered well in advance from Frank Goddard on 01234 881334 or through me on 01234 823769. Ticket price is £11.00 including supper.

Robert Hart  
Branch President



## The Bedford Guild House

Looking after older people in Bedfordshire.

## BUNYAN CAR RUN SUNDAY 1 JULY 2012

A new, circular route through picturesque Bedfordshire countryside, starting and finishing at Woburn Abbey.

To date the Bunyan Run has raised over £19,000 for the Bedford Guild House, a local, registered charity working to improve the lives of older people in Bedfordshire.

Registration/gates open: 10.00am      Start time: 11.00am

The cost is £20.00 per car (up to 2 occupants) which includes:

- Route book
- Commemorative rally plate
- Finishing plaque
- Coffee or tea and Bedfordshire 'Clanger'

For further information and the booking form visit [www.harveyingram.com/bunyanrun](http://www.harveyingram.com/bunyanrun) or telephone 01234 352038.

## STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB END OF SEASON CULTURAL TOUR TO MAGALUF

Following a successful football campaign, and to get over the disappointment of not reaching the Watson Shield Cup Final, a 13 strong touring party consisting of players and club officials ranging from 18 to 53 years of age visited the beautiful Spanish Island of Majorca from 3 to 6 May.

Originally the trip had been arranged so the club could observe Real Mallorca in training, learn some new routines and then watch them play a 'La Liga' game on Saturday 5 May against Levante UD..... only to find that the game had been rearranged at short notice due to some team called Real Madrid containing Cristiano Ronaldo winning the league a few days earlier. However, after a hastily arranged committee meeting it was agreed that the tour should proceed, mainly because it was the first time that some of the group had been abroad and they had bought passports especially for the trip.

After a quick review of other sporting events on the island it was decided that the party should go to watch an 'International Beach Rugby Sevens' tournament at the small, sleepy cultural resort town called Magaluf. As we were flying there talk quickly turned to rugby tactics and the possibility of the club winning its first international trophy.... albeit with the wrong shaped ball! On arrival at the sleepy resort we quickly realised that the International Beach Rugby tournament was a professional affair and after a brief discussion it was decided that it wouldn't be fair for a bunch of amateur footballers to enter and win it..... so we decided to withdraw our wildcard entry at the last moment.



With the entire party in agreement we decided to take in the local culture before entering the 'Magaluf Eisteddfod'. The party put in what little training they could before completing a full set at the local Karaoke bar with Mark 'Elvis' Jackson and Shane 'Tom Jones' King taking the lead being supported by 'the one degree' Clinton Tatham, 'Whispering Williams' (didn't need a microphone) and Stef, who kept us in time by singing the chorus at the top of his voice and encouraging the crowd to join in. We must have been quite good as we were allowed back on and were on first name terms by the time we left.

The touring party then suffered some early casualties with the two eldest touring members being helped back to the hotel (not carried back)

suffering from sun stroke (as the sun rose), tiredness, emotion and possibly a little too much alcohol.

Following a healthy Spanish breakfast the following day, which Aaron thought looked like his normal breakfast back home but with a smaller sausage, the entire party were back to full fitness. With an early training session on the beachfront completed, the party retired to a local hostelry where the Kangaroo court session was held with fines and forfeits issued. Aaron in particular seemed to enjoy the training session and remarked that the sun and warmth must be having the desired effect on him as he didn't feel as stiff as he normally did during sessions back home, but couldn't keep it up for the rest of the break. Not surprisingly he was fined for making such a stupid comment.....



The locals will never forget the panache shown by Gareth King as he rode the mechanical rodeo bull into submission - or being witness to the first outing of Rob's shorts and legs in over 40 years - oh how the crowd cheered them on, with some suffering 'snow blindness' from all the white skin on show!

The second night followed the same cultural path as the first but this time Ben, the youngest member of the tour, fell at the first hurdle with Dan assisting him home due to a mixture of milk based cocktails, fine Spanish cuisine and sun stroke. It was decided that in an attempt to prevent the local economy going into a double dip recession we should carry on regardless, this resulted in another tour member having to be given a hand and be tugged up the steps to get home.

On the third day we were greeted by yet another day of sunshine, and, after hearing of the weather back home, it felt as if we were in Heaven. Some of the touring party were showing signs of premature ageing, taking to their beds in the afternoon and early evening, the thought of a burger and lager breakfast on the beach was too much and turned them green. It's alleged that Jacko just retired for some light reading and to tuck Litchy in bed for the night. When asked if this was correct all Litchy could reply was 'yeah boy' - for one minute we thought Dave had come down from Heaven and joined us!

Not to be beaten, the tour stalwarts soldiered on, throwing themselves into the last day with as much gusto as they could muster. Others not wanting to miss out on the money they had put in the 'Kitty' all of a sudden preferred freshly squeezed orange juice or sparkling water rather than a beer or miss out on getting their money's worth. No

names mentioned.... but Daz your 27 Euro Cents are behind the bar with Rob at the George.

We then found the best seats in Alex's Bar, with views of the sea and podium dancers to watch the FA Cup Final. The general conclusion being that it was not the best Cup Final we'd seen, but some of the views we had from our seats were wonderful.... and most of us didn't care who won anyway!

Once the SAGA rep had counted in all the older ones and given them their emergency call bells, the younger ones, Woodsy, Ben and Dan were just looking to really start partying and to engage in conversation with anyone that would listen - thankfully talk is cheap in the Eurozone these days.

All in all we had a great time with the consensus that there is only so much culture you can cram into a holiday and we probably should have had one less night away than we did.....

The tour party would like to thank Jane King, the tour organiser, for her patience in booking the flights and hotel and providing the touring party with a comprehensive list of cultural venues, nightclubs and bars to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who went for joining in the fun and making it so enjoyable and after all the hard work David Beckham has done over the pond we hear Las Vegas is now big on the football tour calendar!

Gareth King

## THE FOREST OF MARSTON VALE - WHAT'S ON

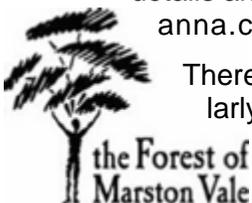
### **Sunday Strolls** (3 June, 1 July, 5 August)

A gentle Sunday walk. Meet at reception at 10.30am. Walk lasts approx. 2 hours. Cost £1 no need to book. Call 01234 767037 for details.

### **Conservation Tasks** (17 June, 21 July, 19 August)

A variety of practical projects. Meet at the Forest Centre at 10.15am. Wear old clothes and bring lunch if you are going to stay all day. For details and to confirm attendance contact

[anna.charles@marstonvale.org](mailto:anna.charles@marstonvale.org) or call 01234 762614.



There are lots of other exciting events planned - particularly for children in the school holidays. For information on other events visit

[www.marstonvale.org/events.html](http://www.marstonvale.org/events.html).

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## STEVINGTON'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS DIARY



### From 25 May

Put up bunting and decorating the village

### Wednesday 30 May, Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June

All Day Well Dressing preparations in the Old Vicarage garage.  
Please see Kathy Brown's article in the magazine and telephone her (822064) to arrange your slot.

### Saturday 2 June

10.00am Install Well Dressing

All Day Competitions (see competition details in the magazine)

- Decorating the Cross in sections
- Decorating the 8 water pumps around the village
- Patriotic decoration of houses

6.00pm Deadline for submission of art competition entries.

### Sunday 3 June

9.30am Church service to bless the Well Dressing at the Holy Well

All Day Baptist Church open to see the original stained-glass window of the Well Dressing design.

2 - 5.00pm Stevington Natural History Exhibition in St. Mary's Church

### Monday 4 June

10.00am Stevington Natural History Exhibition in St. Mary's Church  
- 4.00pm

All Day Baptist Church open to see the original stained-glass window of the Well Dressing design. Teas will be served.

11.00am The Pilgrim's Progress - A Stevington Tale  
From the Cross via the Holy Well to Kathy Brown's Garden.

12.00 Kathy Brown's Garden open in aid of the Friends of St. Mary's  
- 5.00pm Church. **Free Entry** to Stevington residents with this magazine page or the Jubilee leaflet. Tea, coffee and cakes for sale in Church Room, wine bar in the Garden.

5.30pm Village picnic at the Social Centre and Playing Field with games,  
onwards BBQ and bar.

7.30pm Prize giving (art and decoration).  
onwards Live music including Kerry Hodgkin

9.30 Lighting the beacon and bonfire  
-10.00pm



### Tuesday 5 June

10.00am Stevington Natural History Exhibition in  
- 4.00pm St. Mary's Church



**STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

This year has been a year of changes to the Parish Council. In May 2011 there were to be elections, Doreen Pendlington, Brian Westbrook and Rob Puckett all stepped down as Parish Councillors and Sarah Bush, Alison Campion, Tim Stanbridge and myself, stood again joined by Paul O'Flynn. In the event no election was held, as only 5 people had been nominated we were all appointed as Parish Councillors. Stevington PC usually has 7 councillors, so we sought new nominations for the last two seats, after due process Jane Thomas joined us and Rob Puckett rejoined to fill the breach.

The other change to the make-up of the PC meetings came about as Stevington was no longer in the same ward as Carlton and Jim Brandon our Borough Councillor for over 30 years was retiring from local politics. Instead we became part of Oakley Ward and in the May elections Pat Olney was re-elected as Borough Councillor for Oakley, Pavenham and Stevington. She attends all our meetings and has made a very valuable contribution to many of our discussions.

I am sure my fellow councillors would join me in thanking Doreen Pendlington, Brian Westbrook and Jim Brandon for all their hard work and the support they have given to Stevington for many years.

**Planning** The last year has been dominated by the endless planning applications and proposed changes to planning law and policies that we have been sent for consideration (19 applications, 5 planning consultations). This is more than twice the previous average. In particular the on-going issues for a Traveller Site in rural Silver Street and planned development of the Red Lion have taken much time and energy. Both of these will be determined later in 2012.

Thank you to the vast number of our residents who continue to support our efforts in opposing these two cases and who have written numerous letters to the planners, the Mayor and our MP. You have contributed significantly to the pressure on these officials. Every letter does make a difference. Thank you to those villagers who have joined various planning action groups, which give the village a tremendous boost with your knowledge, determina-

tion and experience. We couldn't do our work without this tireless support. Let us hope that there is good news later in the spring.

**Council Meetings** The council has met 6 times this year for routine meetings, and additionally over 20 times to discuss planning issues.

**External Meetings** Members of the PC have attended and hosted meetings around the county about Gypsies and Travellers, Highways, Borough wide Parish Council Forums, invitations by the Mayor, Borough Council Planning Committee Meetings and Executive Meetings, CPRE Planning System Seminar, Rural Traffic Problems, Town and Parish Council Conferences, New Councillor Training and Updates for existing Councillors.

**Grants Received** Councillor Olney has won a grant of £1,800 from Bedford Borough Council for the village and this is a major contribution to finish the Social Centre Car Park. The Social Centre raised an amazing £7,375 towards the costs so that it could all be done earlier this month.

**Finance** It was with some anguish that we decided to raise the Precept for this year. This has given us a small fund to pay for professional advice and briefings on planning matters, in particular on the Dane Hill Traveller application. The headline figures for 2011-12 are:

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	£10,500
<b>Main Expenditure</b>	
Clerk's Salary	£2,983
Insurance (including Social Centre and play area)	£2,219
Grass cutting of the Grave Yard	£1,120
Planning Expenses	£2,071

The Parish Council holds 2 funds on behalf of the village:-

The Stevington Relief Fund	£2,193
The Stevington Youth Club	£394

### **Other Matters**

Buses to and from Stevington are appalling. We have badgered the Borough, the Mayor and Grant Palmer, who now run the service, about the serious reduction in the provision for the village. We will continue to do so,

but there seems to be little give on the part of the provider. We would encourage anyone who has problems to let us know, to help provide specific evidence which might help to bring further pressure on the transport system. The Borough Council clearly sees this issue as low priority. We need to keep reminding them it is important.

This village seems to have a remarkable community spirit and determination. There are many good things happening all over the village, but I would like to thank the Social Centre Committee and the 100 Club team for their continued raising of funds through numerous events that are a very important part of village life. I would also like to thank the Community Shop team for providing such a worthwhile addition to community facilities of the village. There are numerous other clubs, societies, charities and organisations, and I would like to say thank you to all those committed residents who contribute to the very fabric of the village, it would not be such a vibrant place if they were not so active.

This year has also seen the retirement of Pat and Ian Pickup from their 25 years of providing the village with a very successful village magazine. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment and best wishes for your next ventures. In villages like ours it is a vital life line to many residents to catch up on what has been happening, or know what is going to happen, and for some to have a chance to write something for the magazine. We would also like to welcome Heather and Keith Parkinson to the role and wish them Good Luck.

I am sure we are all looking forward to the planned events for Stevington to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June.

In conclusion, thank you to my fellow councillors and our clerk, for all your hard work and commitment over the last year.

**Helen Prentice**  
**Chairman**  
**March 2012**

**PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT NUMBERS**

**May 2012**

**Councillors:**

Helen Prentice 822074	Chairman / Social Centre/Youth Ashford Lodge, Court Lane, MK43 7QT
Sarah Bush 824007	Highways Twin Cottages, Church Road, MK43 7QB
Alison Campion 826352	Trees 56 Park Road, MK43 7QG
Paul O'Flynn 823306	46 Park Road, MK43 7QG
Tim Stanbridge 824044	Vice Chair/Footpaths Duck End Farm, MK43 7QW
Jane Thomas 825960	Social Centre/Villager Minibus Walnut Tree Cottage, West End, MK43 7QU

**NB:** as at the date of writing, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council, to be filled by co-option in due course

**Clerk:**

Graham Follett 826119	PARISH CLERK Mayfield, Park Road, MK43 7QG
Mary Murzyn tba	PLANNING ASSISTANT West End Farm, MK43 7QU