

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



*Stevington Cross
Diamond Jubilee Week-end*

REW July 2012

**SEPTEMBER 2012
Number 162**

VILLAGE DIARY

September

- 4 Over 50's Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall
- 5 Red Lion Appeal Hearing (see back cover)
- 8 Beds & Herts Historic Churches Bike 'n Hike. (page 11)
- 13 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 13 WI Harvest Supper. Church Room 7.30pm
- 14 Manse Preschool Nursery Open Afternoon (page 28)
- 16 Manor House Open Garden (Community Shop). 12.00 to 5.00pm
- 17 Super Soup Lunch in the Church Room
- 17 Village Choir First Rehearsal for Harvest. Church Room 7.00pm
- 27 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 29 Hawks and Breakfast at the Baptist Church

October

- 7 Harvest Service. St Mary's 5.00pm
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- 11 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am
- 11 WI Stranded in Gambo. Church Room 7.30pm
- 12 Stevington Guitar Concert. Social Centre 7.30pm (page 34)
- 13 Stevington Guitar Concert. Social Centre 7.30pm SOLD OUT
- 20 Royal British Legion Thrapston Town Band. Turvey 6.00pm (page 35)
- 25 Health Walk. Harrold Odell Country Park. 10.30am

November

- 3 Save the Children Coffee Morning. 9 Court Lane 10.00am (page 28)
- 8 WI History of Pantomime Church Room 7.30pm
- 9 Chariots of Fire Theatre Trip
- 18 Magazine Copy Date and Christmas Greetings Deadline (Sunday)
- 20 Over 50's Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall TBC

December

- 13 WI Members Evening Church Room 7.30pm
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- 18 Village Christmas Concert. Social Centre at 7.30pm
- 21 Carol singing round the Cross

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!

Firstly we would like to send our condolences and best wishes to Pat Pickup and her family following the sad death of Ian in July. He really did a great deal of hard work over many years behind the scenes as part of the editorial team to make this magazine what it is today.

On a happier note we are reflecting on the Jubilee Weekend – we know that everyone who got involved had a great time! To commemorate the occasion, and in particular all the events in the village, this magazine includes a four page Jubilee Weekend full colour supplement. Thanks to the Parish Council for funding the small additional cost. We haven't acknowledged each photograph separately but thanks to everyone who sent in their pictures – Heather & Robert Eadie, Sara Hetherington, Heather & Keith Parkinson, Helen Prentice and Ellie & David Renwick. Just look at all the smiling faces!

As this is the September issue the centre page pull out is the updated Village Directory. Please put this by your phone and keep it when you put the magazine in the orange recycling bin.

It's also time to include a tear-out form for your Christmas Greetings which will appear in the December issue. The number of greetings has increased each year since it started in 1995 so this year we intend to have a pull out on coloured paper so you can put it on your mantelpiece with all your other Christmas cards. This year's charity is Sue Ryder with the donation being made specifically to St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger.

Heather and Keith

**NEXT MAGAZINE**

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 1-2 December. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 18 November 2012. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, e-mail 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

Pat, Liz and Lynn would like to thank everyone in the village for their amazing kindness, the many cards, phone calls and help over the past seven months and since Ian's death. Thank you, also, to those who attended Ian's funeral and for the generous donations to St. John's Hospice, he would have been overwhelmed by the number of people there.

He never sought the limelight and always underestimated the value of his contribution to anything, including the Stevington Magazine. I could not have carried on as editor for so long without his help and support. We will miss him.

Pat Pickup

A PERFECT DAY

We would like to express our appreciation for all who were involved with Lucy and Richard's wedding at St. Mary's Church and the small reception at the Social Centre on 2 June. It was the perfect village wedding they had hoped for and the kindness and generosity of so many made it an even more memorable special day for them to remember.

Particular thanks go to Canon Mackenzie for the very poignant, personal and welcoming ceremony, the church wardens for being so considerate, Philip for the wonderful music, Tricia, Heather and Fiona for their help with flower arranging in the church (which looked stunning), Richard, Robert, Magnus and Roger for 'manning the oars', Jake, Toby and the stalwart Jean for their invaluable help in clearing away.

What a delightful village community for our daughter and new son-in-law to have joined.

Em and Michael Meakin

FYNNIUS FOGG

Once again the Fynnius Fogg night was a success even though numbers were down. It was just unfortunate that so many of our regulars were unavailable that night due to holidays and the like.

Many thanks to Mary and Jackie for their help on the night and to all those who turned up on the Sunday morning to help clear the hall – Jackie G, John D, Jim, Peter and Dave W – I hope I haven't missed anyone. Thank you all.

Barbara Collins

HELLO TO OUR OLD NEIGHBOURS!

Just wanted to let everyone know we're having a wonderful time in Bulgaria. We've coped easily with the hardest winter they've had for 50 years and been having another heat wave this year and are both very tanned. My huge garden is very thirsty but we're not missing the UK weather, especially as I have water melons growing! As well as lots of vegetables and lots of established fruit trees we have chickens, bees and rabbits to aid our self-sufficiency. The only things we can't get are tea, marmite, real ale and a local pub but we've built our own bar in the garden and brew rakia instead! The guest house is doing very well and we've had one couple visit again already. Warmest regards.

Melly and Lee
www.melanya.com

PETTY VANDALISM CAUSES SERIOUS DAMAGE

During the night of 20/21 August someone thought it would be fun to remove the cast iron lid of the old 'lion' water pump in Park Road and threw it into the field of standing wheat. A minor nuisance.

On the very next day the farmer was harvesting, and combine harvesters are not designed to 'eat' cast iron objects, and the combine came off worst!

I hope those responsible (a group was heard walking past very late that night, after midnight) are pleased with the results of their irresponsible and thoughtless action.

Robert Eadie

STEVINGTON ALTAR KNEELER - HELP PLEASE!

I'm looking for helpers to do the Stevington Altar Kneeler again. The end of the kneeler has rotted and needs replacing but the canvas needs sewing in so that it covers some of the front and sides as well. I think that's how to approach it but I don't really know.... So if anyone thinks that they might know how to do it or can help in any way I would be really grateful. I do need help as my hands don't work properly now and I can't sew.

Please phone on 01933 313994 or leave a message with my Mum, Alma Mayes.

Deb Mayes

MY FATHER LORD HENRY CHILVER

While this summer has had some very exciting moments it has been a very sad time for me and my family. On 8 July, after a short illness, my father Henry Chilver died, in Cornwall. Probably, in October, there will be a Memorial to Celebrate his Life, to be held at Cranfield University. There will be local announcements when it is finalised.

Many people in Stevington knew my father, thank you for your cards and tributes. It is a great comfort to receive your thoughts and especially thank you to those who came to his funeral in Cornwall. A very heart felt thank you also from my mother Claudia for your kind thoughts and letters, they are much appreciated.

I am sorry that consequently I have not been around for much of this summer. I would like to thank those who have been juggling the various Parish Council bits and pieces for the last few months in my absence.

Helen Prentice

TEAS IN AID OF SUE RYDER CARE, MOGGERHANGER

Many thanks to all of the very generous people who made cakes, gave up their time or very kindly donated monies to Sue Ryder, Moggerhanger. The teas in conjunction with Kathy Brown's open gardens raised a magnificent £550. The day of 22 July greeted us with endless sunshine which was 'heaven sent' after days of rain – we were truly blessed all round!

Claire Stapleton

COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE

In recent years, there has been a Bulky Waste Collection on the second Sunday in October. However, we are advised that, due to the economic situation, this will not be happening this year. The next one scheduled is for June next year.

Stevington Parish Council

PHOENIX TRADING BROCHURE

It is with regret that I am unable to continue with the Phoenix Trading Brochure. I would like to thank all the ladies past and present for your custom over the last four years.

Carol Jackson



ANNUAL GOLF SOCIETY DAY

Stevington Football Club would like to thank all the players that took part in its Annual Golf Society Day on Saturday 30 June and everyone that attended the BBQ in the evening.

The Golf Day was extremely well supported with over 30 'golfers' taking part. We were pleased to welcome a number of new faces to the event which was won by Laurence Bentham with a score of 46, longest drive by Ali Mac and nearest the pin by Johnny Pepper.

We would like to thank Geoff Swain and his Bedford Golf Club team at the Great Denham Course for their hospitality and give special thanks to Gareth King for arranging the event on the day and delivering drinks throughout.

Thank you for your support for this event.

Stevington FC



STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST

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www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk

We had over 400 visitors to our Natural History exhibition held in St Mary's at the Jubilee weekend. The idea of the exhibition was to provide a foretaste of the Natural History Book which will be published next year. We have received a number of orders for the book on the strength of the exhibition and if anyone else wishes to place an order at this stage I shall be glad to hear from them. Meanwhile we are grateful to the PCC for allowing us to take over the Church for three days. It was, of course, much admired by visitors to the Village who were also entertained by two impromptu organ recitals.

We will announce the Friends' winter programme in early October.

Peter Hart (823586)

IAN PICKUP
25 DECEMBER 1943 - 16 JULY 2012

Ian was born in Bury, Lancashire on 25 December 1943. He was an only child and his parents ran a grocery shop in Edenfield, where Ian developed his dislike of cheese.

Ian attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Blackburn and subsequently got a degree in physics from Newcastle University. In 1966 he moved to Birmingham University where he did postgraduate research in geophysics which netted him a Masters degree.

This is where Pat and Ian met. In 1969 they married at St. Bartholomew's Church in Northfield, two days before Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon. Two years later he took a job with GSI in Croydon. They bought a house in Merstham, Surrey where Liz and Lynn were born. The house had the main London to Brighton railway line running at the bottom of the garden, which they soon got used to, but which their visitors did not!

In 1985 his job brought him to Bedford and they came to live in Stevington where they made many friends. It was a very happy place for the family, the girls completed their schooling and both went to University.

Pat and Ian produced the village magazine from 1987, at first on a portable typewriter and later progressing to a computer. Every 3 months the magazine came out, they even came back from their travels to meet the deadline and only handed the job over just before Ian became ill. Without his help and support the Stevington Magazine would not have become the publication which was handed over to Heather and Keith in December of last year.

In December 2000 they took early retirement, bought a narrow boat and spent many happy summers navigating the canals from London and Bath in the south to Skipton in the north, Llangollen in the west to Lincoln in the east. Ian was meticulous keeping the captains log, planning the journeys and maintaining the boat. They shared all the tasks involved in cruising the canals, steering the boat to operating the locks.

Since they sold the boat Ian took up playing his electronic organ again. They loved to go ballroom dancing, and were extremely busy with their interests and looking after the grandchildren.

He was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather; proud of his family and always ready to help his girls when needed.

Pat Pickup

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.

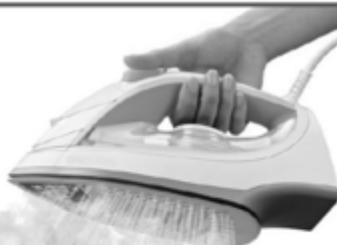
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BILL WILLS-MOREN'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY PARTY

I would like to thank everyone who came to my Birthday Party held in the Hall on 11 August. I thought it was a great do, very much like the events we had when we were all younger and had more energy.

Some special thanks go to:

- Toby and Sophie for helping with the bouncy castle - that was a great success.
- The team of ladies who contributed food - Sue, Jean, Samantha, Sandra, Jemma, Cherry, Anna, Chrissy, Tracy, Jean Senior, Mary and any others I may have forgotten.
- Rob - and his helpers Michael, Tom and Rosie - for setting up and running the bar.
- Richard for his sterling work in cooking the pig and BBQ. It was really delicious.
- Barbara who does so much (mainly behind the scenes) to make these events go so well.
- Steve for looking after the canned music - great job Steve.

The stars of the evening were the Snarling Beasties - Steve, Ray, Chris and Rob - Stevington's answer to the Rolling Stones. I would particularly like to thank Rob and Ged for making the trip from Tideswell in Derbyshire, their new abode.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my family - Julie and Mark, Sue and Ade, Jemma and Carl, Tom, James and Billy. Some of the older residents of Stevington will remember that my late wife, Joan, was diagnosed with Alzheimers in 2001 and she got progressively worse until she went into a care home. I don't think I could have managed without the help of my family.

Instead of presents, we asked for donations to Alzheimer's and had a great response when Mary went round with the bucket. Many thanks to all who gave. The total raised was a tremendous £526.16p.

On a lighter note - it happened to be my grandson Billy's birthday on the day of the Party so we had a special cake for him and gave him a round of applause when he blew the candles out.

Also I was so proud to see Izzie and Gracie, my great grand daughters, presenting the flowers to the ladies. It was good to see Tom and his girlfriend Dani there, she looked lovely.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mary very much for all that she has done for me over the last few years. We did wonder if we should get married but we both said we couldn't live together, however we did compromise a couple of years ago when I bought her an engagement ring. We said we would get married in 25 years - that was two or three years ago - not long to go now.

Bill Wills-Moren



CYCLISTS & WALKERS! NEXT SATURDAY!

By the time you see this there will only be a week to go before the annual Bike 'n Hike on SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER. (10.00am to 6.00pm)

Please contact me on 823769 for sponsorship forms, list of churches in this area, etc.

St Mary's will get half of the total you raise!

Bob Hart



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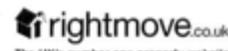
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COMMUNITY SHOP

As we are now entering our 19th year of running the community shop, we thought this would be a good time to speak a little about our history.

A small committee set the shop up in 1994 as the village was then without a shop. The PCC allowed us to use one of their rooms at the back of the Church Room to store our stock. The Parish Council gave us a loan of £300 to buy stock. Various members of the village helped with carpentry, metal work, electricity etc. to help us get started. After having a village meeting outlining how the shop would be run, we had our vicar from St. Mary's open the shop officially.

Since our humble beginnings the shop has gone from strength to strength. It has always been meant as a village meeting point for any folk around during the day and on Saturdays. Notice boards provide village notices, articles for sale, business cards to name a few. Regarding what we sell, we have increased our range of stock considerably over the years. Our purchases are made each Monday from Cash and Carry and Sainsbury's by two of our committee members who do all the shopping in one car. We have reached a good buy and sell balance over time, and with one journey and one car, once a week, this is sometimes a challenge and we have to be very discerning about what we buy.

The list below will give you some idea of our stock range:

Canned foods	Children's sweets
Household goods	Hardware
Dishwasher & washing powders	Pet food
Stationery	Soft drinks
Baking products	Sugars
Toiletries	Confectionary
Cereals	Cakes and biscuits
Seasonal goods	Pastas, rice etc.
Part baked bread	Fair Trade goods
Paper goods	Health products
Ice-creams (summer)	

If you have not yet visited the shop, do come along we are open from 10.00am to 12 noon Monday to Saturday and 3.00pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

We have over 40 volunteers, many of whom have been with us from the start. We have been very lucky indeed to have such wonderful

support - long may it continue. Please contact one of the committee if you can spare two hours a month to help in the shop. As well as meeting new people and being involved in the village, you will be invited to a cheese and wine party every year to thank our volunteers. It's a real village event, loved by everyone.

Thank you to those of you who have moved on to other ventures and we welcome our new volunteers. We hope you enjoy working in the shop.

The Church Room has now had its stage removed. This has given the room a lot more floor space. A set of cupboards will go against the wall instead which will enable the shop to store all the products that used to be on tables thereby tidying up the whole look. The floor is to be polished and another kitchen installed. New curtains are also on order. All very exciting.

On a less positive note, unfortunately we have lost our health visitor, who used to monitor people's blood pressure and answer general health questions. Due to re-structuring by the South Essex Partnership (which we are part of) they are unable to continue this facility. We would like to thank all those involved in the past for a valuable contribution to the shop facilities.

On 16 September we shall be holding a fund raising event. We are providing tea and cake for Kathy Brown's open gardens and the proceeds from the teas will be going to the shop. If there are any cake makers out there who would like to contribute a cake, please let one of the committee know. We are very grateful for the offers of cakes that we have already received - thank you.

The committee
Jackie Ward, Sarah Bush, Doreen Pendlington, June Homer

**STEVINGTON BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**Sunday Mornings at 10:45am
Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm**

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STEVINGTON MAGAZINE - THE LAST 25 YEARS

We moved to Stevington in December 1985 and found a copy of the latest Stevington Magazine, dated November 1985, waiting for us. This turned out to be the last one edited by Ray Woods and no more appeared for a year. At the end of 1986, the Parish Council sent out a newsletter asking for volunteers to take on the Magazine. Feeling that we were sufficiently settled in (even though we still lived in 'Kay and Dominic's house') I thought it was something I could do. It turned out that Frankie George (who then lived in Court Lane) had the same idea, so for the next year we shared the editorship.

Our first issue (No. 61), dated March 1987, and was 12 pages, plus the cover with a Bernard West sketch of St. Mary's Church on the front and an advert for Stimpsons Eves on the back. This issue included a report from the Parish Council, a short paragraph about the village news section in the Beds Times, details of our new community policeman - who would be promoting a Home Watch Scheme - and a piece entitled 'The Gas Man Cometh'. There were also reports from the W.I., Social Centre, Royal British Legion, Baptist Meeting, Stevington Playgroup, Mother & Toddler Group, Lincroft Middle School Association, First Stevington Guides, Friends of St. Mary's Theatre Outings, Bedford Sailing Club, Inter Village Sports, and a plea for volunteers to join a choir for Easter. The Social Centre was planning the Village Fete, Families Ramble, Promises Auction, Table/Car Boot Sale and a Disco for 4 to 14 year olds. We also had a poem and a recipe for 'Schools Chocolate Toothpaste'! A good number of these contributions still sound familiar, but unfortunately the reports from groups for our young people are now missing!

At this time, as now, the Editor(s) and distributors were, of course, all volunteers. Production of the Magazine was, to say the least, a little eccentric. The copy was input using an Acorn Electron Computer, to which was attached an electric typewriter. Albert Markham took the final copy to Stimpsons Eves whose in-house printer produced the required number of copies. The cost of the paper was covered by the generosity of Barbara Davies who donated the small sum of money she was paid as the Beds. Times village correspondent. The magazines were collated and folded by the editors. In that first year we produced three issues.

Our second edition (No 62, July 1987) Jackie Gooding joined the team supplying her now familiar sketches. These were photocopied in various sizes and the appropriate sized sketch was pasted onto the

master copy. I was surprised, when I looked back, to find that it was also in this issue that we started our Village Directory - although we called it the 'Colour Supplement'. Following suggestions from villagers we launched a competition to find a new cover for the magazine. Unfortunately, there was only one entrant - Ian Jones of 34 Park Road - so he got the prize of a £10 book token, and we used his design until March 1991.

By issue 63, dated November 1987, we had lost our 'free printing' and the Parish Council paid for the production of this magazine. So now we had to find a way of making the Magazine self financing. In the Editorial we asked for anyone who could offer free printing, or for businesses willing to pay to advertise. We considered charging for each copy of the magazine as a way of paying our way, but decided that this would be a more difficult and time consuming way of raising funds. As it turned out we very quickly found sufficient advertisers to cover our costs. From this issue until 1994 we used Village Print at Stagsden.

March 1988 carried our first advertisements - Michael & Anne Carn at the Post Office & General Store, Cowley Di Giorgio Solicitors, Oakley Garage, The Royal George, Enterprise Motors (Colin George's garage in Dean Street, Bedford), Cecil Freeman Butcher, The Red Lion, Inskip Architects & Surveyors, K. Watson Ltd Coal Merchant and someone at 34 Court Lane who sold carpets.

Some of Stevington's older residents will remember contributions from 'The Cynic'. Issue number 64 was the first time I included one of his thought provoking and amusing articles, although I believe he had been a regular contributor prior to this. I first became aware of him at one of the Promises Auctions organised by the Social Centre. Although we had been in the village for a year or more, there were still a lot of people I didn't know. During the interval of this auction, a gentleman came over to me and asked if I would go outside with him for a moment. I was slightly concerned by this invitation, but decided on balance that it would be all right! So out I went! He introduced himself and explained that I would occasionally receive articles through my letter box for



Drawing - Ian Jones

inclusion in the Magazine. They would be signed 'The Cynic' which was his usual pseudonym - he wished to remain anonymous (although I am sure many people knew who he was). Over the years I really looked forward to receiving his contributions, as I hope many readers did too.

June 1988 was when Frankie George had to give up her work on the Magazine to concentrate on her day job, so from here on I soldiered on alone - except for my 'ghost-writer/proof reader' who said he wished to remain anonymous! (And right up to issue 159 tried to remain so!).

December 1988 was the first issue to be 'stitched' (or stapled to you and me). Mr. Roy Keech who lived in Silver Street kindly volunteered his services and continued until 1994. Also in this issue we have a report from Eddie Dawson, Stevington's first Home Watch Co-ordinator.



Drawing - Jackie Gooding

Things pottered on largely unchanged until March 1991 (no. 70) when we had our first coloured cover. In this issue we also initiated our second 'Cover Competition', with a prize of £10 for the winner. We had ten entries and, with the help of three anonymous villagers (who did not know the identities of the entrants), we ended up with an adult winner - Jackie Gooding - and joint under-16 winners - Jessica Fraser and Harriet Cole. We used their drawings alternately on the covers until 1997.

In March 1994 we again changed printer. As I was working at Sharnbrook Upper School, it was much more convenient to have the magazine printed there. The quality of print was also better.

1997 saw our next change of cover, when we used a sketch of the windmill by Bernard West. Again in 1998 we changed to 'village landmarks' and Anne Stileman joined Jackie Gooding in producing sketches for the inside of the magazine.



Drawing - Bernard West

In the late 1990s the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity ran various village award schemes in conjunction with various partners from industry. In 1997 the categories were: Recreation Associations, Village Halls, Town and Parish Councils, Community Groups and Village Newsletters. This was the year when the Stevington Magazine won first prize for 'Widest Community Involvement'. As winner the magazine received a cheque for £100, a certificate and The George Wood Shield - to be held for one year. The following year the theme for village newsletters was 'Is your Newsletter the Best?'. This time we came joint runner up with Shefford Newsline and Village Link of Wrestlingworth. The winner was Gravenhurst Grapevine.

To celebrate issue number 100 and 10 years of my editorship, a 48 page 'Stevington Magazine Special Edition' appeared in April of 1998. This was partly funded by a grant from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. It contained articles and poems suggested and specially written by members of the village, and sketches provided by a number of village artists and some which had appeared in The Bedfordshire Magazine.

From March 1999 to December 2002 our cover sketches were supplied by John Goddard who, very efficiently, produced four different sketches of Stevington houses each year, so that we had a different cover each issue. We were very sorry when John died suddenly in June 2002. Also in 2002 Betty Bird retired from her post in charge of magazine distribution. She and Peggy Chadburn had been responsible for co-ordinating distribution since the magazine began in 1972. After a short time Anna Hart took this over.

In 2003 Anne Stileman moved from producing artwork for inside the magazine to supplying cover sketches (which she did for two years), and Margaret Pryn joined the team to help Jackie with the inside sketches. In 2006 Jackie Gooding supplied her own variety of cover artwork before Mike Robinson took over - returning to the theme of village buildings - from 2007 to 2009. It was then that Bob Westwood took on this challenging task.

**Special Edition
April 1998**



MAGAZINE

Drawing - Bernard West

March 2008 (No 144) saw another change of printer and new layout.

For the final two years of my Editorship (2010 - 2011) the artists



Photo - P & I Pickup

were given a much needed rest when I began including some of our many canal photographs in the magazine.

Over the years, although we have tried to 'break even' financially, this

very rarely happened. We had a fairly 'thin' time in 1999 when various individuals and clubs in the village saved the day by 'Adopting a Page'. By the end of the millennium things were back on an even keel. In fact, the magazine has generally made a modest profit which, over the years, made it possible for us to make donations to the Social Centre, St. Mary's Church, Baptist Chapel and finally the Football Club when they had to purchase a new gang mower.

We began our charity donations for Christmas greetings in 1995. They started off slowly with only five greetings appearing, but they gradually grew in number until last December (2011) when we had 31 greetings. The amount collected has, of course, also increased starting with £46.50 and rising to £523 (plus gift aid) in December 2011. We have made donations to Multiple Sclerosis Society, British Heart Foundation, North Beds Macmillan Day Care Hospice, National Society for Epilepsy, Robertson Care of the Elderly Ward Bedford Hospital, Asthma Research, Children's Society, Oakley Rural Day Care Centre, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, Alzheimer's Society, Chirimba Orphanage, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Parkinson's Disease Society, Prostate Cancer Research Foundation, Help for Heroes, and finally, Elisabeth Curtis Centre Bromham.

I really enjoyed my time as editor of the Stevington Magazine and shall miss getting all the news, views and articles to be put together to make one unique publication. The Stevington Magazine is unique - I have seen many village newsletters over the years and have never found another with such a diverse and interesting content - and that is all down to you, the contributors. Thank you all for your support over the years.

Pat Pickup(April 2012)

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www.themansenursery.co.uk
sue@themansenursery.co.uk

The Friends of
ST MARY'S STEVINGTON

By the time you read this I hope we will have begun 'Project Church Room Phase 2', the sprucing up of the inside. We are planning to proceed in a logical way, though we may have to tackle some aspects out of order, as workforce and other factors dictate. As a housekeeping issue, we will be cleaning and sealing the vinyl flooring so that it looks smarter and is easier to keep clean. We have been able to do this on a very small budget thanks to loan of machinery and calling in a favour or two on the labour front. Unfortunately, it meant that the community shop had to close for a couple of days while the work was carried out and we are very grateful for their kind co-operation and understanding and hope it has caused only minimal inconvenience.

Most of the initial minor work we hope to do to enhance the appearance of the Church Room, as delegated by St. Mary's PCC, can be done relatively economically and we hope that it will make the best use of some of the funds the Friends have raised this year. We will do our best to keep you posted about developments.

As always, there has been considerable 'voluntary' practical help from several members of the village community - when will they ever learn to duck when they see us coming?! We are very grateful indeed for their unstinting gifts of time and expertise.

This summer we had another wonderful tea party in Barbara Cattermole's garden and raised a grand sum thanks to your enthusiastic support and Barbara's hard work and generosity. It's always so lovely to see everyone enjoying the company of their neighbours, and nattering with their mouths full of cake! The Queen's Jubilee weekend saw a most generous gesture from Simon and Kathy Brown who kindly donated proceeds from their Open Garden day towards funds for improving the Church Room. Many thanks to them both.

Fundraising efforts continue. Plans are afoot to bring a variety of musicians together for an autumn concert in the Church and details will be circulated as soon as they are finalised. If you are still wishing to renew your membership of the Friends, please contact any member of the Trustees, who will be only too pleased to help, particularly if you wish to renew by using a bank standing order. Don't forget that membership means you are welcome to one designated free event each year.

St. Mary's will be holding a Harvest Service on 7 October to which all Friends are especially invited. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see the Church decorated for the occasion and a chance to remind ourselves how fortunate the community is to have the care and use of such a magnificent historical building.

As last year's carol singing round the Cross was such a success, we will be doing it again this year on Friday 21 December. Mulled wine will help to loosen your tonsils!

Chrissie Galley

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

BEDFORDSHIRE WALKING FESTIVAL 8 TO 16 SEPTEMBER 2012

The fourth Bedfordshire Walking Festival takes place over 9 days from 8 to 16 September with walks to suit almost all abilities. The 70 walks range from short health walks of up to an hour in duration to three to five mile ambles and interest/information walks to half day walks of between 5.5 and 7.5 miles to full day walks ranging from 9 to 15 miles to the real challenge of 40 miles over two days. All the walks are free.

The full programme is available at www.bedwalksfest.co.uk or for more information please contact Barry Ingram at organiser@bedwalkfest.co.uk or phone 01234 353704 during office hours up to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

THE FOREST OF MARSTON VALE - WHAT'S ON

Sunday Strolls (2 September, 7 October, 4 November)

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 (15 September, 21 October, 17 November)

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 or call 01234 762614.



There are lots of other exciting events planned for both adults and children. For information on other events visit www.marstonvale.org/events.html

SEASONS GREETINGS

You may think it's a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but this is our last chance to remind you about sending your Seasons Greetings to friends and neighbours in the village through the pages of the December Stevington Magazine. If you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity, please write a short message below (or on any piece of paper), put it in an envelope with your donation (cheques made payable to Stevington Magazine) and pop it through our door before 18 November. All donations go to charity - we support a different one each year. This year we have decided to support Sue Ryder St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger in memory of Ian Pickup.

Name: _____ Donation: £ _____

Message (include any name to appear in greeting):



If you are eligible and wish Sue Ryder to claim Gift Aid on your donation please complete the details below and return to us with your donation. If you don't want to dismember your magazine we can supply a blank gift aid declaration form, on request.

Title: _____ Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address:

Postcode (Essential): _____

I want Sue Ryder to treat my donation of £_____ as a **Gift Aid** donation.

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax that Sue Ryder reclaims on your donations in the current tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

In Memory

We were very sorry to hear of the tragic death of Ian Pickup. We would like to send Pat and her family our sympathy, and to send our appreciation to Ian for all the support and help he had given to Pat in their 25 years as producers of the Stevington Magazine. A significant contribution to our community, at a time when other institutions have fallen by the wayside. Their voluntary contribution to this village should not be underestimated. Thank you Ian.

Summer 2012

What a great Jubilee Party, what an amazing summer for GB. The athletes at the Olympics were breath-taking. No doubt everyone that went to London or one of the other venues had a day to remember for ever. Stevington has had a wet summer, let us hope that this sunny spell lasts for the rest of the summer.

The Jubilee Weekend

It was brilliant, as ever it all came together at the eleventh hour in Stevington's traditional way. It was great to see such a diverse range of activities and people of all ages being involved. From the moment the team put up the bunting the feel of festival started to evolve. The village decorations, the pumps the houses, even a Land Rover! The dedication and attention to detail shown in the Well Dressing masterpiece was unbelievable. Church Road and many of the village witnessed an extraordinary enactment of part of Pilgrim's Progress, the acting showed many us that some of the village have quite a hidden talent. Thank you to the Browns and their team. Will we all see them in quite the same light again? The party at the Social Centre was a great success, 3 and even 4 generations of families turned out to make it a memorable evening, with Jazz Music and releasing lanterns into the night sky. Thank you to those who entered Art in Stevington. They were very varied and superb. The Church and the Baptist Chapel had numerous visitors over the weekend, and the Natural History exhibition at St. Mary's was a tremendous spectacle - it must have taken hours to put together, it was a fascinating display. Thank you to you all for making it a memorable weekend.



Traveller Site

Once again, thank you to everyone in the village for all your support in our fight to persuade the Planning Committee to refuse the

planning application for a Traveller site at Duck End, along Silver Street. The village community spirit has been fantastic, thank you to all those that wrote in and attended the Corn Exchange meeting on 28 May. The Councillors could not fail to have seen the strength of feeling demonstrated by the village.

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped the Parish Council for the last 18 months, including those who set up the Stevington Residents Association (SRA), and our Borough Councillor. For the fear of leaving someone out, or not respecting some people's anonymity, I will not mention anyone by name. Between the Parish Councillors, and the volunteers hundreds of hours have been spent toiling over papers, acts of parliament, planning policies, writing letters and other papers, arranging and meeting our MP, the Mayor, Borough Councillors and local planning Officers, researching local and national records, making endless phone calls, and writing and giving presentations. It was a full time occupation for a few of us. It has shown outsiders what an incredible group of people live in Stevington. I am very proud to be one of you.

Red Lion

On Wednesday 5 September the Appeal by the applicant for the Red Lion site will be heard at an Informal Hearing at Borough Hall at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Parish Council and volunteers who again are making a vast contribution to the case will also be there to voice their views. Later in the day the hearing will move to the Red Lion in Stevington, possibly at lunchtime, so that the Planning Inspector can see the site. It would be great if a good number of the village greeted the Inspector in Stevington with an orderly demonstration so he or she could see the strong feelings held by the Village in opposing the application and appeal.

New Planning Clerk

This spring Mary Murzyn became the Planning Clerk to the Parish Council. I would like to welcome her to the role and wish her very best of luck with it. She has been a great addition at this time, working tirelessly, and providing invaluable support in the current planning issues. She will also deputise for Graham when he is away in Cornwall, Spain and Australia.

Hedges - Still

Please cut your hedges if your garden has a boundary with or backs on to a road or any other right of way including footpaths and

bridleways. This wet growing season has meant that hedges have gone mad. We have started receiving complaints about various hedges and we are dealing with these. Please be proactive and considerate to others if you own a hedge, they can be very dangerous to those with limited sight!

On Road and Pavement Parking

On a serious note - Parking outside the Red Lion is causing concern. Many people are regularly parking on the pavement, across the Bus Stop and on the road next to the Cross. This is a danger to pedestrians, particularly disabled people and other road users. Some of you have been asked to park elsewhere, including the Social Centre Car Park. You know who you are, please be more considerate. We do not want to escalate the situation, but we will if nothing is done.

Finally, thanks to you all for making this such a great place to live.

Best wishes,

Helen Prentice
Chairman of Stevington Parish Council

STEVINGTON ROAD RACE 2013

We are pleased to announce that next year's Stevington Road Race will be held on Sunday 12 May 2013. Further details of how to enter will be posted on the website in the New Year - www.stevingtonroadrace.co.uk.

The 2012 event proved to be hugely successful and the final figures are as follows:

Income from refreshments	£166
Income from entry fees	£1,139
Total income	£1,305
Total costs	£448
Total amount raised	£857

We are thrilled to have achieved the highest amount of money ever raised, particularly as we had less runners participating and increased costs to contend with.

Comparison to previous years:

2009 - £668, 2010 - £786, 2011 - £685

Olly Morrison

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Pat Olney Ward Funding

Last year, at the request of residents, I contributed monies to the Social Centre final resurfacing of the car park. Please can anyone or an organisation contact me with other suggestions for this year's money? It must be for capital items and be spent by 31 March 2013.

Bus Station

All you people who have, like me, been shocked by the state of Bedford's Bus Station and the Allhallows toilets will be pleased to hear that there is going to be a £6 million pound investment in this area. So hopefully soon we will have a good journey's end into Bedford and a pleasant place to wait after a visit to the town.

Western Bypass Link Road

This road is moving a step or a car length closer. The compulsory orders have been served on the land that is still required to build the bypass. Rat run traffic will then take this route rather than have to queue by Oakley Twin Bridges and on other country roads. It should also free up the town centre.

Allocations and Designations Plan Public Examination

This Plan is going to Public Examination on 20 November. The Pre Hearing is on 18 September. The Inspector will report on the plan and his report will set out the Borough's vision for Stevington until 2021.

Healthwatch Bedford Consultation

This consultation is open until 30 September 2012.

This is your chance to be involved in the future of health and social care services. That is hospitals, doctor and nursing services as well as the Borough social services.

From April 2013 Health Watch Bedford will be the local consumer watch dog for health and social care. It will have three main functions;

1. Help shaping the planning of health and social care services
2. Helping people to access and make choices about health and care services
3. Information, advice and guidance.

Consultation documents are available from Borough Hall, libraries and www.bedford.gov.uk/healthwatch.

Please fill in the consultation document and help in this very important area of our lives. We never know when we might need these services and it is important that they are there to help.

Re-Active 8 Gold (Sports Programmes for the Over 50's)

Has the Olympics inspired you to get more active? You might not become an Olympian but you may find that you enjoy yourself! Try a new sport, complete beginners welcome or refresh a previous one.



Some residents have already tried this and really enjoyed themselves. It is a relaxed, informal environment with others like you. It begins on the 24 September. To find out about courses and to book, please go to www.bedford.gov.uk/sport. Good Luck!

Green Space Strategy Consultation

Instead of sport, why not enjoy the Borough's green spaces? The strategy has a range of proposals but we also want your ideas. Please look at the strategy and respond with your ideas, go to www.bedford.gov.uk/greenspace if you would like hard copies please ring Simon Fisher at 01234 718453 or simon.fisher@bedford.gov.uk. This consultation is open until 14 October.

Community Rangers

Rangers cover the entire Borough including rural areas. They tackle a range of anti-social behaviour problems which include environmental crime such as littering, fly tipping and dog fouling. They deliver a schools education programme highlighting the importance of keeping our Borough clean. They patrol hotspot areas, enforcing by issuing fixed penalty orders.

They also deliver Community Speed Watch. They are fully trained to support delivery of this programme which operates at the roadside with volunteers educating drivers about their speed. This is a joint scheme with the Police and Fire Service. Some volunteers have already come forward but they will need to reregister as will new volunteers.

I am asking the Rangers to go into our schools to talk about these environmental issues (not speeding).

If you know of a persistent littering or dog fouling area then please contact me at pat.olney@btopenworld.com or on 01234 824384. If it is a Speedwatch issue please contact james.wallbank@bedford.gov.uk.

Community Service Award

I am pleased to report that this award has come about by combining the three past Mayors Awards of Hazel Mitchel, Pat Olney and Winifred Fowler. It is going to be called the Winifred Fowler Award after our first woman Mayor of Bedford. It is to recognise the unpaid efforts of individuals (not only women) on behalf of their community. Nominations will be sought from September 2012. We have many deserving people around us; please look out for this new award in the press.

Borough Councillor Pat Olney

MANSE PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY OPEN AFTERNOON FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER



The Manse Pre-School Nursery was established in 1990 and since the start of the year, has undergone a major facelift, both inside and out. We have decided to give our literature a bit of revamp too, with a new logo and advertisements etc. Our ethos however, remains the same. 'A home from home setting, providing the nurturing environment babies and young children need in order to feel secure. This in turn enables them to explore their environment and play which is, as we know, how they learn'.

We are very proud of our nursery and to show it off we are holding an open afternoon on Friday 14 September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Please come and join us for a cup of tea and a cake and see for yourselves – we are sure you will be impressed. We are situated behind the Baptist Chapel in West End.

Sue, Jemma and the Manse team



Save the Children

**COFFEE
MORNING**

3rd November. 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon
at 9 Court Lane, Stevington

Come and join us for coffee and chatter while supporting
a worthwhile cause

THE FOOT CLINIC

For a wide range of chiropody/podiatry care of the highest quality from a specialist with 20 years of experience in both NHS and private practice.

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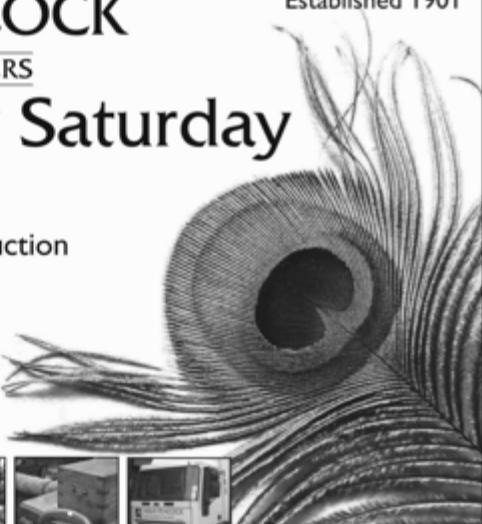
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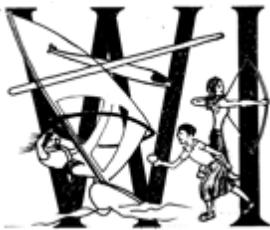


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STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First of all we send our thoughts and sympathy to Pat Pickup and family at this sad time.



Our AGM held in May saw a change of President with Jackie Gooding stepping down for a well-deserved rest and Marilyn Billett taking over the role. Members thanked Jackie for her enthusiasm and all her hard work during her presidential years and Marilyn for stepping into the role. The committee stays the same, although we would like members to join us on committee.

New president, new programme, new challenges, new ideas - lots to look forward to!

We were invited to decorate the cross for the Diamond Jubilee. This was Marilyn's inauguration as President - especially as she was the one who clambered up and down the steps of the cross! What challenging fun this turned into for the three of us that volunteered - how were we going to do this? The colours were easy - red, white and blue; thank goodness for charity shops and Emmaus we thought - except that when we went to look the rest of the world had already been. So we had to provide our own - a white sheet, red tablecloth and blue pashminas. The plan, templates, string, staples, colours, fabrics and finally plants all came together and we had lots of 'nods' and encouragement from villagers on foot, on bikes and in cars. Just as a point of interest it seems that not many other villages had decorated their historical monuments for the Jubilee and I think it was very much appreciated that Stevington Cross was adorned - I wonder what has happened in the past?

After Hilary, Marilyn and I had put the finishing touches to the Cross, and feeling in an artistic mood, Marilyn and I decided to go for a wander down to see how the well dressing was progressing. What a masterpiece - and after some encouragement we both decided to 'have a go' with cocktail stick and a petal. We felt honoured and privileged to be taking part in making such history.

At our June meeting we toasted the Queen with bubbly and cake.

In June we hosted a supper evening for Felmersham WI who were visiting Kathy Brown's Garden and had written asking if we could provide supper afterwards. It was a case of 'all hands on deck'. We provided, they enjoyed and boosted our funds at the same time.

We took part in a sponsored walk for Keech Cottage Hospice in June at Marston Vale.

Our quiz team didn't win in the Three Counties finals, but were really pleased with what they did achieve - don't worry there is always next time girls!!

Our guided tour of the Embankment with Trevor Stewart in July was very interesting and informative. I am sure we will arrange another one and hopefully the weather will be better next time. We all ended up rather wet - especially me who had forgotten to take an umbrella!

The next meeting is our Harvest Supper in September – members don't forget to read the flyers that have been through your doors!

If you would like more information about our WI please contact Marilyn Billett on 822103 or Vivienne Newell on 826091. Visitors and prospective new members are very welcome.

Our new Programme is on the WI notice board in the Church Room.

Pat Gibson

IAN PICKUP REMEMBERED

Brian and I were so sad to hear of the recent death of Ian Pickup. We first met Ian and Pat when we moved to Stevington twenty years ago and I had started submitting a few modest pieces for the magazine.

I was astonished to hear that Ian and Pat had been editors of the magazine since 1987 and what a splendid job they did. When they retired and bought a narrow boat they had to plan their voyages to be back in time to publish the magazine, they really were such a dedicated couple and I know that the whole of Stevington recognised and appreciated the work they did.

They were very supportive of Brian and me when Brian was diagnosed with prostate cancer (now in remission) as Ian was diagnosed about a year earlier with the same problem and was successfully treated.

When we called on Pat to offer our condolences we were so touched when she reassured us that Ian was struck down with an unrelated illness - so kind to think of us in her grief.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Pat and her family at this very difficult time.

Anne and Brian Westbrook



NEWS FROM HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK



The park has been in the full swing of the summer holidays recently and now, with the children about to return to school, we can look forward to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. It would be nice if that came after an Indian summer.

The big news is that the bird hide we lost to an arsonist back in April has been rebuilt!! Thanks to all of you in the communities adjacent to the park, regular visitors, the Borough Council and strangers alike, we have raised enough money to get started. Members of the Friends group have been heavily involved with the planning and construction.

Peter Hall from Carlton, the woodsman who has been charged with the reconstruction, has been kind enough to commence work, even though the full £15,000 replacement cost has not been raised as I write.

The old hide was made of shiplap. This one is seasoned oak from Yelnow Farm near Odell. We wanted a building that blends with its surroundings and that will be long lasting. It is also slightly bigger than the old one which helps with wheelchair access and we'll be able to bring parties of school children in for teaching.

We plan to kit out the interior again with information boards identifying the wildlife.

The Friends of the park are mounting a fund-raising campaign to raise the last £5,000 needed to complete the project so donations would be very gratefully received.

The Friends of the park have almost finished the new bike parking facility to the rear of the café. It is available to use while we wait for the first layer of gravel topping to bed down. All that remains to be done is to lay some finer material on top and it will be complete. At the same time they re-vamped the wood processing area outside the workshop. This project has been paid for out of car park donations.





Due to a major underground electrical fault the bike racks by the front entrance of the café had to be dug up so that the Electricity Board could rectify the problem. The surge of current had caused the fire alarm system to blow and the café lost several of their appliances so it was serious. Thankfully everything is now fixed but we will have to replace the

bike racks when we have the man power.

The beehives Richard has installed on the island are progressing but the dreadful summer we've had has affected the amount of honey they have been able to produce. We won't have a crop this season but we're looking to the future. If you see him skipping across the lake in his coracle, you now know what he's up to.

For those of you who fish, we have been getting some very big fish indeed landed. The fishing here is via a season ticket only. The fishing isn't easy but the rewards are great when you do catch. We have carp over 30lb, pike to 30lb, big tench and bream – all from the lakes but there are also big barbel, chub and perch in our stretch of the river Great Ouse. Take a look at our website on www.hocp.co.uk for more info or call in for a look.

Health Walks (September 13 and 27, October 11 and 25)

Leader Janet Munro. We meet every other Thursday outside the front entrance of the café at 10.30am. We walk for an hour with the option for coffee and a chat in the café afterwards. Call 01234 720016 or e-mail janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk for more info.

Friends Task Days (September 24, October 29)

Meet at the Ranger's Office on the last Monday of the month (a week earlier if a bank holiday) at 10.00am. We undertake a variety of conservation tasks according to season. We provide tools, gloves and refreshments and you need to come in appropriate old clothing and bring a packed lunch. For more info please call Richard Dowsett or Janet Munro on 01234 720016 or e-mail Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk.

Janet Munro
Ranger

Photos courtesy of HOCP

STEVINGTON GUITAR CONCERTS

FRANK VIGNOLA & VINNY RANILO
Friday 12 October at 7.30pm
Saturday 13 October at 7.30pm
SATURDAY SOLD OUT
Social Centre, Licensed Bar

Tickets £13.00. Available from John Duffield 01234 926110, Barbara Collins 15 Court Lane, Stevington and the Community Shop

The demand for tickets for this concert has been so great we have added a second day to ensure that as many people as possible can get to see this truly amazing duo from New York.



Steve Cole has created a new website www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk and we have a Facebook page Stevington Guitar Concerts which explains the history of our concerts, the amazing support they receive, and how to book tickets etc.

In this years concert Frank and Vinny will tackle a unique, high-energy repertoire featuring contemporary tunes by The Police, Frank Zappa, and Black Sabbath; not-so-contemporary numbers by Bach and Mozart; and of course jaw-dropping, lightning fast gypsy jazz originals. Their high-octane performances and good-time vibe never fail to bring astonished fans to their feet, making each appearance an unforgettable experience.

Frank was cited by jazz guitar legend Les Paul as one of the top five guitarists of all time.

'Frank Vignola has too much fun onstage to be as serious about his music as he obviously is.' - *Louisville Music News*.

Steve Cole and I visited Woody Mann a few weeks ago when he was playing in London, he was very pleased to see us and commented '*Wow, Stevington, I will never forget that gig, what an amazing place, please send my regards to the folks there.*'

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Photo courtesy of Frank Vignola & Vinny Raniolo

John Duffield

STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Our main news is that we finally have enough members turning up to entertain another club. This was the first match of any sort for over two years and folks - WE WON - 34 to 17 shots! Unfortunately the club is still low on membership and until we have a few more players we will not be able to return to Oakley to play them again and give them a chance of revenge.



Turvey invited us to send a team to their triples tournament on Sunday 19 August. We had two very good wins but unfortunately also two losses in the preliminaries. We needed one more point to reach the semi-finals but the team who deprived us were the eventual trophy winners. Not so bad! Our team was the most inexperienced taking part and I was, rightly, very proud of the way Jake and Toby played. It was a very good learning curve and I believe that it has kept the boys' interest in carpet bowls very much alive.

Please come and have a go - the first two visits are free. We meet on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) at the Social Centre from 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

Barbara Collins

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION TURVEY & DISTRICT BRANCH

ANNUAL BAND CONCERT SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER



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



A few tickets are still available from me on 01234 823769. Ticket price is £11.00 including supper.

Robert Hart
Branch President

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STEVINGTON

The period since the last magazine has been a busy one and we were delighted by the support shown for Church related events over the Jubilee weekend. We had fun, tried new challenges and raised some much needed funds for the Church Room refurbishment at the same time. Thank you again, to all who supported these events in any way.

We are extremely lucky in Stevington that there are so many people who are willing to support the Church to fulfil its role in our lives. The PCC is going through a period of discussion and reflection called Mission Action Planning, supported by Canon Peter and Reverend Gosney from St. Albans, to reconsider exactly what the role of St Mary's is and could be in our village. As part of the research we will be inviting villagers to contribute their hopes for the future of the Church following our next planning meeting in August.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Richard and Lucy Parsons a long and happy married life following their wedding in Church on 2 June.

It is with great sadness that we record the funeral of Ian Pickup on Monday 30 July. The service was a loving tribute from family and friends. Ian will be missed in Stevington where his quiet but industrious support of many village events has been invaluable. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and all the family.

Future Events

The annual **Beds and Herts Historic Churches sponsored Bike and Hike** is due to happen on **Saturday 8 September**. As in previous years we are inviting as many people as possible to participate in any way. If you want to walk or cycle please collect paperwork from Bob Hart. Maps and sponsorship forms are provided. We also hope to organise a sponsored 'clean up' of the Church and grounds on that day. If you would be able to help in the Church for an hour or so please mention this to Bob Westwood, Tricia Lennie or Jane O'Connor.

Harvest celebrations will include a delicious **Super Soup Lunch** organised by Mary Ronald on **17 September in the Church Room**. All donations will go to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal to support Caribbean communities, where climate change is providing very challenging conditions.

Harvest will be celebrated in a special service in St Mary's Church on 7 October at 5.00pm. We would like to extend an invitation

to all friends of the Church old and new. There will be a collection of harvest produce which can be brought to the service. This will be donated to Bechar in Prebend Street so tinned and packet goods are very welcome. Too much fresh produce is sometimes difficult for them to process, so the surplus will be auctioned at the Harvest Supper on Monday 8 October. The village choir are preparing to sing a couple of simple harvest pieces. Anyone who would like to join the choir under Robert Eadie's direction (Phillip and Margy are currently in Guernsey) is invited to let Bob Hart, Robert Eadie or Tricia Lennie know and join us for a first weekly rehearsal in the Church Room on Monday 17 September at 7.00pm. Future dates to be agreed at the first meeting.

Jane O'Connor and Claire Stapleton will be hosting a special Harvest Baking Day for village children (date to be announced).

Harvest Supper 8 October. Tickets will be on sale in the Community Shop and early purchase is advised as seats are limited. The evening is being organised by Jane O'Connor supported by Sylvia Goddard.

Christmas Concert Tuesday 18 December in the Social Centre at 7.30pm.

From the Parish Register

Marriage 2 June Lucy Meakin to Richard Parsons

Funeral 30 July Ian Pickup who died on 16 July

Banns of Marriage

15 July between David Lawson and Elaine Wright

5 August between Jonathan Brown and Sarah Cowie

Tricia Lennie
Church Warden

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:



September 5, 19

October 3, 17, 31

November 14, 28

Please continue to support this service.

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STEVINGTON BAPTIST MEETING

The morning of Sunday 12 August was different when Dr Barrie Funnell, who lives in Clapham and attends the church there, led our morning service. What made it different from an onlooker's perspective was that he brought with him the Olympic torch he carried along Bedford Embankment.

Dr Funnell, who was paralysed in an accident while in his early 20s, is the chief executive of the UK centre of Word for the World, which aims to translate the scripture into many local languages. Currently there are 800 languages in Africa and 180 in India which still lack a Bible translation. Some 200 indigenous students are being trained as Bible translators. One third of the world has no scripture they can read and translation work is going on with scriptures to serve another third of the world. To gain support and raise awareness of the work, Dr Funnell also completed a highly successful sponsored ride from Land's End to John O' Groats last year on a hand tricycle, powered only by arm pedal power.



A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since the Jubilee weekend (far too much some would say after this summer). On the afternoon of the well dressing, after a slow start, there was a steady stream of visitors in the Baptist Church. People wanted to see the Bunyan window on which the well dressing was based and were interested in the sunken baptistry in the floor of the chapel, as well as various displays and the opportunity to explore the balcony.

Our third afternoon tea on 12 June attracted more visitors - some for the first time - and this increasingly popular feature will continue, with the first of the autumn arranged for 4 September (the day the schools go back) and another provisionally planned for 20 November.

29 September will see another ‘hawks and breakfast’ event at the church, the day before our harvest thanksgiving. We know that this year’s harvest is tough on local farms but had we had no rain when that drought order came into effect life might by now have been a lot tougher for all of us.

Into November and another theatre trip is on the cards. Details will be announced later, but we hope to visit *Chariots of Fire* at the Gielgud Theatre, the venue for our previous successful outing to *The Ladykillers*. The anticipated date is 9 November at a cost around £45.

Encouraged by the response last year, we will hold our carol service on 16 December at 4.00pm.

Peter Evans

Photos courtesy of Baptist Church



The Bedford Guild House

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Girls' Bingo Night! - Wednesday 26 September, 7.30pm Bedford Guild House

Just for girls – includes 6 bingo cards and hot supper. Bring your own wine and we will provide glasses. Lots of girlie prizes. £10pp

Wine & Wisdom - Thursday 18 October, 7.30pm Bedford Guild House

Teams of up to 6 people are invited to compete in our popular quiz night. £8pp includes a fish & chip supper. Bring your own drinks and we will supply glasses. Call 01234 352038 for an entry form.

The Angels' Share - Friday 9 November, 7.30pm Bedford Athletic Rugby Club, Wentworth Drive, Bedford MK41 8QA

The Angels' Share performs what they describe as Celtic music that is guaranteed to get your hands clapping and your feet tapping. Licensed bar. Tickets £5, available from Bedford Guild House (01234 352038) or The Bedford Athletic Rugby Club Bar or call them on 07849 167149.



THE STEVINGTON BOOK CLUB AWARDS 2011/2012

Sunday 12 August dawned sunny and warm - just the weather for a barbie! You see

The Stevington Book Club have friends in high places and know just the day to organise a club barbecue. Members of the club and partners met together in the garden of Anne and Brian Westbrook in Silver Street and all members of the club are very grateful to our hosts and our chefs –Tony Hollins and Paul O’Flynn.

An important part of this yearly gathering is the presentation of the ‘Stevington Booker Prize’ for the three best rated books of the year from July 2011 to July 2012. Votes from members had been collected and points given - and as you know, points mean prizes. Winning authors are now to be made aware of the great honour bestowed on them by the members of this august band of readers!

So, to the results in reverse order:

3rd place – ‘The Various Haunts of Men’ by Susan Hill

2nd place – ‘The Elegance of the Hedgehog’ by Muriel Barbery

1st place – ‘Room’ by Emma Donoghue

At this time in the year we also present ‘The Wooden Spoon’ award for the book that is judged the least interesting. This year that award went to Howard Jacobson for ‘The Finkler Question’. More than half of club members gave this book the Wooden Spoon award.

Our Wooden Spoon Book, ‘The Finkler Question’, was the Man Booker Prize Winner for 2010. In the same year ‘Room’ (Stevington’s winning book) was merely shortlisted. Have no worries, Stevington Book Club members are not bowed by this. Read nothing into the fact that all three winning books were written by women either.

Club members look forward to 2012/2013 and their 12 new books and the next social event, The New Year Dinner.

Jan Follett
Book Club Member

STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Having failed to gain promotion last year we will be playing in the Third Division of the Bedfordshire County Football League again this season.

We have had an extremely busy 'close season' with a number of new players joining the club as well as 'AJ' offering to make the move from support playing role to help Aaron with running of the team during matches.

We are pleased to see a number of local youngsters join the club, bringing the much needed younger legs and renewed enthusiasm to the club. We still have a core of players offering an abundance of experience.... but sadly their ever reducing movement on the ball (and even less off the ball)..... is beginning to have an increasing impact on our style of play.

The pre-season training sessions started earlier than ever this year and have been extremely well attended. We have had a number of difficult 'friendly matches' against teams playing in higher leagues and divisions so it should prove interesting when the season starts in September.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date and look forward to your continued support over the coming season and remind everyone they are welcome to join us at the Royal George for refreshments after games.

Shane King



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)

19 & 26 September
14 & 21 November

Pat (823250)

17 & 24 October
12 & 19 December

Barbara Collins and Pat Pickup

SOCIAL CENTRE CHRONICLES

Jubilee Weekend

Although not directly involved with the Jubilee Weekend celebrations the Social Centre was the focal point for the Monday evening celebrations. Feedback from all concerned was that the event went very well and the idea of a family BBQ is something to be considered for future years. Many thanks to all concerned and for the donations received.

Fynnius Fogg

Fynnius Fogg returned to the village in July and as always gave us a great evening's entertainment. Thanks to Barbara Collins and her team for providing more than enough food and for looking after the group. Numbers were down on previous years but all those who attended the gig enjoyed the evening's festivities and made full use of the bar provided by Rob.

Future Events

The Social Centre will be hosting the music of Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo on 12 and 13 October and we also hope to have a quiz night later in November (watch the Cross for details). If anyone has any ideas for future events or would like to get involved with the running of the Social Centre please contact one of the Committee.

Pete Fisher (825022)

STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

May	1st	No 36	C Sear
	2nd	No 29	M Baillie
	3rd	No 51	P Odell
Jun	1st	No 66	D Fitch
	2nd	No 19	W Spencer
	3rd	No 63	G Follett
Jul	1st	No 18	H Eadie
	2nd	No 13	B Collins
	3rd	No 57	M Murzyn

New members always welcome!

Anna and Bob Hart (823769)

AUTUMN GARDENING

What a peculiar gardening summer it has been. I have hardly had to water a thing and there has been so much growth on the trees and shrubs that my three-year-old garden looks really quite mature. Let us hope there are no early frosts and that all the soft growth on plants has time to harden off before winter sets in.



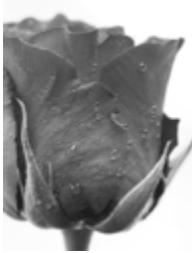
I love gardening in the autumn because my eyes are focused on the shape and colour of the garden to come in the year ahead, so my first task is to do a bit of planning to establish what I want in my borders. This leads me to decisions about whether I buy new plants, propagate existing ones or swap plants with friends.

Now is a good time to add structure in the form of trees and shrubs. You can plant new ones in a well dug pit, adding a little compost to open up the soil. In the past we used to add various fertilisers to help the tree to establish, but received wisdom now says that the tree is more likely to learn to fend for itself and put down deeper roots if it has to search for nutrients already in the soil. I prefer to grow most of my plants 'hard' (as they call it) because they then survive my frosty patch better. You can also attend to your existing trees and shrubs, carrying out formative and renewal pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs (except those that bleed



e.g. cherry). Now is also a good time for semi-ripe and hardwood cuttings. Try taking a 20-30cm pencil thick cutting from things like roses, Buddleja and Cornus. Cut straight across just below a bud to form the bottom end of the cutting, and then about 20-30cm up the twig cut a diagonal above a bud – the

diagonal helps water to drain away and protects the top bud. Dig a 'slit trench' by wiggling your spade in the ground in an out of the way part of the garden, and put a little sand in the bottom of it. Pop in the cutting to about half its depth, fill in the trench, then walk away and stay away for a good six plus months. When you come across them next year you will be surprised to find new (free) plants which need perhaps another year to grow on before being transplanted to their final position. Finally spread a good layer of mulch around your trees and shrubs which gives them a blanket against the cold and improves the soil they live in.



This is the time of year to prune your rambling and climbing roses, removing old, crossing and diseased wood down to the ground and tying in newer, flexible growth. You can also plant bare root and container grown roses so that they have plenty of time to establish before next season. Many of the best known rose growers do special offers in late September and October so I would recommend you visit their websites to see what is on offer.

Now to the flower borders. From now on you can be picking seed as it ripens, ready to sow in the spring. If you can, store it in an envelope in a plastic box in the fridge - most seed will keep for several seasons. If you have better things to do with your fridge, any cool dry place will do. If you planted annuals like Rudbeckia and Cosmos, and tubers like Dahlia, let them flower until the first frosts and then lift the tubers and compost the spent annuals. Late autumn colour is such an uplifting thing and I usually leave mine in until November. I have stopped lifting my Dahlia tubers, preferring to leave them in the ground over the winter covered with a good layer of mulch. Most of the time they survive although I lose one occasionally. If you have overgrown clumps of perennials you can lift, divide and replant them in late September/early October and you can transplant established plants to new positions. The warmth in the soil should allow them to settle in before the winter cold arrives. If you don't get round to doing it now you can do it early spring. If you have biennials like wallflowers, plant them out soon with daffodil bulbs and spring bedding plants but wait until November to put tulips in the ground.

Finally to lawns. Autumn is a good time to feed them and apply a moss control. Ideally the lawn should be aerated and top dressed. When the leaves start falling rake them up regularly to prevent them from damaging the lawn beneath them.

So, when you have done all that, you can settle down in front of the fire on the dark nights with a seed catalogue (or the online equivalent) and spend many happy hours choosing what to grow next year. My favourite is the Chiltern Seeds catalogue which is full of unusual plants but other great ones are Thompson and Morgan, Suttons, Unwins, Dobies etc. etc.

Happy gardening for a couple more months, then have a good winter relaxing!

Anthea Harper

NEWS FROM MALAWI

Many thanks to all our faithful helpers at Kathy Brown's Teas in May. We were not exactly rushed off our feet this year but with the addition of some very generous donations were able to bank £352.60.

We sent Pastor Machila £250 of the proceeds from Malcolm and Sally's Jazz evening to get them started on their 'steel work'. (See his letter below) The two machines are to be used to teach the children metalwork, which is a subject in which both Pastor Machila and a good friend of his have had training and which they feel will give the boys a good start for the future. I think it may only be the boys who get this training, as it was only the girls who were photographed using the sewing machines we helped them buy some years ago!

We have now sent them the fees for the new school term and are waiting to hear that they have received them. Our thanks again to all those of you who have helped in any way. You know who you are!

Dita and Tony Hollins

Dear Mr and Mrs Hollins,

Just to inform you that we have bought two major tools, grinder and drilling machines, for steel work. Thank you for the help. God bless you all.

We know that these days things are really difficult to manage because of financial problems. But thank God that we are still alive. He will help us to succeed one day.

Children at the Orphanage are really thankfull for the help given to them now and then. May God bless you all. Last time the children asked you to send them your photos. They are still looking forward to you sending them. They just get things from somebody whom they don't know. So please send them one.

Lastly, may God bless your family and all friends there.

Best regards

Pastor Eric and Irene Machila

STOP PRESS: By popular demand we are planning another Quiz evening in aid of the Orphanage in November. Details to follow.



THE VILLAGER MINIBUS

The new website can be found at
www.villager-sharnbrook.org.uk

SERVICES FROM STEVINGTON

MILTON KEYNES (Shopping Centre & Market) 4th Tuesday

Stevington West End	Dep: 09:18	Milton Keynes	Dep: 12:30
Stevington Cross	Dep: 09:20	Stevington Cross	Dep: 13:10
Milton Keynes	Arr: 10:00	Stevington West End	Arr: 13:12

NORTHAMPTON (Town Centre & Market) 3rd Wednesday

Stevington West End	Dep: 09:18	Northampton	Dep: 12:30
Stevington Cross	Dep: 09:20	Stevington Cross	Dep: 13:08
Northampton	Arr: 10:00	Stevington West End	Arr: 13:10

PETERBOROUGH (Queensgate Bus Station) 2nd Friday

Stevington Cross	Dep: 09:12	Peterborough	Dep: 14:00
Peterborough	Arr: 10:45	Stevington Cross	Arr: 15:33

OLNEY MARKET Every Thursday

Stevington West End	Dep: 10:08	Olney	Dep: 12:10
Stevington Cross	Dep: 10:10	Stevington Almshouses	Dep: 12:34
Stevington Almshouses	Dep: 10:12	Stevington Cross	Dep: 12:36
Olney	Arr: 10:36	Stevington West End	Arr: 12:38

Timetables available - Telephone 01234 781920

You are advised to book for Milton Keynes, Northampton and Peterborough by telephoning the bus information line on 01234 718005 by 16:00 the day before.

National concessionary permits issued by Bedford Borough accepted throughout. Other national concessionary Permits accepted after 09:30.

Seats are still available for the trip to National Trust's Wimpole Hall on Friday 21 September, fare £10.00. Telephone 01234 781920 and leave contact details for more information.

Stan Jones

BEDFORD GALLERY QUIRE

Bedford Gallery Quire is a community group of singers and instrumentalists performing church and social music of the West Gallery period, around 1700 to 1850, mainly in three and four part harmony.

Two of its members live in Stevington; can you spot them in the photograph?

What is now known as 'West Gallery' was the first music heard in rural churches after many years, following the puritan era, and the hymns, psalms and anthems were performed in a robust, vigorous manner. These groups, though they usually included instrumentalists, were known as 'the singers' and they provided the music not only for church services, weddings and funerals, but for village 'hops' (an eighteenth century term) and all the social events of the community.

Having been a 'quart in a pint pot' in the recent past, the quire has just changed to a larger rehearsal venue and this enables it to welcome new members. 'We would especially like a few more instrumentalists,' said Ken Baddley, founder and musical director, 'but singers are always welcome too.'



The quire performs around six times a year and rehearses on the first, third and fifth Thursdays each month, except August, at Priory Methodist Church in Bedford. Singers don't need any training, nor to be able to read music (they learn it by singing it), they just need to be able to sing in tune and, after a while, hold their part confidently.

Musicians should be around grade 5 standard and should play stringed or woodwind orchestral instruments such as fiddles, flutes and clarinets though they are on the lookout for brass players who would like to learn the serpent or the quire's 1830's keyed bugle. Members are of all ages; particular encouragement is given to young players but it also attracts those returning to music in later life. They are very friendly, and potential new members are welcome to go along to a few rehearsals and see how they get on before committing themselves.

Ken Baddley is always willing to answer any questions and you can talk to him on 01234 310018. There is also a lot of information on the quire's website: bedfordgalleryquire.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Bedford Gallery Quire

Anthea Harper

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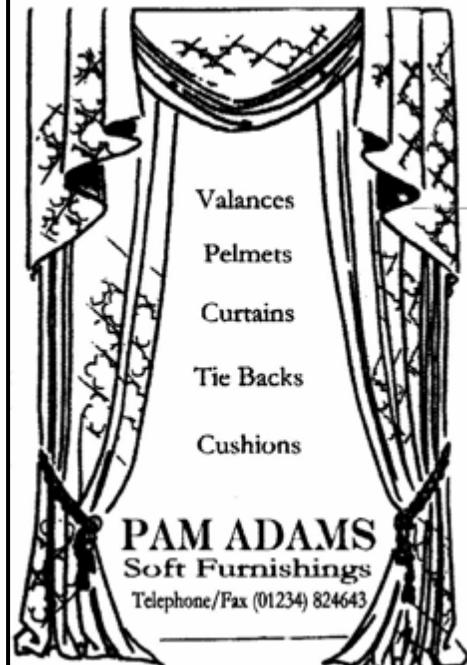
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THE RED LION PLANNING APPEAL HEARING

The Red Lion Appeal will be heard at an informal hearing at Borough Hall, at 10.00am on Wednesday 5 September.

The Inspector will ask questions of the various parties, based around all the written submissions, there should be a chance for the village to answer questions and make statements at the hearing.

We will be there to make the most of the opportunity to put across our points, to help persuade the Inspector to uphold the refusal.

The hearing will then move to the Red Lion probably after lunch, so the inspector can see the actual site, and so understand the issues more clearly. We will not know until the hearing the exact timing.

We would encourage everyone to attend the Appeal, but we do understand work and other commitments. It would also be great if those who are in the village that afternoon, showed the strength of community spirit by coming to the Red Lion, when the Inspector arrives.

If you would like transport to the hearing or be contacted when the meeting moves to Stevington please ring Graham on 826119, or email stevplanning@gmail.com.

Thank you for all your support and determination.

Stevington Parish Council

STOP PRESS