

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



***SEPTEMBER 2015
Number 174***

VILLAGE DIARY

September

- 8 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall
- 9 Parish Council Meeting. Church Room 7.30pm
- 10 WI Harvest Supper. Church Room 7.30pm
- 12 Sponsored Bike 'n Hike (see page 57)
- 13 Windmill Open Day. 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- 20 Manor House Open Garden. Teas for Malawi (see page 4)
- 26 Scarecrow Competition (see page 13)
- 27 Harvest Festival. Baptist Church. 3.00pm
- 30 Defibrillator Awareness Session. Social Centre 7.30pm. (see page 8)

October

- 4 Harvest Festival. St. Mary's 10.00am (see page 25)
- 5 Harvest Supper
- 8 WI The Swiss garden at Old Warden. Church Room 7.30pm
- 17 Bedford Sailing Club Quiz Night
- 21 Parish Council Meeting. Church Room 7.30pm
- 25 St. Mary's Evensong moves to 5.00pm for winter

November

- 5 Firework Night. Social Centre.
- 8 Remembrance Day Service. St. Mary's Churchyard 10.30am
- 10 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall
- 12 WI Looking for Prince Charles' Dog. Church Room 7.30pm
- 14 Launch of 'The Natural History of Stevington'. St. Mary's
- 22 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)

December

- 2 Parish Council Meeting. Baptist Chapel. 7.30pm
- 6 Christingle Service. St. Mary's 3.00pm
- 10 WI Our Christmas Party. Church Room 7.30pm
- 20 Nine Lessons & Carols. St. Mary's 5.00pm
- 21 Christmas Concert. Social Centre (see page 5)

Photographs as credited
Cover drawn by John Goddard

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!

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 and we intend to have a pull out on coloured paper again this year so you can put it on your mantelpiece with all your other Christmas cards. This year's charity is the UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund and the donation will be made in memory of Dennis King who passed away ten years ago.

The natural history of Stevington book will be launched on 14 November. See page 44 for full details and the order form.

It's great to see the defibrillator now installed in the 'phone box' on Church Road. Please try to come along to the training session on 30 September (see page 8). It's important that as many people as possible know how to use this life saving equipment.

This issue shows what an adventurous lot we are in Stevington. A contingent from the village took part in RideLondon FreeCycle 2015 (pages 31 and 40), Olivia Eadie went on an expedition to India (page 34) and Ray Cox was shaken about in an acrobatic plane (page 38). It's great to have articles from the village describing what you've been up to.

Heather and Keith

**NEXT MAGAZINE**

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 5-6 December 2015. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 22 November 2015. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, e-mail stevington.magazine@googlemail.com) on that day, although we will be delighted to receive copy at any time before then.



BIRTHDAY THANKS

Many thanks to all the kind people who contributed towards a birthday gift for me in June. The plants are thriving and half of the 'Corner 5' vouchers have already been put to delicious use.

Once again many thanks. It was a total surprise and left me somewhat emotional!!

Barbara Collins

TEAS FOR MALAWI

You are cordially invited for tea and cake in the Church Room on Sunday 20 September, as part of Kathy Brown's Open Gardens. All the proceeds will go to the Chirimba Orphanage, Malawi. We are hoping for an Indian Summer of warm weather and sunshine and look forward to welcoming you there. All offers of cakes or help on the day will be very gratefully received!

Dita and Tony



**Thank You
£510
raised!**



Thank you to everyone who supported the 'Wimbledon comes to Stevington' event in aid of Bedford Hospitals Charity's 'the Challenge Cancer Appeal'. A fantastic total of £510 was raised, which has been sent to the appeal.

My heartfelt thanks to all who bought tickets and made donations or who helped on the day. Particular thanks are due to Steve Cole for technical and other assistance, Richard Blaney and Roger Penney for organising the barbeque, and Jean Blaney for running the bar.

Linda Penney

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, good wishes and presents for my 90th birthday.

Joyce Keech

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - MONDAY 21 DECEMBER

All villagers are invited to this year's Christmas Concert.

Monday 21 December at the Social Centre. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets remain at £4 for adults and £1 for children in full-time education. Raffle and interval refreshments. Tickets will be on sale from 1 November. 2015 promises to be a very special year – so don't miss it!

Tricia Lennie



HELP FOR HEROES RALLY - THANK YOU

As you know we took part as Team 33 in the Help for Heroes European Rally in June. There were 45 teams in the event. Thank you to everyone in the village who supported our fundraising efforts in some way. Keith and I raised £10,511 for this great charity and this year's event raised £216,000 in total. We won two trophies - the second highest fundraisers and sixth overall in the event. We have received loads of articles for this issue of the magazine so will share the highlights of our trip with you in another edition!

Heather & Keith Parkinson

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IN MEMORY OF BARBARA HARPIN (1925-2015)

I thought that some of the people of Stevington who remember my mother Barbara Harpin should know that she died in Bedford Hospital on 13 June. She was 89 years old and had been in hospital for a week. She deteriorated over the weekend but died peacefully.

Barbara had lived in Stevington for almost fifty years following her marriage to George, a Stevington boy, just after the war. She had worked in the village shop with Mr Strong in charge and she was a well-known local figure until she moved from Court Lane to Bedford shortly after the death of her husband in 1995. She lived in a warden controlled flat in Lansdowne Road from 1997 until she became a resident in Charter House, a care home in Bedford, some five years ago.

It goes without saying that she will be sorely missed by family and friends. Barbara had many happy memories of village life throughout almost half a century of living there.

She had enjoyed writing poetry and I have attached a poem she wrote about country life.

Paul Harpin



Moments

*I love the country and what it gives
And the joy of where I live
The beauty of the trees and flowers
The peace and quiet of passing hours
There is no noise, no traffic jams
Just quiet moments to understand
Maybe sit and think a while
Read a book to make you smile
Think of all that folk would give
To be as happy as where I live
I wouldn't change a thing for gold
Well maybe just for getting old.*

Barbara Harpin

STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Council News

The Parish Council would like to welcome back Jane Thomas who was co-opted in July to the one remaining vacancy following the May elections. Jane has done sterling work for the Parish Council in the past and her return is most welcome.

We are pleased to advise that our annual audit has been successfully concluded with a clean bill of health and no issues of concern raised by the external auditors.

A second notice board has been purchased for general village use and will be installed soon next to the Parish Council board in front of the Red Lion.

It has come to our attention that some members of our community are unable to fully engage with the planning process as they do not have internet access to view planning applications online, nor are they able to easily visit the planning offices at Bedford Borough Council where all applications are available to consult. In future the Parish Council will leave a copy of each planning application it receives in the Church Room and it will be possible to view them whenever the village shop is open. If you wish to support or object to an application you will still need to contact the Planning Department direct and contact details will be available alongside the plans.

Windmill Heritage Open Day

This event proved very successful last year and so we are once again participating in an open day. The windmill will be open from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday 13 September.

Defibrillator

The village defibrillator, located in the old telephone box in Church Road, is now available for use by anyone in an emergency. To help you understand how to use the equipment we have arranged an awareness session for anyone interested, including children over 7 if accompanied by an adult. The session will be presented by a qualified trainer on behalf of the Community Heartbeat Trust.

The Defibrillator Awareness Session will be run on 30 September at 7:30pm in the Social Centre and will last about 2 hours.

The equipment is maintained and checked every week, but if anyone notices any damage please contact Stephanie Wingrove on 07725 216568 or 01234 825022.

Broadband

The work to provide superfast broadband for the village is continuing and due to be completed at the end of September. An update from Paul Vann of Bedford Borough Council is available elsewhere in this magazine.

Neighbourhood Plan

Progress with our Neighbourhood Plan continues and a separate report has been included in the magazine by the Neighbourhood Planning team.

Parish Council Meetings

All our meetings start at 7.30pm and are open to the public, so please do come along (even if it is only for part of the meeting). 15 minutes are set aside at the start of each meeting for public questions. The dates for the remainder of the Parish Council meetings in 2015 are 9 September and 21 October in the Church Room and 2 December in the Baptist Chapel. The minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on our website <http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk>.

Ten days before each meeting a notice will be posted on the Parish Council notice board and on the Parish website confirming the date of the meeting and giving details of whom to contact if there is an issue that you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. The agenda will be published on the main notice board and the website three days before the date of the meeting.

Roz Buchanan
Parish Clerk

Website: <http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk>
E-mail (Clerk): stevingtonpc@live.co.uk
E-mail (Planning): stevplanning@gmail.com

Contact details for the Parish Councillors are as follows:

Paul O'Flynn - Chair
823306

46 Park Road,
MK43 7QG

Sarah Bush
824007

Twin Cottage, Church Road,
MK43 7QB

Pete Fisher
825022

3 The Bakery, Silver Street,
MK43 7QH

Andrew Lockwood
825586

42 Silver Street,
MK43 7QP

Graham Read

graham_read@hotmail.co.uk

Sam Stapleton

samstapleton@hotmail.co.uk

Jane Thomas

je_thomas@btinternet.com

Roz Buchanan - Clerk

stevingtonpc@live.co.uk

Mary Murzyn – Planning Assistant
824267

West End Farm, West End,
MK43 7QU

SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR STEVINGTON

Following the standing of the new superfast broadband cabinet in the village (on Park Road near The Cross) some time ago, it is good to see work at last progressing on the new chambers and ducting found to be necessary for the all-important fibre to be laid along Park Road from Oakley Road, Bromham. The existing ducting was found to be in a poor state such that additional works had to be planned, costed and approved before they could start, eventually, on Monday 10 August.

The web site www.roadworks.org gives some idea of the nature of the works though those travelling along Park Road will see the actual progress being made.



Paul Vann who leads on broadband projects for the Borough Council has advised that, all now being well, the cabinet will go live towards the end of September.
(paul.vann@bedford.gov.uk)



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STAGE 2

The plan is progressing steadily and we are now ready for Stage 2.

In order for the plan to be approved and accepted as a legal document we need to show that everyone in the village has had a chance to have their say about the future development of Stevington; and that means **YOU**.

Together we can decide to what extent we want to limit or expand the village's growth over the next 15 years.

Using the data you provided at the launch events we have condensed your wishes into a series of objectives to help us to start to create some draft policies.

Please come to the Stage 2 events to be held in the village community centre in the autumn (exact dates to be confirmed) to give us your thoughts on these objectives. They will become the backbone of our plan. The dates of the Stage 2 events will be confirmed by posters and flyers to every house.

From your reaction to these main points a questionnaire will develop to be completed by each household. Please help us make this questionnaire reflect how you want to see Stevington change/grow or stay the same in the future.



Don't forget to enter your favourite photo into the Photo Competition and become part of this historic document!

Heather Eadie
(SNPWG)

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Speed Cameras in Oakley

The speed cameras in Pavenham Road and Station Road are being calibrated and will soon be operational so keep practising keeping to 30 miles per hour!

Church Lane and Lovell Road cameras are not yet operational. Cllr Jane Walker and I have been very concerned about the children walking along Lovell road to Lincroft School as have both Oakley and Clapham Parish Councils. Therefore we have asked for the Lovell Road camera to be moved from the junction with Station Road to near the Railway Bridge in Lovell Road. The Borough Council has agreed to move the camera to ensure the safety of those children. This means that we will have to wait a little longer for those cameras to become operational. However please be mindful of those children and please reduce your speed in Lovell Road.

Winifred Fowler Award

This award recognises people in the borough who give their time selflessly to their community. It can be awarded for people who volunteer in the community, in the arts, sports or the environment. So many people for many years give their time and energy serving voluntarily. I am sure you know of someone who is an 'unsung hero'. Please nominate them - you can get the forms from

www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/winifredfowler

It would be great to have someone from this area.

Bedford Bypass – Sainsbury's to Branston Way

Thank you for everyone's patience whilst the roundabout near Sainsbury's has been reconstructed. It should be completed by the time you read this. I am sure you are as interested as I am watching the construction of the bridge over the railway. The construction firm is predicting that the Bypass will be open early in the New Year.

Councillor Ward Money

If an organisation has a capital project that they need some money towards please either phone 824384 or email me on pat.olney@btopenworld.com. The money can be used for either a community or an environmental project.

Borough Councillor Pat Olney

Telephone 01234 824384

Email pat.olney@btopenworld.com

Website www.patolney.wordpress.com

STEVINGTON SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Saturday 26 September 2015



Here it is! After a two year rest, by popular request, it is time to get building those scarecrows again. ENTRY IS FREE and forms can be obtained from the shop, the Royal George or Baptist Church leaders. They should be handed in to Mrs Carol Wareing, 39 Silver Street, by 6pm on Wednesday 23 September.

Scarecrows should be in position to be judged from 10.30am - front gardens are best so everyone can see them. Please label your scarecrow, but the label will not form part of the judging.

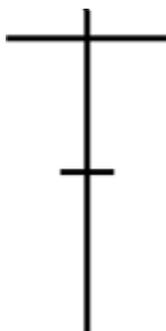
The winner will be presented with an inscribed shield and there is a cup for the best entry by a child ten years or under on 25 September 2015. Both trophies to be held for two years. Our theme this year is Holidays.



Suggestions for building your scarecrow.

You need:

- a strip of wood approx. 6ft x 2in x 1in (2m x 50mm x 25mm)
- another strip half as long
- a third piece one foot long (300mm)



Tie the two longest battens like a cross, with the middle piece about 6in (150mm) from the top of the longest. The shortest piece is tied similarly about half way down the longest piece. Make a head from half an old pair of tights stuffed tightly with straw, newspaper, bubble wrap etc., OR you could use an inflated balloon, covered with papier mache on which you can paint a face. Try and make it waterproof - after all this is September in England! Tie this head to the top of the frame and dress the frame with old clothes, again stuffed with old straw, paper or bubble wrap. Tie the ends of arms and legs so you can pack the stuffing tight. Lots more information on the internet.

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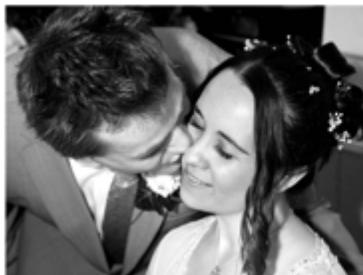
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**STEVINGTON MAGAZINE 2015
CHRISTMAS CHARITY
THE NATIONAL AMYLOIDOSIS CENTRE (NAC)
UCL AMYLOIDOSIS RESEARCH FUND
IN MEMORY OF DENNIS KING**

It's difficult to believe that the on 4 August it was the tenth anniversary of Dennis's passing. To mark this occasion, we have nominated the UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund as this year's Christmas Charity; both in his memory and in recognition of his contribution to the village and people of Stevington.

Dennis moved to the village from nearby Turvey after getting married and immediately joined in the various village activities. He played football and cricket for the village for many years as well as the various pub games all of which helped create the close community spirit that Stevington prides itself on today. Once his football playing days were over he took over the role of club secretary and held the post for nearly 40 years ensuring that this small village club became the longest serving club in the Bedford Football league. He was extremely proud of this achievement and of all those that played for the club and supported it over his near 50 year association with it.

Dennis also took great pride in the voluntary upkeep of the playing field, not just for the benefit of sports teams but for everyone in the village. After a hard day at work he would think nothing of borrowing a tractor from the Wagstaff or Stanbridge farms (his Sunday evening pub pals), and going over the field in the evening to mow the grass, strim round the trees, bushes, swings, slides and children's play area to ensure it was safe, clean and tidy and always looked presentable. He would also be over the field every weekend whatever the weather. Prior to the village bonfire party, he would make sure that all the playing field hedge trimmings were moved from the side of the hedges and used to start to build the fire and could always be relied on to make sure the fire ash and debris was cleared soon



after the event. Dennis never sought any recognition or thanks for this and simply took pride and pleasure from the field looking as good and inviting as any in the North Beds area and being used by everyone.

Dennis died of Amyloidosis, it was and still is, a very rare and difficult to diagnose disease caused by abnormal deposition and accumulation of proteins in the tissues and vital organs of the body. These amyloid deposits are primarily made up of protein fibres known as amyloid fibrils and are formed when normally soluble body proteins aggregate (clump together), and then remain in the tissues instead of safely going away. Amyloid deposits can form in almost any tissue of the body. Therefore the symptoms and signs of the disease can vary greatly and are often vague and not specific. Many patients undergo extensive testing and see several doctors before the diagnosis is made. In Dennis's case the diagnosis unfortunately came far too late for any treatment to have any possible positive impact – although he gave it his best shot as we all expected.

Dennis was treated at the National Amyloidosis Centre based at the Royal Free Hospital in London, which is the world's largest and most diverse Amyloidosis practice. The resources provided by the UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund, through the generosity of donors like yourselves, will undoubtedly make major contributions to alleviating the suffering and saving the lives of many thousands of individuals afflicted by a terrible and hitherto incurable disease. Every penny is received with sincere gratitude and is used specifically and in its entirety for amyloidosis research.

For more information please go to:

- www.ucl.ac.uk/amyloidosis/support-us/fundraising
- www.amyloidosis.org.uk/essentials/about-the-nac

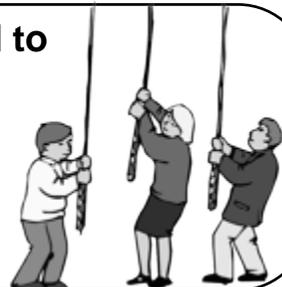
Gill King and family.

**Bell ringing practise has moved to
Tuesdays**

7.30pm at St Mary's Church

Why not come along?

Beginners welcome



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 22 November. All donations go to charity - we support a different one each year. This years donation will be made to UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund in memory of Dennis King.

Name: _____ Donation: £ _____.

Message (include any name to appear in greeting): _____.

_____.

_____.

_____.

_____.

_____.

_____.



If you are eligible and wish UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund 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.

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_____.

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STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE

We have had a quiet summer, as usual, as many people are on holiday. But we have taken the opportunity to start work on the patio at the back of the hall whilst the usage is low. Everyone is welcome to come and have a look at progress, but don't distract the workers! We hope this will be completed soon (possibly before this magazine is out), and we can look forward to enjoying the facility.

The 12K run made £798, so thank you to all of the many volunteers without whose help this would not have been possible. It is nice to know that the runners really appreciate the day, and we got a number of compliments about the day.

The Cinema Club equipment was used for our first 'live streaming' event. Linda Penney ran a charity event covering the Wimbledon Final, with Pimms and strawberries. Thanks to Richard for running the barbeque and Jean for attending the bar. Linda raised over £500 for the Primrose Unit at the Bedford hospital.

More live streaming events are planned, as we now have permission to install satellite equipment to screen live events of all sorts. Watch this space for an announcement of the first event, sometime in September I am told, and maybe a Shakespeare play? If you spot events you would like to see, or put on a show, please come and talk to one of the committee.

We will be holding firework night again on 5 November. Please come along and enjoy the show.

Roger Penney

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Month	Orange	Green
September	7, 21	14, 28
October	5, 19	12, 26
November	2, 16, 30	9, 23



STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Following the success of winning an unprecedented Bedfordshire Football League Treble of League Division 2, Bedfordshire FA Junior Challenge Cup (County) and Jubilee Cup (League) the club is looking forward to the 2015/16 season.



We are extremely pleased to report that the club will be fielding two teams in the Bedfordshire County Football League this season. The first team has been promoted to Division 1 and a newly formed reserve team will be playing in Division 4. The teams will be managed by Aaron Coker/AJ O'Reilly and Lee Coker/Daz King respectively with the same 'backroom' supporting both teams.

We also achieved Bedfordshire FA Charter status over the summer which was a pre-requisite for all clubs wanting to join the Bedfordshire County leagues this year. This required our nominated first aiders to attend an emergency sports first aid course - after being advised that one of our A&E trained doctors wouldn't meet the requirements unless he attended the course!! We also needed to demonstrate the necessary levels of governance within the club to ensure that it is being run correctly and is financially viable to commit to playing in the league for the season. As expected we passed all of these bureaucratic hurdles. Next year could be a challenge though, if we are successful and get promoted again the referee MUST be provided with a separate changing room and shower facilities of a certain size. How things have changed since Alan Cox used to open his front room up for the team to change in before a match and have a wash and bit of cake after the game - can you believe it!!

The club is determined to build on last year's success and at the same time ensure we retain the club's long standing 'culture and spirit' of 'playing to the best of your ability to win the game when on the pitch – then socialising with team mates, the opposition and others after the game – both home and away'!

A number of clubs struggle running two teams, we acknowledge this and are fully focused on ensuring we become a single unified club running two teams to help one another, rather than having two distinct and almost separate teams within the same 'club'.

Pre-season training has been well attended with lots of new players looking to join the club on the back of last season's success both on and off the pitch - with players old and new already asking to make deposits for the end of season tour!!

We would like to thank this opportunity to thank our present club sponsors as follows:

- **Rob Oliman and the Royal George** – Change of Colours Shirt Sponsor and after match and event hospitality.
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- **Autotech Recruit Ltd** – Team Shirt Sponsors
<http://autotechrecruit.co.uk>
- **Hilton Suzuki** – Reserve Team Shirt Sponsors
www.hiltonsuzuki.com
- **JacksonStead** – Match Ball Sponsors
Investment Recovery Specialists. www.jacksonstead.co.uk

Unfortunately we are not able to publish details of our fixtures or results, however these can now be found on the following websites:

- www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk/currentseason.php
(Division 1 and Division 4)
- www.stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk

Once again we would also like thank all those that came to watch our games, both home and away and look forward to seeing you all this coming season.

Shane King

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The Mobile Library visits The Cross from 2.15 - 2.45pm on alternate Wednesdays and the dates for the coming months are:



September	16, 30
October	14, 25
November	11, 25
December	9, 23

Please continue to support this service.

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STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
TODAY'S WOMEN WORKING FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD



We continue to be active taking part in events associated with the Centenary of the WI.

Jean Edwards reported on her visit to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in June. Jean was Stevington WI's representative. Unfortunately the weather was somewhat inclement but that did not mar an enjoyable and rewarding day.

Vivienne Newell gave us feedback from the Annual Meeting at The Royal Albert Hall attended by the Queen, Princess Anne and Sophie, Countess of Wessex, and the laughter on their faces when the 'knife wouldn't cut the cake' until Princess Anne came to the rescue! What a lovely memory!

To celebrate the Centenary we chose to organise an Open Gardens event on Sunday 5 July. We would like to thank the owners of the eleven gardens that participated and everyone who visited the gardens. We were able to pass on a donation to the Social Centre as well as raising funds for our own WI. We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to maintain their beautiful gardens keeping their plants thriving in the heat. Also thank you to those who provided such a variety of delicious cakes - we received very positive comments from everyone during the afternoon, making it all very worthwhile.

We have also been busy providing lunches for groups of walkers visiting the village which gives a welcome boost to our funds and are much appreciated by the walkers.

Our invited speakers continue to be entertaining and educational. In July we discovered how an 'old dog' can indeed learn new tricks with Barrie Hyde - how he adapted to a serious change in his circumstances with a very positive outcome.

We are now taking our summer break but will return on 10 September with our Harvest Supper at 7.30pm in Church Room. The competition theme will be 'an autumnal arrangement in a jam jar'. Angela from Phoenix cards will be attending bringing along a selection of cards and other stationery which proves to be popular with our members.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, STEVINGTON



Where Are We Now?

Since the last magazine in June, further proposals have been made for the grouping of the ten churches in the west of the Sharnbrook Deanery which, by mid September, will all be without a vicar.

The aim is to have three stipendiary priests, one of whom would take over the existing group of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Felmersham. The other two, a rector and a vicar, would run a team ministry of the other seven, being Turvey and Stevington, Harrold and Carlton, and the three independent parishes of Odell, Podington and Wymington.

Our PCC has voted solidly in favour of this proposal, as has Turvey and most others. However, at present, at least one parish does not agree, and we should hear in September what the Bishop and the two Chairmen of the Deanery propose to resolve the situation. If agreement is reached quickly, it is still likely to be a minimum of twelve months before the new ministers are in place.

In the meantime we carry on with the help of the retired priests of the area, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. We, in common with some of our neighbours, are already running our own Evensong services and these have proved popular. Thank you all for your continued support during this difficult period, and to the members of the PCC, who are all having to share the burden.



Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will be at 10am on Sunday 4 October. Watch for posters and flyers about activities to prepare for our Harvest Festival. This will include bread making and baking to share and raise money for your chosen charity. See you there!

St Mary's Garden Of Remembrance

St Mary's Garden of Remembrance offers an alternative to the existing arrangements for the interment of ashes (near to the churchyard walls where space is available). Features include a gravelled area with Yorkstone surround with containers for floral tributes and a bench overlooking the garden with an excellent view of the church. A boxwood hedge along the boundary adjacent to the footpath leading to the Holy Well will give a sense of privacy.

Each burial plot will accommodate two full size caskets and will be marked by a 15in X 12in limestone plaque laid flat and recessed into the ground. Inscriptions will be kept fairly simple and will record the name of the deceased and dates of birth and death, or alternatively age. The lettering style will allow sufficient space on each stone for two interments.

The use of the flower containers provided is encouraged. No other containers are permitted within the area of the garden. However, small wreaths or flower sprays may be placed on the memorial plaques. These will be removed when the flowers begin to fade.

The cost of the bench was met by a ward grant of £2000 awarded by Bedford Borough Council to Stevington Parish Council. All other costs in the preparation of the Garden of Remembrance are being met from a part of the generous legacy from the estate of the late Terence Studley. The PCC felt that this is a fitting use of part of the money bequeathed to the church.

It is confidently hoped that our Garden of Remembrance will be ready for consecration before the end of September.

Get On Your Bikes!!

The Annual Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike 'n Hike will be held on Saturday 12 September between (not necessarily from/to!) 10am and 6pm.

For cyclists and walkers this is a very different day out with a real purpose and I have never met anyone who has not enjoyed it. The aim is simple – to raise much-needed finance to keep our wonderful heritage of churches in good structural shape, by riding or hiking from one to another, as many or as few as you like. The money you cajole your friends into giving to this good cause can be a lump sum or based on the number of churches visited. Half the total goes to the church of your choice (preferably St Mary's!), the other to the Trust to distribute in grants where the need is greatest. A good pub lunch can be fitted in to your day.

Please contact Robert Hart (823769) for information and entry forms.

The Choir

Robert Eadie will start choir rehearsals for the Harvest Festival on Tuesday 8 September at 7.00pm in the Church Room. Weekly rehearsal details will be agreed that evening, so please try to get there! New singers always welcome – ring Robert Eadie on 826198.

From the Registers

Weddings	Nicola Dalkiran and Wayne Blackett	1 August
	Kirsty Thomas and James Comb	15 August
Funeral	Jean Cartwright	14 July

Robert Hart, Churchwarden
823769

The Friends of ST MARY'S STEVINGTON

Firstly, let me offer a big vote of thanks to everyone who came to support and help at our annual Friends Garden Tea Party at the beginning of August. We had a gorgeous sunny day, mountains of sandwiches and cakes and lots of happy people enjoying some quality time with friends and neighbours. What could be better? As a result we raised £185.50 in the process.

By the time you read this we will have had some fun with the Young Friends on a professionally guided Bat Prowl around St. Mary's Church and the churchyard - needless to say there were cakes involved too! The youngsters were also proud to present a cheque for £131.31 to Keech Hospice Care - they had raised this amount by baking cupcakes and selling them at a coffee morning in the Church Room. Thank you to Jane and John for masterminding this and to all the youngsters who worked so hard over two days.

We're looking forward to having a good laugh participating in the village Scarecrow Competition again in September. We've been runners-up twice, so we're hoping to up our game this time and make a winner! Watch out for posters inviting you to get involved.

The Harvest Service is taking place on Sunday 4 October and, as always, Friends of St. Mary's are specially invited to attend this joyful service and, of course, the Harvest Supper the following evening. Tickets for the Supper will be going on sale in the Church Room early in September.

Thank you again to everyone who continues to support our efforts, it is so sincerely appreciated.

Chrissie Galley
Chairman of Trustees

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BAPTIST NEWS



By the time this edition of the magazine appears, much of the harvest will be in from the fields, but crops remain in the orchards and our gardens. In the seas, a different harvest continues and in all sorts of mines, the earth is still expected to yield its resources to sate the needs of mankind.

On 27 September at 3pm the doors of the Baptist Church will be open for everyone in the village to express their thanks. We will also be joined by our friends from St Mary's.

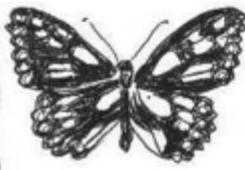
The day before that, the village will see several 'strangers' going on their holidays – that's the theme for this year's scarecrow festival with scarecrows on show for the judges from 10am. That evening, awards will be presented in the church hall – a shield for the best entry from an adult and a cup for the best from a child under 12. Tickets for the supper which starts at 7pm are on sale from church members or Barbara Collins.

The Baptist Church is paying a return visit to St Mary's on 11 October, joining for the 9.30am service of Holy Communion and the churches will of course join again round the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November.

During the summer Stevington Railway Modellers, who meet at the Baptist Church, have met more frequently to speed up progress on creating their new layout. All the track planned for the moment has been laid and electrical wiring has moved on apace. Members are looking ahead to take photographs and build models of some of the village's significant buildings so that the scenery can maintain a local interest.

The final afternoon tea of the year is scheduled for 10 November. This is an opportunity to meet up with friends or make new ones over tea, savouries and cakes. There is even a quiz with a prize, so if you haven't been before, why not give it a try?

Peter Evans





NEW BUS FOR STEVINGTON ROUTE

One of Bedford Borough's rural bus services; the number 25 route, has received a brand new bus as customer numbers have grown. The brand new Dennis Enviro, which includes colour-co-ordinated leather seating, three-point seat belts and CCTV cameras, is both low on emissions and provides economical fuel consumption.

The £124,000 investment has been made jointly between Grant Palmer and Bedford Borough Council to ensure increased passenger demand is being catered for.

The Dennis Enviro started to transport passengers between Bedford and Sharnbrook, Harrold, Stevington, Oakley and Clapham from Wednesday 12 August.

Grant Palmer, owner and Managing Director of the Bedfordshire-based bus company said 'The new bus is being brought in to show residents of the rural service that they are just as important to us as bus users travelling across Bedford town. The new bus, which is the best in its class, will ensure passengers reach their destination comfortably, safely and in style!'

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson said: 'We are delighted to help introduce the new bus on Route 25, alongside Grant Palmer, in response to the increased demand for this key rural service. This investment has come at a great time and will enable comfortable, safe and reliable transport to be provided for users all along the route between Sharnbrook and Bedford.'

New Dennis Enviro 2015 specifications:

- Vehicle capacity and out-side dimensions make it ideal for the rural operating territory of North Bedford.
- Un-rivaled passenger comfort for the type of vehicle.
- Three point seat belts fitted to all front facing seats.
- Full leather seating fitted (colour co-ordinated).
- Full 7 camera CCTV system fitted for passenger safety.
- Vehicle meets Euro 5 emission standards.
- Class Leading fuel consumption returned.

THE LONE RIDER

All ideas good or bad seem to happen when I meet my friends in The George. Well the Christmas Market was good I returned unharmed from that and they seemed to make a good effort not to lose me. My next expedition was not quite so successful.

It was Friday night they all arrived at The George on their bikes - not all of them wearing lycra - they had been on a quick training ride to The Cock at Pavenham and back. They were preparing to do the London ride. Not I hasten to add were they going to cycle to London, just to the station where they would load the bikes and themselves onto the train. This was a very special day in London when the selected route was closed to all traffic apart from cyclists. I did mention I would have liked to go but they comforted me by saying perhaps I could sign up for next year. Well that is all very well but at my age signing up for next Wednesday could not be guaranteed. 'Okay' I said 'Have a good time'.

I woke up very early the next day, it was a beautiful sunny morning, and impulsively I thought 'let's just do it.' I walked Winnie then prepared a lunch for Brian and left him a note ('I have gone for a bike ride') dusted my bike down and packed a banana for my lunch and was hoping to make a head start ahead of the athletes to the station. Alas when I arrived at the Cross I had mistimed their departure by half an hour and they were all ready to leave. I did say to them 'don't wait for me' and that I would get there eventually. Sadly my performance on my bike on the journey to the station was very poor and by the time I got to Bromham I was shattered and I decided that I was going to be a liability to my honed companions to whom in any case I had said 'Don't wait for me'. Then over the brow of the hill I had just cycled up I saw, not on a black steed or in shining armour, Richard Blayney on the way to the market and ready to rescue the maiden in distress (alright I know I am no maiden). 'Let me take you and your bike home' he offered but I asked him if he would take me to the station which he reluctantly agreed to do. When we arrived at the station Richard had phoned ahead to tell the Stevington crowd I would be coming and when we got there they were still on the train. I still had a chance of joining them but alas the train left just as I got out of the lift.

Undeterred I boarded the next train and we communicated by texting. I sent a text when I reached Harpenden but my phone wouldn't recognise that and insisted on referring to it as 'sharpened'. My friends then thought I was at the sharp end of the train. (Don't ask) This was

the beginning of a series of mishaps and cross messaging that was going to confuse me on my big adventure. One message I got loud and clear was that I was to disembark at City Thameslink which I did confident that I would be reunited with my friends. Alas there was no sign of them and no message on my phone. I then bought a bottle of water to add to my banana for my picnic and asked a policeman where the ride started he pointed me in the right direction and I set off on this epic journey.

It was truly amazing cycling through London past all these famous land marks up the Mall to Buckingham Palace where I asked a Japanese man to take a photograph of me and my bike with the palace in the background. I had already photographed my bike. I texted the



*Photo courtesy of
Anne Westbrook*

breakaway group to say I was at the palace hoping we might be reunited at this prominent landmark. By then it was getting on for one o'clock so I took a break in Green Park where I ate my banana and sent a 'I am at Green Park' text. Ten minutes later I was back on the road heading for Trafalgar Square. This proved to be not too enjoyable - it was so packed and you were getting on and off your bike all the time. I am not very good in cycle traffic. I am a bit like an aircraft where the biggest danger is take-off and landing and I was doing a lot of that in Trafalgar Square and not liking it one bit. Then going in the other direction I spotted a flock of cyclists obviously on the home stretch. I decided to join them - nobody has to know that I did not complete the route. I looked at my phone the message was 'we are in Green Park too'. I texted back 'That's nice I am in Trafalgar Square!' I set off again to follow the people heading back on a nearly clear road with the wind blowing in my hair - rehearsing the lies I will tell about completing this ten mile ride.

BUT WHAT'S THIS? IT CAN'T BE! It was Buckingham Palace! I had done the ride twice. My companions were not on the way home but had just started the ride. I have to do Trafalgar Square again with all that dangerous take-off and landing. I did complete the ride with many more adventures en route and boarded the four-ten train very tired but quite proud of my achievement. Another message on my phone 'would you like Richard to meet you?' A silly question!

I never did catch up with anyone that day but on checking my phone the next day I found I had missed a vital message 'will wait for you at Guildhall'. I had also wondered why nobody had actually phoned me. They had - my phone was on silent.

Anne Westbrook

BEDFORD MEMORY WALK 2015



- Saturday 10 October 2015
- Event begins at 10am, walk begins at 11am
- Priory Country Park, Bedford

Memory Walk is Alzheimer's Society's flagship fundraising event taking place across England, Wales and Northern Ireland this autumn raising not only money but awareness too. The money raised will fund research into a cure for dementia as well as helping to provide services for people living with the disease.

There are 2 routes to choose from: a 2km and a 10km route. The 2km route is pushchair/wheelchair and dog friendly. There'll also be an assortment of fundraising stalls such as a cake stall, raffle and face painting. The 10km route continues beyond the lake, through meadows and woodlands, making it unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

You can register online today on easy to use www.memorywalk.org.uk/participate/bedford/. You also have the option to register as a team or family.

- Anyone who would like to know more about the Bedfordshire Memory Walk, can call 0300 330 5452 for more information.
- Visit our Facebook page today - www.facebook.com/bedfordmemorywalk

OLIVIA'S EXPEDITION TO INDIA

I arrived back on 2 August from a month long expedition to North India. I was with a group of 12 students, 2 teachers and a leader from True Adventure (the company organising the trip). Over the past 2 years I have been raising money to go on the trip, some of which I raised through having a toy sale and a cake sale in the village. Many thanks to everyone who supported these events - I managed to raise a total of about £400 from them.

Over the month we did a trek, project work at a school and also some recreational activities.

We arrived in Delhi on 16 July and the next day we took a night bus (for 18 hours) to Manali in the mountains. We then spent the next 3 days acclimatising to the altitude (about 3500 metres) after which we started on our trek into the Himalayas. The first day went very well and we got to the campsite quicker than expected, however over the next two days it rained constantly. This meant that we had to cut the trek short because we risked getting hyperthermia. Despite this we did have an amazing view of the clouds below us when we were at the second campsite (as you can see in the photograph).



After the tough descent we had a day's rest, sunbathing on the roof of the hotel and prepared for the project. The itinerary said that the journey to Rangrik would be 5 hours, unfortunately it seems they left the '1' out because it in fact took 15 hours! The views from the jeep were wonderful but after 15 hours of Indian music and bumpy roads with steep drops down the mountain beside us we were not terribly happy and to top it off we then had to camp outside!

Regardless of the disasters of last night, it was my turn to lead the team through the first day of the project at Rangrik Primary School. We started painting, ordered some benches for the children to work on, and mudded a wall that was falling down. Over the next week there we

added to that list more painting, concreting a floor outside, sanding and painting desks and a gate, buying books and toys for the children and buying new chairs for the teachers. The children from the school loved to visit us, and this picture shows one of the girls who came with her grandad to watch us work almost every day.



The second trek was higher, we reached nearly 5000 meters and we visited two monasteries along the way. It was a tough trek as it was much hotter and a few of the team were ill, including one of the teachers. However we made it to the last campsite where we played cricket and an Indian game called Kabaddi with the locals, our guide Bhagat, and the cooks who were with us for the treks and the project.

For the R&R part of the trip we visited Shimla, Agra, Jaipur and Delhi. When we went to Shimla we saw the monkey temple (Jakhu) and did some shopping. In Agra we got up at sunrise to see the Taj Mahal, but unfortunately my camera ran out of battery when we got there! We also saw the Agra fort there too. In Jaipur we visited the Amber fort (picture below) and also went on an elephant ride as the elephants were



treated well there. We arrived in Delhi for our last day where we had a buffet meal at a 5 star hotel (paid for by an uncle of one of the students) and a massage when we got back! Not a bad way to end an amazing trip!

Thanks again to everyone who donated money towards the expedition!

Olivia Eadie

Photos courtesy of Olivia Eadie

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UTTER NUTTER!

Just a little thank you note to all who made my birthday treat possible at Goodwood Aerodrome where I was thrown around the sky in a seriously aerobatic plane during a series of five manoeuvres which together are called the UTTER NUTTER! And now I know why. After a short brief, where the pilot mentioned that approximately 7 out of 10 passengers ask to stop after the first manoeuvre, I was strapped into the plane, complete with a parachute, the pilot boosting my confidence by saying 'just in case we need to get out before we land'! What?? Take off was accomplished in about 50 yards, climbing out nearly vertical with nothing in view other than blue sky. Once we were in level flight at about 4,000 feet the pilot mentioned we had a short two minute trip so we could do the manoeuvres over the sea - the pilot again boosting my confidence further by saying 'you never know'! There was no mention of this in the advert. On the way to the manoeuvre area the pilot said I could 'have a stir' on the joystick and I managed to do a complete loop unaided by the pilot – I was well pleased. However, the pilot then said 'Why don't you try doing a roll'? Ok – so I slammed the joystick to one side, which nearly dislocated my neck as the aircraft is capable of doing two rolls in one second – which is what we did! 'Hmm' said the pilot – maybe you'd better let me take back the controls. Anyway, we shortly arrive over the sea to conduct the Utter Nutter manoeuvres. Below are the descriptions of the manoeuvres from the website together with my comments:

1. Inverted Loop

The plane has a symmetrical wing and so everything that can be done the right way up, can also be done upside down. The aeroplane is rolled upside down in level flight, and then 'pushed' at minus 4G to fly an outside or inverted loop. So you're upside down with a minus 4G force trying to push your innards straight up into your mouth - and beyond! At this point, due to the G force, I am weighing about 56 stones - but upside down. A somewhat unusual feeling! Also, both my knees slammed 'upwards' into the dashboard and my arms were slammed against the canopy and absolutely pinned there.

2. Loop to Cravat

The first part of this manoeuvre is a 'normal' loop but now pulling about 5G. So now I'm weighing somewhere about 70 stones with my innards trying to exit straight down – I felt safer with my knees pressed tightly together at this point! Then comes the Cravat - an introduction to the world of gyroscopics. A vertical twisting manoeuvre so named

because it resembles the instructions used to teach people how to do up a bow tie.

3. Ruade

One of the most dramatic of all the gyroscopic figures, at high speed, the plane is pulled up to 45 degrees, rolled onto its side in knife edge flight, and then ‘tumbled’ tail over nose. Ruade is a French word used to describe the huge kick from the hind leg of a horse! Flying tail first is seriously disconcerting.

4. Inverted push-up to Lomcevak

From upside down flight, the plane is pushed upwards onto the 45 degree inverted upline and then ‘kicked’ into a Lomcevak tumble. The name allegedly comes from a Czechoslovakian word describing the motion of a drunken man! I don’t really remember much about this one - it was just an absolute blur of sky/sea/land/sea/sky/land – heaven knows what they drink in Czechoslovakia.

5. Mulleroid

The fifth and final manoeuvre was invented by World Aerobatic Champion Eric Mueller. This incredibly complex figure starts with a 6G pull to the vertical upline. So now I’m weighing in excess of 84 stones. An aileron roll to the right is followed by a series of negative flick rolls. As the energy declines and the cone of rotation expands the aircraft is transitioned into a downwards erect flat accelerated spin. A flat spin is where the aircraft has lost all lift from the wings and therefore has all the aerodynamic qualities of a manhole cover!

On the way back to the airfield, the pilot said as I’d enjoyed (?) the manoeuvres so much, I could have a freebie, although he said I must speak to him throughout the manoeuvre – I had no idea why. We were going to do a 7G loop (3 times more G than the Shuttle astronauts experience at take-off). We started the 7G loop, and now I’m weighing about 100 stones and I told the pilot I could only see in black and white. The pilot says, ‘That’s the first stage of losing consciousness’. Then I tell him I can only see like I’m looking down two drainpipes and the pilot says ‘That’s stage two of losing consciousness’ I said what happens next? He says ‘You go unconscious!’ Luckily I didn’t, but it was mighty close.

Anyway we landed safely and, although it may not have sounded like it, I loved every moment. So many thanks again, it was a birthday present and a half, and it was extreme in the extreme. Thank you all so very much.

Swoop (aka Ray Cox)

RIDE LONDON FREECYCLE 2015 - THE STEVINGTON CHAPTER OR YOU'VE READ ANNE'S ACCOUNT - HERE'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Last year, Jean Blayney, Jen Bentham and Tracy Bailey, Ade Churchill and I, Sue Churchill, took our bikes to London to RideLondon FreeCycle, one of Boris' better ideas, where some of the roads in central London are closed to traffic so that you can ride your bike, along with thousands of others and stop off at various places of interest, St Paul's, Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace etc. We had such a lovely day we decided to do it again this year.

So, early on a very sunny 1 August, Ade, his new shoulder and I set off for the cross. We then set off for the station along with Jean Blayney, Jen Bentham and Colin Hartop. Dave from Burridges, as we know him, with his very shiny 1970s Chopper and Steve Cole were to meet us there. 'Exciting news' says Jean, 'Anne, as in Lady Anne Westbrook of Silver Street, is going to join us, she left a few minutes ago'.

We set off for the station. We passed Anne and called 'see you there Anne'. At the station we met Steve and Dave from Burridges, paid our £9.55 return (what a bargain!), got to platform 2 and loaded our bikes on the train, being very careful not damage Dave from Burridges' priceless Chopper. As soon as we sat down, Jean had a call from Richard explaining that Anne had fallen off her bike and had gone back home, he had pumped up her tyres and brought her and her bike to the station. Jean told Richard to tell her to get a ticket then ask for help to get to platform 2. A few minutes later our train pulls out of the station. Did Anne make it we all ask in anticipation? Then as our train goes past we see her waiting for the lift, did she ask for help? No, I think not. Ok, well, never mind she'll be fine and can get the next train we all think.

The next part of the story consists of the text messages sent between us and Anne for the rest of the day:

10.24 Us - Hi Anne, are you on a train yet? We're getting off at City x

10.42 Anne - am on train don't know if it's the same as u will get off at City x tta (not sure about tta)

10.44 Us - You're not on our train, we saw you by the lift, will wait for you at cityx

10.45 Anne - am at Sharpened x

'Anne says she's at sharpened, any ideas guys, is there a sharp end of a train?' You have to remember that we were very excited about getting out of the village, well, all except Ade, we all know how he hates to be out of the village. We then realised that it was predictive text and Anne was in fact at Harpenden not at the sharp end.

10.49 Anne – not sure you got my message am on train x

I love the way we put a x/kiss at the end of each text, we're so affectionate and looking back at the texts am impressed with my punctuation.

11.01 Us – yes we're nearly at City see you there

Yeah! soon our party will all be together, or will it?

11.11 Anne – am at St Pancras x

Oh no she can't get off there, it's not on the route! (long discussion follows about what she's going to do.

11.22 Anne – am at City, is that right?x

Oh, she was just passing through St Pancras.

11.28 Us – Yes get the lift (and the lift at the station is another story but there's no room for that this time) then head to Guildhall, will meet you there x

This message was to prove very important for how the rest of the day pans out. So here we are waiting for Anne at Guildhall. Some of us get a bit of culture and wander around the art gallery, others wonder where Anne is and the others wonder where the nearest pub is (you can guess who they are). We wait a while, no sign of Anne.

11.56 Us – where are you?

12.56!! Anne – I'm having a picnic in Green Parkx



Photo courtesy of Sue Churchill

Really!!? Oh well at least she's ok, off we go to Green Park, where we find the world and his wife having a picnic in Green Park. So we text:

1.15 Us - We're in Green Park, where are you?

1.33 Anne – Trafalgar Square! X

So we leave the men at the nearest pub before they lose the will to live or dehydrate and Jean, Jen and I set off to find Anne in Trafalgar Square, we're determined to find her but we just had to swing by Buck House to see her Madge for a quick photo.

On our travels we realise that the world and his wife have now moved on to Trafalgar Square and we're probably not going to spot Anne so we decide to find the cafe in Victoria Park that Jean, Trace and Jen found last year. It was an adventure getting my heavy bike with basket with the bunting down a load of steps, but it was lovely when we got there. We sent Anne a text saying where we were but didn't expect a reply, by now we were wondering if Anne was in fact avoiding us, she seemed to have had a lovely time without us. We headed back to the station sending one last text.

4.11 Us – Where are you?

4.14 Anne – on the 4.10 train x

We all had a lovely day. Dave from Burridges' Chopper didn't get any special treatment on the way home, we only just made the train and all the bikes were just chucked on the last carriage and unfortunately the Chopper was on the bottom.

Apparently Richard was there to pick Anne up when she got to the station. We all had to bike home, some stopped off at the Swan, and I bet you can guess who!

The next day I received another text from Anne.

Anne - I have just gone through yesterday's texts and I missed the vital one about Guildhall. That makes me feel better but I did enjoy it I have a photo of me and my bike at Buck House. Shall use it for magazine story! Anne x

Anyway, same time next year!!

Sue Churchill

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The Trustees wish to thank everyone who has ordered a copy of the Trust's forthcoming publication. We have received advance subscriptions for over 200 copies.

The Trustees and the Study Group are in the final throes of editing the book which will be going to the printer in the next few weeks. The publication date is 14 November.

It's still not too late to order your copy! Please contact me on 01234 823081 or e-mail me at janetday51@yahoo.co.uk for more details or return the order form below.

Janet Day

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LEARN A LESSON FROM ME.....

On 31 July there was a knock at the door. There was a white cab with blue flat-bed tilt truck with 'FD Continental' on it, parked at the end of my drive, full of about 10 tonnes gravel and two men. The driver was 5'9, slim build, late 50s, nearly bald, tanned with tattoos on his arms. The talker was 5'10, tubby build with dark hair. Both were polite and pleasant to start with.

The story was that they were contracting 'up the road' for water pipes, which had burst, making gravel unnecessary; they couldn't return the gravel and were looking to top up gravel drives for cash.

The quote was '**50p per foot of drive**'. Mine is about 70 feet long so about **£40**. I mentioned this and gave them the go-ahead. When the job was finished they measured the drive (69.5ft) then the width (7ft) and the **square-footage cost was £258**, so we discussed what he had actually said versus what he meant to say.

Still thinking that this was a legitimate business, I offered to meet him half way if he would confirm the details of the previous job. He became evasive and only wanted to talk about money. I suggested that if this was a legitimate business, it was reasonable to answer my questions, but then he couldn't remember the details of the job they had 'just come from'.

He repeatedly said he didn't have a business card, but after some persuasion, he found a flyer in the truck (which then pulled out of view). Since he wouldn't tell me about the job, I told him that I would make some phone calls. Back inside the house I called the local police, who took down all the details and advised me to stay inside whilst they sent a patrol car.



The men were not rude, or aggressive, but the talker was pushy and intimidating. Whilst I was on the phone he sat on my lawn gesticulating impatience and that I should come outside. Eventually he said, 'Just give us whatever money you think and we'll go', so I gave him a

cheque for the amount originally discussed, suggested they leave Stevington and said that I had phoned the police. He wanted his flyer back; I declined and locked myself in the house, then a patrol car with two police constables arrived, by which time the truck had gone heading towards West End with an empty load bay.

The police confirmed that this type of con is common, dupes all kinds of people and that (despite feeling stupid), I had done well to stand up to them and to keep a copy of their flyer. Barbara Collins appeared within a few minutes to sit with me and Richard Blayney checked in having seen the police car.

Although I still feel stupid, I thought that it's worth sharing.

'FD Continental' may be a legitimate business in itself with either a few dodgy staff or people impersonating a good business. The police stated that some cons are well backed up to add to the apparent authenticity of the business. Either way, the advice has to be, get quotes for things that you want, when you want with time to think.

Thanks again to Barbara and Richard.

Lucy Meakin

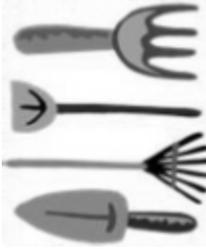
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GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

Early August 2015 was a relatively dry period in Stevington with forecast rain failing to materialise in sufficient quantities and frequent late evening watering sessions from the waterbutts and from metered mains water. Many days of new planting in clients' gardens have been followed by many more evenings of soaking each individual plant at its roots to aid establishment.

September is a popular time to aerate the lawn with a fork to 10cms or so, or use a hollow-tine tool to get air to the roots. Brush in horticultural grade sharp sand to improve drainage. If you have moss, use a moss killer and scarify the dead moss and thatch out together, followed by an autumn lawn food ideally just before rain is forecast. The trouble with leaving scarification until October is that the grass plants have insufficient time to recover before the cold and wet of winter. Personally, I prefer to carry out these cultural jobs in late February and March, when the grass plants benefit from the increasing warmth, spring rains and we see all those wonderful new blades of grass appearing in April and May.

Here are some suggestions and ideas to consider for your gardening 'to do' list.

SEPTEMBER

Deadhead your flowering perennials to prolong their display. It is worth deadheading buddleja back to the tiny new flower buds in the axils of the next pair of leaves. Butterflies can live until the first frosts in early November so they need your help in providing fresh blooms of their favourite plants for as long as possible.

Asters are just coming into flower, some of them grow very tall and will need staking or tying back to an existing support to keep them tidy. You may be lucky and see a late butterfly feeding on the nectar of sedums.

Keep deadheading roses if you want to enjoy those late blooms we sometimes see in October. Now is the month to train and tie in those long flexible stems of climbing and rambling roses. Shrub and bush roses can have their taller stems shortened to avoid damage or for 'wind-rock' if the site is exposed.

When late flowering clematis has finished blooming prune the plant back to its allotted space.

Cut back other climbing plants to keep them away from downpipes, gutters and from growing under roof tiles or into thatch.

If you have forgotten to trim your evergreens, do it in early September but not severely as spring or early summer is the best time to shape them.

Keep container soil moist and free from those autumn leaves which collect and prevent rain from getting at the roots of your plants.

By September herbaceous perennials can show signs of dying back. To tidy up cut off the dead leaves, stems and compost them. If the compost bin is dry give it a bucket of water to reactivate the biological processes.

Now is the time to buy new bulbs such as scilla, chinodoxa, muscari, narcissus and crocuses, all look wonderful when growing in short grass. Try planting spring bulbs in broad drifts under trees. Alliums come in a wide variety of sizes and colours combining well with summer flowering herbaceous perennials or between lavender or buxus plants.

On the vegetable plot clear all spent foliage and compost it. Fork over the ground and plant pak choi, lambs lettuce and perennial spinach. Leave the rhubarb plants to take the goodness from the stalks back into their roots ready for next year. Pick the last of the cultivated blackberries. Pick runner beans every day and if you want seeds for next year leave a few on the plant to mature drying them off a bit in the greenhouse before extracting the seeds.

Harvest your tree fruit, wash and dry the fruits before keeping in the fridge for a few weeks or boil and freeze in small blocks for longer storage. The wonderful crop of wild plums last year were made into a pickle, a fruity brown sauce and a chutney. Try wrapping apples in newspaper and storing in a cool, dark and airy place. They will need checking once a week for going soft or growing mould. I usually put old stored apples out for the birds to peck at in the lean months of January and February.

OCTOBER

Most jobs remaining on the September 'to do' list can be done early in October.

Cut down buddlejas to shoulder height to reduce the damaging effects of 'wind-rock'.

If you would like a cheerful evergreen container by the door, plant it up before winter and choose some violas to smile at you each time you pass by. Remember to water the container regularly.

If we experience an early leaf drop, do collect up those leaves which fall on your lawn. If left they inhibit light and moisture to the lawn grass and can encourage lawn moulds. Put the collected leaves in a black plastic sack, prod once with a fork, close the top and put out of the way. In a year or so the leaves will have rotted down into leaf-mould which can be used in potting or in improving the texture of heavy soil.

Collect up and compost fallen, rotting fruit from your trees. If left it can introduce disease into your fruit tree e.g. brown rot in the apples which remain on your trees.

Keep mowing the grass, now on a higher cut and collect the leaves at the same time. Together they will rot faster.

There will be berries on your garden shrubs and in the field hedgerows for birds and small mammals to eat.

If you would like to plant something to benefit wildlife, look around your friends gardens and in the garden centres to see which berrying shrubs you like that would suit your garden. Make a note to go and buy and to put in those plants next spring.

Insects and small creatures will be looking for safe places to hibernate. Many head for trees and areas thick with shrubs. Moths can also hibernate in long grass if it can be left undisturbed. I recently learned that spiders can predate on butterfly chrysalis, maybe it's time to clear the cobwebs out of the shed.

On the vegetable plot tidy up any remaining debris, fork over the ground and top-dress with well rotted farmyard manure or garden compost. The rain and frost will continue to improve its decomposition and the worms will take down all the small pieces into the soil.

NOVEMBER

Now is the time to plant tulip bulbs in the ground. Plant them really deeply and follow the planting instructions which come with them. I have more success with lilies in pots than with tulips, so this time I am going to find some short stemmed varieties and plant up a couple of containers which will be on trial for their performance next summer.

Lift begonias early in the month, before the first frost and dahlias after it. Clean off all soil and dead pieces, put them in a cardboard box in compost and keep in a dark airy place over winter.

Some of us like to cut down the dead herbaceous plant material at the start of winter, others prefer to leave it until late spring knowing that this will provide cover and protection for wildlife throughout the cold winter months. One year the local song thrush found a vast number of snails to eat from our garden in February, we found dozens of broken shells around flat stones I had left there for the purpose. I hope it will do the same this winter as we had far too many snails these past summers.

Keep fleece to hand ready to wrap around camellias, rhododendrons, bay or any other tender plant you have left outside which needs protection from frost, cold winds or low temperatures. I find fixing the fleece with clothes pegs quick and easy especially if the job has to be carried out in the dark!

Please let me know if there is a subject you would like me to write about, by email to susankyong@btconnect.com or contact the editors.

Susan Young
Park End Thatch

STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

Jun	1st	No 100	S Cox
	2nd	No 43	S & H Robinson
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	4th	No 54	R Westgate

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	2nd	No 54	R Westgate
	3rd	No 67	T Hext
	4th	No 63	G Follet

Aug	1st	No 25	G Strong
	2nd	No 27	E Goldby
	3rd	No 51	P O'Dell
	4th	No 58	C Boniface



The Draw is usually on the last Saturday of the month in the Community Shop at 10.30am. (The September draw will take place on Saturday 3rd October). Please do come and join us to see if you are a lucky winner.

Anna and Bob Hart (823769)



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NEWS FROM HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK



Hooray – we've done it again! We have won another Green Flag Award for the excellence of our park! This makes it 8 years in a row and we have to be able to demonstrate progress every time. The judges came out on 22 May to look at every aspect of the running of the park from the 5 year management plan and sustainability to how we engage with the community and they awarded us their maximum mark of 80+.

They were particularly impressed with how we work with our Friends Group volunteers, mentor work experience students and deal with education groups. However, they also rated our enterprises like the sale of firewood, duck food and coppice products and the way this revenue together with your car park donations is ploughed back into the running of the park.

We couldn't maintain these high standards without the efforts of our volunteers who have been engaged in refurbishing benches and picnic tables, building new log bins and storage areas and maintaining paths, hedge maintenance, splitting logs and helping with events. They completely renewed the woven fence by the café entrance and the spiral next to the tin shed last winter. Thank you doesn't even begin to say how much we value all these contributions. If you want to learn more about the work of the volunteers please log on to www.hocp.co.uk where the webmaster, David Taylor is one of the volunteers. He produces a quarterly newsletter called 'The Park' which is free to pick up from the leaflet stands in the café side room or available on the website.



*Bankside clearance by Volunteers
Courtesy of Simon Carter*

We plan to have a flag raising ceremony on 31 August – a monthly task day with all those who can attend. Other Green Flag Awards were won by Priory Country Park, Bedford Park, Addison Howard Park and Mowsbury Hill Fort, all sites owned and managed by Bedford Borough Council.

We are about to embark on a blitz on our overgrown hedges now that the bird nesting season is coming to an end. We laid a section along the north shore of the big lake last winter and this has come on a treat. The trick is to keep on top of the trimming so they don't become overgrown again. The stretch to the right of the bird hide was done recently and thanks are due to Mark Layman for that.

Last year, the Friends Group sponsored a number of bat boxes that were then installed around the park by the Bedfordshire Bat Group. They have been monitoring them every quarter ever since and running a public bat walk in August.

We always knew that we were an important site for bats as we have a number of different habitats around the park. The monitoring results so far have been brilliant. We now know for sure that we have at least 6 species with the possibility of another 2 yet to be confirmed.

We have Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, Daubentons, Brown Long Eared, Noctule, Serotine and Natterers. A Barbastelle was recorded a couple of years ago and they think they had a Nathusius Pipistrelle during the most recent check. All this is adding to our overall knowledge of the park's biodiversity and adding to the importance of it as a County Wildlife Site.

Bluebells on Health Walk

Courtesy of David Wise



Work began on 10 August to install a green gym adjacent to the play area near the café. Like the skate park, this is a facility owned and managed by Harrold Parish Council. We now have facilities for all age groups from toddlers to adults.

The Friends Group is shortly funding the purchase of new hand tools to replace some old ones that can no longer be sharpened. The money for these has come from your car park donations so a big thank you to all our visitors who put money in the boxes. We are also getting some much needed boat training in October for the volunteers to enable them to get out on the water to carry out essential bankside repairs and tree maintenance through the autumn and winter months.

We will shortly be putting together the autumn/winter works programme as dictated by the 5 year management plan so watch this space for bulletins nearer the time.

Dates for your diaries:

Health Walks

10 September, 24 September, 8 October, 22 October

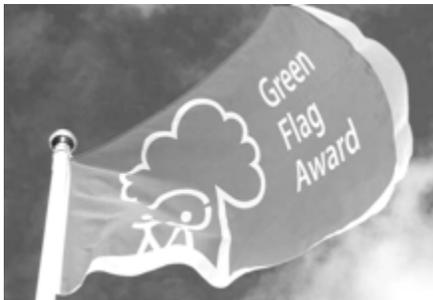
This is a national scheme which is free of charge. We meet at the café entrance at 10.30am every other Thursday and walk for an hour to improve your health and wellbeing. It is a chance to meet new people with an option to enjoy a coffee in the café afterwards. Leader Janet Munro: Please call 01234 720016 or e-mail janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk for more information.

Friends Task Days

28 September, 26 October

On the last Monday of every month (a week earlier if a bank holiday) the volunteers get together on a task to progress the conservation and repair works around the park. Meet at 10am at the Ranger's office in the café. Participants should bring a packed lunch, appropriate old clothing and sturdy footwear. We provide refreshments, tools and gloves. Please call 01234 720016 or e-mail

Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk for more information.



Janet Munro
Greenspace Officer



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Here are the dates (Wednesdays) to the end of 2015. 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 and Pat visit the Harrold Surgery two weeks in every four. If you would like to have your repeat prescription delivered to and/or collected from the surgery, please give one or other of them a call. The collected prescriptions are delivered to your door immediately on collection.

Barbara (822296)

14 & 21 October
9 & 16 December 2015

Pat (823250)

16 & 23 September
11 & 18 November
6 & 13 January 2016

Barbara Collins and Pat Pickup

THE FOREST OF MARSTON VALE - WHAT'S ON

Sunday Strolls (6 September, 4 October, 1 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.

Volunteer Tasks (27 September, 24 November)

A variety of practical projects. Meet at the Forest Centre at 10.00am. Wear old clothes and bring lunch if you are going to stay all day. For details and to confirm attendance contact volunteers@marstonvale.org or call 01234 762614.

Health Walks (Wednesdays 10.30am)

Free, no need to book. Most walks start at Reception but some elsewhere - see noticeboard or ring 01234 767037 to confirm.

Farmers Market (20 September, 18 October, 15 November)

Third Sunday of the month. Local suppliers bring a host of quality goods to the Forest Centre. 10.30am to 3.00pm.



There are lots of other exciting events planned for both adults and for children including the Beds Walking Festival in September and Apple Day on 26 October.

For information on other events visit www.marstonvale.org/events.html

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