

# **STEVINGTON MAGAZINE**



**Stevington Neighbourhood Plan**

**The latest!**

**See middle pages for the highlights.**

See [www.stevington.com](http://www.stevington.com) for full details

**MARCH 2018**

**Number 184**

## VILLAGE DIARY

### March

- 3 Chilli & Quiz. Church Room.
- 5 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30pm-1.30pm. (see page 23)
- 6 Cinema Club. Live Opera Broadcast. Carmen. Village Hall
- 8 WI Hidden Churches of Bedfordshire. Church Room 7.30pm
- 11 Mothering Sunday. St. Mary's. 4pm (see page 33)
- 12 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30pm-1.30pm. (see page 23)
- 13 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. 3.00pm
- 17 Children's Craft & Fun Club. Baptist Hall. 2pm (see page 49)
- 19 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30pm-1.30pm. (see page 23)
- 20 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. Lady Windermere's Fan. Village Hall
- 22 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. Julius Caesar. Village Hall
- 24 Defibrillator Training. Village Hall. 10am-12pm
- 24 Neighbourhood Plan Drop in Session. Village Hall. 12pm-1pm
- 26 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30pm-1.30pm. (see page 23)
- 27 Cinema Club. Live Ballet Broadcast. Bernstein. Village Hall
- 30 Good Friday. St. Mary's. 2pm

### April

- 1 Easter Sunday. St. Mary's. 9.30am
- 4 Cinema Club. Live Ballet Broadcast. Macbeth. Village Hall
- 7 Litter Pick. 10am-12pm.
- 7 Neighbourhood Plan Drop in Session. Village Hall. 12pm-1pm
- 11 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. Macbeth. Village Hall
- 12 WI Working with Blind Children. Church Room 7.30pm
- 14 Neighbourhood Plan Drop in Session. Church Room. 10am-12pm
- 21 Children's Craft & Fun Club. Baptist Hall. 2pm (see page 49)

### May

- 3 Cinema Club. Live Ballet Broadcast. Manon. Village Hall
- 6 Bulky Waste Collection. (see page 48)
- 8 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. 3.00pm
- 10 WI Annual Meeting & Quiz. Church Room 7.30pm
- 10 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. Macbeth. Village Hall
- 13 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 13 Stevington 12K Road Race
- 18 Anne Stileman Exhibition Preview. St. Mary's. 7.30pm-9.30pm (see page 42)
- 19 Children's Craft & Fun Club. Baptist Hall. 2pm (see page 49)
- 19 & 20 Anne Stileman Exhibition. St. Mary's. 11pm-5pm (see page 42)

### June

- 5 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. An Ideal Husband. Village Hall
- 6 Stevington Guitar Concert. Village Hall. (see page 15)
- 12 Cinema Club. Live Ballet Broadcast. Swan Lake. Village Hall

### July

- 1 Stevington Open Gardens. (see page 31)

**HELLO STEVINGTON!**

You will remember that our Christmas Greetings Charity in December was The Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund in memory of Ian Pickup, a previous editor of this magazine. Thanks to the generosity of the village we had 38 greetings and raised £801 plus Gift Aid. We have received a formal thank you letter which is included on page 5.

We are very grateful to all our regular advertisers who have signed up to continue to support the Magazine during 2018. The annual costs of the Magazine are a little over £1,000 and without our advertisers we wouldn't be able to cover costs so please have a look through the Magazine and use all of these local businesses when you have a need – it's great to support them as they support us! Remember to tell them where you found their details.

Stevington Cinema Club goes from strength to strength with an expanding diary of live broadcasts. See page 43 for details of what is on in the coming months. If you haven't tried it yet why not give it a go? It's a great opportunity to see something that you wouldn't have even considered attending in London with the travel and costs involved.

In this issue we have two 'blasts from the past' – on page 51 Mark Jackson tells us the very sad story of people drowning crossing the river in 1843 and on page 44 Bob Hart reminisces about The Bedford Jail Break in 1989 which sounds a great event and we wish we had been in the village back then to take part!

The village now has three defibrillators and everyone is encouraged to attend a training session on 24 March. See page 19 for details.

Please note that the next Magazine copy date is a week earlier than normal.

Heather and Keith

**NEXT MAGAZINE**

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime before 1 June 2018. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 13 May 2018. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email [stevington.magazine@googlemail.com](mailto:stevington.magazine@googlemail.com)) on that day, although we will be delighted to receive copy at any time before then.



## THANK YOU

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and neighbours for the kind thoughts, help and support we have received since Margaret passed away on 27 November.

Terry Compton and family

## TO ALL VILLAGERS WHO SUPPORTED THE ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your help with another successful Christmas concert. This could not happen without the help of a great many people including the orchestra, choir and performers, raffle and refreshment organisers, as well as printing, layout, technical and sound backup, and of course the very festive audience. It is a great credit to our village that we have been able to sustain a community enterprise like this for so many years.

Obviously, we want it to continue to thrive and evolve, so if you would like to get involved in 2018 in any way or you have good ideas for next year's programme we'd love to hear from you. Contact [tricia.lennie21@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.lennie21@gmail.com).

Tricia Lennie

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone in Stevington who has supported our favoured charity - Climb (Children Living with Inherited Metabolic Diseases). In Particular Jules & Nigel at the Royal George and all the participants in the Christmas Fair.

Also, we send huge thanks to John Duffield, Steve Cole and Bob Collins, together with all the players and audiences at the recent Stevington Guitar Concerts, for all their tremendous efforts on behalf of Climb. Many, many thanks!

We are now well on the way to £55,000 from contributions through direct donation and the 'Just Giving' Galaxy Tribute Fund page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/esme-blore-rimmer](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/esme-blore-rimmer).

Seb, Shaz & Dom Blore-Rimmer

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Photographs as credited. Cover photo by SNPWG

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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.

04 January 2018

H & K Parkinson  
Old Paddock  
Church Road  
Stevington  
BEDFORD  
MK43 7QB



Our Ref: 1083387

*Dear Heather & Keith,*

Thank you very much for sending the recent donations totalling £800.75 to the British Lung Foundation for the Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund on behalf of Stevington Magazine in memory of Ian Pickup. We are extremely grateful for your support - every donation can make a difference to the lives of those with lung conditions.

We're the only UK charity looking after the nation's lungs. We offer hope, help and a voice. With your support, we'll make sure that one day everyone breathes clean air with healthy lungs.

Thank you for confirming that you are a UK taxpayer and would like the British Lung Foundation (BLF) to reclaim the tax on any of the donations you have made in the past four years and all future donations you make, until you notify us otherwise. The Gift Aid reclaimed will go towards the work of the BLF.

On behalf of everyone at the British Lung Foundation, thank you once again for your wonderful support.

Yours sincerely,

**Charlotte Webb**  
Individual Giving Team  
Direct Line: 0207 688 5585  
E [donations@blf.org.uk](mailto:donations@blf.org.uk)

*Dear Heather & Keith,*

*We wanted to express how grateful we are to all at Stevington Magazine for thinking of our work.*

*Your generous donation will enable us to raise awareness, fund vital research and improve care and support for people affected by mesothelioma.*

*We would like to thank everyone who gave so kindly.*

*Warm regards,  
Charlotte Webb*



## **IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOAN PEARSON (CHURCH)**

Joan was born in Stevington on 24 October 1927. She lived on Silver Street with her mother Gladys, father Arthur and her siblings Betty, Marie and Les. Joan was the last of three generations to live in the village. Joan attended the village school and knew everyone in the village, she could tell some good stories about everyone. Joan later married Harry Pearson in 1949 and they began their married life together living in Court Lane. They had three children Jackie, Derek and Jayne.

Joan enjoyed village life, she attended the chapel at the top of the hill, made teas for the cricketers each week and went on to be part of the indoor bowls team. Harry unfortunately passed away in Sept 2001 and a few years later Joan met Alan. Joan spent the last few years of her life with Alan until she became ill with dementia and needed nursing care.

Joan passed away peacefully with her family by her side on 6 February 2018.

Joan's funeral is to be held at 10:45am on Wednesday 7 March at Norse Road Cemetery followed by a celebration of her life at The Royal George. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kelly Marshall

## **STEVINGTON 12K ROAD RACE KEEP THE DATE**

The 2018 Stevington 12 km road race  
will take place on:

**SUNDAY 13 MAY 2018**

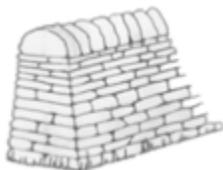
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## STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### The Parish Council

Over the last few months the Parish Council and the Stevington Neighbourhood Planning Group have been working to finalise the Neighbourhood Plan ready to share with the village. As you can see from the cover of the magazine and the centrefold leaflet this is now coming to fruition. Please read the information and take the opportunity to attend the 'drop in' meetings so you can have your say and the plan can be amended to reflect your thoughts.

We have worked alongside a consultant, Dave Chetwyn from Urban Vision, and met with the Borough Planners to ensure that we are meeting the necessary criteria.

### Improvements to the Environment of Stevington

Over the last year the Parish Council have recruited Dave Taylor to undertake a programme of works to improve the village assets and environment. This has included repainting the pumps, which are now standing proud in their shiny black paint, refurbishing the millennium benches and generally tidying up the village. I hope everyone agrees that the improvements are visible for all to see. This work will continue over the next year including some additional strimming and clearing of hedges.

The Parish Council would like to thank Gina Thompson from Silver Street for volunteering to take on the responsibility for monitoring the playground equipment to ensure we comply with all the necessary safety requirements.

Pete Fisher, Vice Chair of the Parish Council, is coordinating all the quotations for the repair of the Cross, which was damaged owing to the increased traffic through the village during the bridge closure in Oakley. As soon as the quotations are agreed with the insurers, the work to repair the base of the Cross will begin. At the same time Borough Highways are looking at ways to protect the Cross and prevent further damage.

### Litter Pick

Everyone wants the village environment to be clean and tidy so we have once again arranged a **Village Litter Pick** and this will take place on **Saturday 7 April**. Please come along and keep your village tidy. We will provide you with gloves and all the necessary equipment.

## **Defibrillators**

We are now the proud owners of three defibrillators and we would like to thank Stephanie Wingrove for her support in ensuring the defibrillators are regularly checked and working. The Parish Council is committed to this improvement in the village and will ensure that regular training is offered to the village.

## **Roads and Footpaths**

The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Borough to highlight any issues affecting the roads and footpaths particularly the 'potholes' that appear at regular intervals. This is an on-going focus and as a result we are successful in resolving many issues as promptly as possible. We are currently trying to pressure the Borough into improving the signage at the A428 to prevent large vehicles entering the village via Silver Street, maybe implementing a 7.5 weight limit. The Borough has also agreed to mark out the bus stops to prevent buses stopping on the highway.

Earlier in the year there was once again an issue with overflowing drains on Court Lane. This is clearly a Borough Highways responsibility rather than the Parish Council however we are pushing for a permanent resolution to this issue.

## **Village Hall**

The Village Hall is an invaluable resource for the village and the facilities within the hall are in need of improvement in many areas. The Parish Council is looking into the feasibility of a complete rebuild of the hall. Clearly there is a lot to consider including planning requirements and funding of such a venture. Pete Fisher, a member of the Parish Council, will coordinate this work to investigate the feasibility of building a new village hall so watch this space!

## **Dates for Your Dairy**

Defibrillator Training                      Sat 24 March 10am-12pm. Village Hall

Litter Pick                                      Sat 7 April 10am-12pm

## Neighbourhood Plan drop in sessions

Sat 24 March 12pm-1pm	after defibrillator training. Village Hall
Sat 7 April 12pm-1pm	after litter pick. Village Hall
Sat 14 April 10am-12pm	Church Room

Stevington Road Race                      Sun 13 May

## **Parish Councillors:**

Paul O'Flynn (Chair)

Sarah Bush

Graham Read

Jane Thomas

Pete Fisher (Vice Chair)

Andrew Lockwood

Sam Stapleton

Clerk to the Parish Council: Tricia Lennie

[stevingtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:stevingtonpc@live.co.uk)

<http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

[www.stevington.org.uk](http://www.stevington.org.uk)



## **BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS**

### **Borough Local Plan 2035**

The Borough plan consultation has been extended to 5pm on Thursday 29 March 2018.

This is because an additional supporting document relating to the plan's viability has been made available and the extension of the consultation period is to provide time for those with an interest to consider it. The additional document, numbered 25A, specifically relates to the four new settlement proposals and can be found by looking at the 'supporting documents list' on the Borough Council's website [www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035). A paper copy is available in the Borough's libraries and at the Customer Services Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford. If you have any comments, please ensure they are in by 5pm on 29 March.

The Borough explained in December that the council had changed the timetable for the preparation of the local plan to meet the government's deadline for the update of national planning policy. As a result, the borough was intending to submit the Local Plan for formal examination by the end of March 2018.

The extension of the current consultation deadline is possible because the government's timetable has changed. The Borough was notified recently that the new national planning policy is now expected by the end of the summer rather than the end of March 2018.

If you have already sent your comments to the Borough and would like to add to them, that's fine. Please provide the same contact information so that the planners can more easily identify and combine your submissions. You do not need to repeat comments already submitted.

The Executive and full council's meetings scheduled for 28 March 2018 to consider the main issues raised during the consultation will be rescheduled for the middle of May 2018. Dates will be added to the website when confirmed.

### **Awards for the Borough's Foster Carers**

This took place at the University of Bedfordshire on 26 January 2018. The ceremony was to highlight and give recognition to our foster carers in Bedford Borough for the fantastic work they do. It was attended by over 30 families. Five awards were given including an award for five years' service and another for 25 years' service.

There were 46 nominations for the three special awards - Fantastic Foster Carer, Corporate Parent and Kids Who Share Award.

The Fantastic Carer Award was given to Mel Grant and Jason Rider. They were nominated by their foster children who said 'Children have come into this house scared, worried and unhappy. They leave more positive, with more understanding and stability. Not all super heroes wear capes. Some go into hiding to make a difference without all the fame and double the glory'.

If this has inspired you and you would consider becoming a foster carer you will be supported all the way. Please get in touch with Bedford Borough Council's Fostering Team on 01234 718718 or email [adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk).

### **Health and Wellbeing Consultation**

**Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire CCG are consulting on the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.**

The strategy underpins the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which brings the NHS, public health, social care, children's services, Healthwatch, and elected representatives together to consider the health and wellbeing needs of those living in the Borough.

The strategy has three priority areas to give children and young people the best start in life, setting the foundations for good health and

wellbeing throughout their lives, to enable adults and older people to live well and remain independent, and thirdly to promote strong, safe and healthy communities.

It is good that all these organisations are talking to one another and also working together. Please look at the strategy and add your comments. Remember that this strategy will be the blueprint for your future health and wellbeing.

You can view and respond to the consultation online at [www.bedford.gov.uk/hwb](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/hwb) or respond by email at [consultingbedford@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:consultingbedford@bedford.gov.uk). There are paper copies in the libraries and at the Customer Contact Centre in Horne Lane, Bedford.

### **The Higgins Museum**

**The museum is celebrating Women of Bedford from 10 to 23 September 2018.**

Bedfordshire has a long history of great women and the exhibition highlights the achievements of 60 women who have achieved in the fields of politics, education, sport, community, wartime, business and the arts. Women have been nominated, researched, shortlisted and selected by an exhibition panel made up of volunteers from the local community.

### **Women of Bedford**

Bedford Borough has presented a cheque of £1,000 to Women of Bedford, a community group established to celebrate the achievements of women in Bedford, with the aim of inspiring women of the future.

The team wants to fundraise towards the creation of the first statue of a woman in Bedford. The statue will recognise the work of one of Bedford's leading citizens. Amy Walmsley was head of a local school, business leader, Suffragette and became Bedfordshire 's first female county councillor in 1922.

The second phase of fundraising begins next month - for more information email [womenofbedford@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbedford@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BedfordWomen](http://www.facebook.com/BedfordWomen).

Councillor Pat Olney

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## HARROLD MEDICAL PRACTICE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTIONS

Due to the dwindling number of prescriptions we have collected over the past few years, Barbara and Pat have decreased the number of visits to Harrold. There is now one collection (on a Wednesday) every four weeks – so it is even more important to get your repeat requests to the surgery in good time.

Please continue to tick the items required and write a large letter 'S' on the front page of your form. The prescriptions will continue to be delivered to your door immediately on collection. It is helpful if we know of any non-regular collections being requested and if a regular collection is not required. The dates for next year are:

### **Barbara (822296)**

4 April  
30 May  
25 July  
17 October  
14 November  
9 January 2019

### **Pat (823250)**

7 March  
2 May  
27 June  
22 August  
19 September  
12 December

Barbara Collins and Pat Pickup

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will be visiting The Cross at Stevington between 13:30-13:50 on the following Wednesdays:

March	14, 28	April	11, 25
May	9, 23	June	6, 20

Come along and see Arthur - to borrow books, spoken word items and much more! New members are welcome, just bring some ID printed with your name and address to join the Library.

Please remember now we have our new vehicle you must bring your Library card every time you visit the Mobile Library.

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For further enquiries, please contact Kempston Library on 01234 276453.

James Smiles, Library Manager

# Stevington Guitar Concerts

John Smith played two sell out audiences at Stevington Village Hall on 9 and 10 February. Steve and I had been trying to get John to come to Stevington for a long time. Initially the concert was planned for one day only, but as the tickets sold out in a record six hours we negotiated a second day which also sold out.

Our chosen charity to benefit from John's gigs was CLIMB (supporting those affected by inherited metabolic disorders.) A charity with a special place in the heart of Stevington people. I am delighted to have been able to donate £1,708 to CLIMB. Thank you for supporting this event and for the raffle prizes which were kindly donated.



Our next gig is on Saturday 9 June when Stevington favourite Woody Mann travels from New York to show his film 'Harlem Street Preacher' about the life and music of Reverend Gary Davis, a gospel singer whose guitar playing continues to inspire today's musicians. After the film Woody will play a set of Gary Davis music and answer questions from the audience.

Tickets will go on sale on 1 May. I suggest you put this date in your diary as the gig is likely to sell out very quickly.



**7 & 8 September**  
**Chas MacKenzie and**  
**Adam Bulley**  
**Tim Edey**

This will be our biggest ever gig, we have two star acts on one night who would ordinarily be a concert in their own right. Blues, gypsy jazz, bubble gum pop, jazz, jigs, and reels, songs of all genres and who knows what else. We have put together a chemistry that promises to be dynamite.

**I strongly suggest you don't miss this.**

To keep up to date like our Stevington Guitar Concerts Facebook page and subscribe to our newsletter at

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

Thank you for your ongoing support. Stevington Guitar Concerts has grown from being a one off gig to being an established venue for some of the best international acoustic musicians around and has raised over £20k for charity. It's a real team effort, special thanks go to Steve for matters technical and great sound, Jean and her 'staff' for running the bar, Bob Collins for lighting and the village hall committee for their support and encouragement.

John Duffield

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**Find some time for you**

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS - GOOD NEWS



The observant among you may have noticed a bright green light shining on the front of both the Village Hall and the Baptist Chapel Hall. These indicate the cabinets containing two more village defibrillators. Pete Fisher successfully applied for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to purchase these on behalf of the Parish Council and Richard Blayney helped with the installation of the cabinets.

In an emergency, to gain access to a defibrillator you will need to dial 999 and the ambulance call handler will give you the cabinet key code.

If you would like to gain more knowledge about CPR and when and how to use a defibrillator do come along to a free awareness session at the Village Hall on **Saturday 24 March** 10am to 12 noon - all ages welcome. Previous sessions have been well received with attendees reporting that they found it interesting and informative.

Please don't be shy - even if you don't feel that you would be able to run and get the defibrillator and use it yourself having the knowledge and confidence to ask someone else to do it could save a life. If you have already attended one of the previous sessions, you are welcome to come along again for a refresher and to bring your friends and family.

Stephanie Wingrove

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As plans to merge Bedford Hospital with the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital (L&D) progress, a call has gone out for people to join the Foundation Trust. To ensure membership represents the populations of both hospitals, new members are needed from across Bedfordshire and surrounding counties.

The Trust will formally be a continuation of the L&D Foundation Trust (Bedford Hospital is not a Foundation Trust), meaning its 16,000-strong membership is currently dominated by L&D's catchment population.

Therefore, the Council is encouraging all local Bedford Borough residents to sign up to become a member and have a say in how the local hospital is run.

Mayor Dave Hodgson, said, 'It's really important that local residents here in Bedford Borough sign up as members and ensure we have strong local representation. Bedford Hospital has been under the threat of a downgrade over many years, and by becoming part of the trust we can all add our voices in support of the hospital and its vital services. It really is the case that the bigger the representation from Bedford Borough the better, so please do have a look and consider signing up to support the future of our hospital.'

Anyone living in Bedfordshire can become a member; it is free and you are not obliged to go to meetings or do anything to remain a member. Members of the Foundation Trust elect a Board of Governors (made up from the membership group) and those Governors form a council with direct access to and influence on the hospital's Trust Board.

To find out more about Foundation Trust Membership or to apply to become a member you can visit the websites:

- [www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk/proposed-merger-find-out-more-here/](http://www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk/proposed-merger-find-out-more-here/)
- [www.ldh.nhs.uk/most-popular/ft-members/](http://www.ldh.nhs.uk/most-popular/ft-members/)

or there are membership leaflets located around Bedford Hospital for you to complete and return. If you have any queries, please feel free to email [merger@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:merger@ldh.nhs.uk)

# *The Friends of* ST MARY'S STEVINGTON

Having reviewed  
last year's activities

we have begun to make plans for the coming year. To date we have the following events planned with more to come.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 3 March      | Quiz night.   |
| 1 July       | Open Gardens  |
| 15 September | Golf Day with BBQ and music at the Royal<br>George in the evening |

As well as raising funds through our own activities we receive kind donations from other sources. Paul O'Flynn organises the Avis Clayton 6 Nations Rugby Memorial Competition, which makes a substantial annual donation to FOSM.

The Royal George has assisted us with Carols Round the Cross and has recently run a cheese board afternoon at which customers made donations to FOSM. The pub has been extremely supportive of our planned golf day on 15 September at which there will be evening music and a BBQ.

FOSM have been invited to do the teas at Kathy Brown's open garden event on 7 May. If you would like to donate a cake or come along it promises to be a lovely event, the money raised through refreshment sales will be donated to FOSM.

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Mayor's Community Chest to install broadband into the church room with a view to running some classes for people who want to get to grips with using the internet. We are going to run the project in partnership with Wavelength Charity who are donating some tablets to the village. This project is in the initial stages of being set up. If you have IT skills and would be interested in assisting us please contact John Duffield.

We are extremely grateful for the support we get from everyone who attends our events and also for the donations we receive from those who raise funds from their own initiatives, it is lovely to be part of such an energetic caring community.

To help you to know what's going on in FOSM we have created a Facebook page and a new email address fosmteam@gmail.com. Last but not least we have a lovely new noticeboard created by our new, warmly welcomed, trustee, Hugo Van Kempen.

John Duffield

## **BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTS CHEQUE TO 'WOMEN OF BEDFORD'**

A project celebrating Bedford's remarkable female history, by creating the town's first statue of a woman, has been awarded a grant of £1,000 by Bedford Borough Council.

The year 2018 marks 100 years since women gained the right to vote and the statue of Amy Walmsley, which will join 11 existing statues in the town, will recognise the important work of one of the Borough's leading citizens. Amy Walmsley was the head of a local school, business leader, Suffragette and became Bedfordshire's first female county councillor in 1922.

The group aims to unveil the statue in December 2018, near the Butterfly Bridge on the town's Embankment, as part of the celebration of the national campaign 'Vote 100'. Alongside the statue, a History Hopscotch will be laid co-created by Bedford's school children to celebrate a further ten women who have contributed to our local history.



*Image: Diane Gorvin*

Dave Hodgson, the Mayor of Bedford Borough, said 'I am delighted to present this cheque to the Women of Bedford team. Thanks to their efforts this brilliant project is really building up a head of steam towards the long-overdue creation of Bedford's first statue of a woman. The Council is proud to help give recognition to a remarkable figure in our history, and we look forward to seeing the statue take its rightful place on the Embankment'.

Rachael Rogan, founder of 'Women in Bedford' and local bookshop owner said 'We are so grateful for the support shown by the Mayor and his team at the Council. The project has grown to involve so many local organisations and groups, and we are excited about extending a welcome to all local community groups over the coming year'.

'Women of Bedford' is a local community group established to celebrate the achievements of women in Bedford, with the aim of inspiring the women of the future. Their second phase fundraising begins next month - for more information:

- visit [www.facebook.com/BedfordWomen](http://www.facebook.com/BedfordWomen)
- email [womenofbedford@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbedford@gmail.com).

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## STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

The wet weather has played havoc since the Christmas holidays for both teams' fixtures with a number of matches being called off late on the day of the game. Added to this both teams have struggled with injuries to players and unavailability due to work commitments during this period - and the odd suspension.



At the time of writing the first team is currently on an unbeaten run of 7 games going back to mid-December, having won 5 games and drawn 2. They climbed to second place in the league and the team are now in a very credible fourth place and could get back to second if they win their games in hand - if only we had put away a few more of the chances that we have created!

They are also through to the Quarter Final of the Britannia Cup and have a local derby match - Stevington First vs AFC Oakley M&DH - at Pavenham Playing Field on Saturday 3 March 14.30 KO. So please come along and support the team if you can.

Once again it looks like being an exciting end to the season for them and no more than the team deserves.

The reserve team has found this season tough going at times with lack of player availability impacting on team continuity. Some weeks we have had just enough players to field a team and have a substitute, then the following week we've had so many players turn up we've had to tell some of them there's no kit for them and turn them away! This is reflected in the results with the team losing to weak opposition one week and then beating teams at the top the next.

All credit to the team and especially Matt Coles though, for keeping faith and keeping the team going, when it would have been a lot easier and less stressful to withdraw the team from the league.

As of 24 February the statistics for both teams read as follows:

**First Team** – Premier Division: Currently 4<sup>th</sup> having played 19, won 10, drawn 5, lost 4, scored 47 goals, conceded 30 goals, goal difference + 17, and 35 points.

**Reserve Team** Division 3: Currently 13<sup>th</sup> having played 19, won 5, drawn 2, lost 12, scored 38 goals, conceded 58 goals, goal difference - 20, and 15 points.

The club is extremely keen to be able to get the first team playing their home games back in the village and as such will be consulting with the Village Hall committee to see what changes can be made to meet the Bedfordshire County Football League Standards for teams competing in the Premier League. Extensive works are required to provide larger and improved changing and shower facilities for the teams and to provide separate changing and showering facilities for the referee. The club will be liaising with the Bedfordshire Football Association to see what funding support is available to facilitate these improvements. It's no wonder that 'grass roots football' is struggling to survive when amateur village sides need to comply with all this red tape!

Once again we would like to thank everyone for their continued interest in and support of the village football club.

Special thanks to Jules and Nigel for hosting our Christmas party, the food was great and everyone that attended enjoyed the night.

Shane King



**NOT JUST A PIANO!**  
**THE VILLAGE HAS RECEIVED A WONDERFUL GIFT**

As many of you know, Franie Hodkinson, who used to live in Silver Street, moved into residential accommodation last year. She is not planning to return to Stevington but particularly wanted her Bechstein piano to be enjoyed and to remain in the village. To this end she has kindly donated it to Stevington.

For those not familiar with pianos a Bechstein is the piano equivalent of a Rolls Royce.

The instrument has been moved to the Church Room but requires some renovation to get it into tip top order. The total cost of refurbishment will be around £500 but when completed the piano will be a long-lasting jewel to be enjoyed in Stevington for years to come in accordance with Franie's wishes.

If you would like to make a donation towards the restoration of Franie's piano please contact Barbara Collins or Michael Robinson.

With Thanks

John Duffield



## MANOR HOUSE GARDENS

The Manor House Gardens will be open again on **Tuesday afternoons** throughout the summer months. We will also open on **Bank Holiday Mondays 7 and 28 May and 27 August** from 1-5pm.

The Friends of St Mary's Church are kindly doing teas on 7 May, St John's Moggerhanger will benefit on 28 May with gate monies once again going to the National Garden Scheme Charities, and on 27 August the community shop is in charge of teas - our grateful thanks to them all. Garden leaflets will be available in the Church Room.

We have a very special day for dog lovers. On **Sunday 22 July** we are teaming up with Lorraine at Happy Dogs (Clapham) who is a great supporter of Canine Partners training dogs to help transform the lives of people with physical disabilities. From 1.30-4pm there will be demonstrations, simple competitions and the chance to try agility. It will take place in our car park area with teas in support of Canine Partners in the Church Room. There is no charge for watching but there will be an extremely modest fee for taking part in the agility course. The organisation of the event will be masterminded by Lorriane and her helpers but I would very much appreciate help with teas in the Church Room. I will leave a list in the Church Room for anyone who feels able to help or please just phone us on 01234 822064. The garden will be open that afternoon 1-5pm with normal charges applying.

Another exciting venture, we will also join the Stevington Open Gardens on **1 July** but, due to welcoming an early group from Dorchester, will only open from 3pm.

Kathy Brown

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## BEDFORD SAILING CLUB



High water, wet and windy conditions have interrupted our weekly water activities this winter with several outings having to be cancelled. However, a few glorious sunny mornings provided the occasional opportunity to get out on the water for the dedicated few and we're all looking forward to a dry and sunny spring!

Once the weather improves we will continue to upgrade the club facilities and grounds to get this little oasis on the Great Ouse ready for the summer.

We will again provide our popular free taster sessions and dates and details will be posted on village noticeboards and our website <https://sites.google.com/site/bedfordsailingclub/home>.

Both our canoeing and rowing tasters are suitable for complete beginners and more advanced paddlers, so why not come down and give it a go!

For more information or to book for a free session please contact:

Sailing, canoeing or kayaking:

Dave Brear

daveabrear@aol.com

Rowing or sculling:

Hugo van Kempen

hugovankempen0@gmail.com  
01234 824894



## THE ROYAL GEORGE

Once again we enjoyed a very busy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year at the Royal George. Highlights included a fantastic New Year's Eve Disco and the excellent DJing performed by Shane, Daz and Lu King, and the impromptu karaoke at the Stevington Football Christmas party. It is a great credit to the village and everyone involved at the football club that Stevington is able to field two very successful teams week in and week out.

## STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Although rather belated we wish you a happy and healthy 2018 and hope that the weather improves from the dire start.



Our annual dinner was on 11 December and once again our three wonderful chefs, Jean, Richard and Steve, did us proud. Thank you so much to the three of them for giving their free time to cook for us. Due to illness etc. there were not as many diners as usual, nevertheless a very good time was had by all.

The club will not be opening on 2 April (Easter) and 7 & 28 May (Bank Holidays).

Our AGM is scheduled for Monday 30 April.

The club membership stands at 17 and we would happily welcome more bowlers. Please just come along on Monday evenings to the Village Hall from 7 to 9pm. No appointment necessary!

Finally, sadly, our condolences to Terry who lost his wife Margaret in late 2017 and to Alan and the Pearson family who recently lost Joan. Joan was one of our founding members and played until late 2013.

Hopefully better news from us in the June magazine.

Barbara Collins

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We are extremely grateful to our regular customers for their continued patronage and support and also to our staff, particularly Amy Bentham, Megan King and Maurice Power for their efforts behind the bar.

We have a number of events planned for the next few months. On Thursday 22 March we have a spring flower arranging workshop arranged with Emma Pape. Also the Royal George has been accepted into the Bedford Darts Summer League beginning in May. In addition a number of bands and discos are being planned for the coming months.

Best wishes

Jules and Nigel



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## STEVINGTON OPEN GARDENS EVENT – 1 JULY 2018

As Spring approaches everything in the garden starts to rise up from the earth with optimism. It is now time to choose if you would like to join in the Stevington Open Gardens Event on **Sunday 1 July 2018**, 12 midday to 5pm.



Opening your garden at this event is for anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

If you have a front garden, back garden, vegetable patch, natural wildlife garden, lawn with borders or simply a place to sit and watch butterflies, everyone is welcome to get involved.

We will invite the Historical Trust, St Mary's Church, the Windmill and The Royal George pub to get involved.

Our intention is to:

- Bring together our diverse and wonderful village community
- Build fun friendships through our shared passion for gardens
- Showcase Stevington to the surrounding villages and towns
- Offer delicious refreshments and maybe plant sales
- Host a simple raffle and a competition
- Fundraise for St Mary's Church

In order to make plans the Friends of St Mary's Trustees suggest those of you interested in either opening your garden for the afternoon, helping on the day, or who just want to find out more about what's involved, get in touch first by email to [fosmteam@gmail.com](mailto:fosmteam@gmail.com), via the contact page on the website [www.stmarysstevington.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstevington.org.uk) or speak in person to one of the trustees.

We look forward to hearing from you and we will be in touch to invite you to a planning meeting soon.

FOSMS Trustees  
Friends of St Mary's Stevington

# Harrold-Odell Country Park

Carlton Road, Harrold, MK43 7DS

## EASTER EGG TRAIL



Good Friday March 30th

10.00am - 12.00pm

or

1.00pm - 3.00pm

Max of 25 places per session

£2.50 per head

Pre-booking is essential

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Solve the clues along the trail around  
the big lake and win an Easter Egg.



## ST. MARY'S MATTERS

### The Big Spring Clean

Snowdrops at St Mary's have been a joyful welcome of the new year, but winter has taken its toll in the churchyard as a nasty snowfall caused some very large branches to snap from a yew tree. This year some necessary pruning and tidying up to keep the trees healthy and safe will take place.

### Looking Back

It was with great regret that our traditional Christmas Service was cancelled because of bad weather but many thanks to Sam Stapleton for generously providing the oranges. Luckily these were successfully distributed at the carols held at the Royal George.



The Travelling Crib went on its travels before Christmas and many thanks to Alison Campion for organising its itinerary.

Our service of Nine Lessons & Carols was very special and was very well attended by villagers and friends. The choir goes from strength to strength, the readers were marvellous and the candlelit church looked welcoming. Thanks to Tony Homer for providing our Christmas tree this year and to those who decorated the church.

Thank you to all who gave to the Giving Tree. All gifts were sent to the Women's Refuge in Bedford.

### Looking Forward

#### Lenten Lunches - March Mondays

Come and join us for delicious home-made soup, bread 'n cheese and a chance for a natter. All donations are sent to Christian Aid. If you would like transport please contact Jane 825578 or Tricia 825169.



#### Mothering Sunday and Service of Thanks at St Mary's

Sunday 11 March at 4pm

Songs, poems and prayers to celebrate Mothering Sunday. A chance to get together to reflect and celebrate different aspects of mothering and caring in our community and to thank all those who support and help St Mary's. Refreshments will follow the service.



## Easter Services

- Maundy Thursday      29 March 2-3pm  
All Saints, Turvey
- Good Friday              30 March 2-3pm  
St Mary's
- Easter Sunday            1 April at 9.30am  
St Mary's

## Celebrate the Countryside - Saturday 9 June 10am

All are welcome to Hill House Farm, Carlton for a short 20 minute celebration of the countryside. Bacon rolls, tea and coffee will be provided, free of charge, from 9am onwards. After the service, there will be a farm walk for anyone interested (weather permitting).

As a rural community, we are able to enjoy the many footpaths, lakes, woods, wildlife and birds that surround our villages. Thanks to the hard work of those that farm the land, till the gardens and allotments and manage our country parks, the land always looks stunning as spring passes the baton on to summer. We look forward to coming together to celebrate and give thanks for this special time in the countryside around us. Please bring something to sit on and stout footwear. If you would like more information, please contact Sara Tusting, Hill House Farm, Pavenham Road, Carlton MK43 7ND; sara@tustingandtwyman.co.uk or telephone 01234 720320. Please let us know if you are coming for catering purposes.

Thanks to all the Team for their continued hard work and commitment throughout the year and for all who support and help St. Mary's.

### **Don't forget to surf the web:**

Thank you, Robert Eadie, for setting up St Mary's smart new website; as the year progresses and people become more familiar with the website, it will make a big difference to our communication channels. Visit us at [www.stmarysstevington.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstevington.org.uk).

### **From the Registers**

Funeral:	1 December 2017	Mrs Wagstaff
	13 February 2018	Mr John Howell
Memorial Service:	20 December 2018	Vivienne Newall
Interment of Ashes:	3 February 2018	Mr John Moore

Jane O'Connor, Churchwarden

**STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1086669**  
[www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk](http://www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk)

At the launch last May of the second impression of *Stevington: The Natural History of a Bedfordshire Parish* our guest speaker, Dr Vaughan Southgate DL, expressed the hope that the Trust would take steps to encourage young people to explore natural history. Accordingly, the Trust is developing a family-orientated project of which the aims are threefold:

- To introduce young people to the flora and fauna of Stevington;
- To assist young people to carry out their own research on the subject using the internet; and
- To move and empower families to value and understand the natural world.

The project is currently in the planning stage but further details will be announced on village notice boards in the near future.

On a separate subject we have for sale a slightly used paperback copy of *Stevington: The Village History* (2001) in good condition for £15.00. Copies do not become available very often so if you are interested, please telephone me.

Peter Hart  
823586

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

To access these in an emergency situation, **please dial 999 immediately**. The call handler will provide you with the code for the cabinet lock.

The defibrillators are located in:

- Red telephone box near the cross in Church Road
- Yellow cabinet on front of Village Hall
- Yellow cabinet on front of Baptist Chapel Hall, West End.





## BAPTIST NEWS

The second year of the Christmas Tree Festival proved popular - local Stevington organisations dressed trees to help make the church look delightful. Thank you to everyone who took part in decorating a tree or who visited the church when it was open for viewing.

Fun and games were had at the children's New Year's festivity when a traditional party was held. Old fashioned party games of pin the tail on the donkey, musical chairs and pass the parcel were enjoyed. This was followed by a traditional party tea which included jelly and ice cream and iced ring biscuits amongst the feast. The grown-ups enjoyed themselves too.

The Children's Craft and Fun Club is held on the third Saturday of each month from 2pm to 4pm for children aged 8 and under.

Things were 'flipping crazy' in the church hall on Shrove Tuesday when the church hosted its annual soup and pancake lunch. Carol had practised her skills at tossing the pancakes and there were more than 40 people there to enjoy the event.



On 15 February the funeral of Victor Easton, aged 71 years, took place at the church. The service was led by David Eyre, followed by the burial at St Mary's Churchyard. Victor was born and brought up in Stevington before moving to Bedford. He died peacefully at Lillibet House, Bedford, on 29 January.

Barbara Courtney  
[www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org)

*Photo courtesy of Baptist Church*



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## **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S FUNDRAISING 2017 ROUND UP**

Each year the Friends of St Mary's Charity fundraise by organising events for adults and families with children. 2017 was no exception with many of you enjoying the varied programme of activities. Thank you for getting involved.

### **Easter children's book sale**

At Easter villagers came together to fundraise at our first ever Children's Book Sale. Book donations came from households as you enthusiastically cleared out cupboards and bookshelves of unwanted, often perfect condition children's books to raise funds for St Mary's. A big thank you to the eager children who ran the sale and raised £75.

### **Summer evening bat prowls**

Bat expert Will O'Connor kindly came to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for all things batty with 30 plus excited bat prowlers. After tucking-in to hot dogs and bat-cakes, as soon as darkness descended the bat prowlers took off to the churchyard with Will. Under his guidance and using special detectors, they identified several species of local bat residents who were out to catch their evening meal. A fun and spooky evening raising £30.

### **Late summer scarecrow competition**

Friends of St. Mary's, as always, approached the Scarecrow challenge with gusto. Certainly more gusto than skill! Children at the Bat Prowl had suggested a Peter Pan theme, so the Trustees dutifully gathered suitable accoutrements for the tiny hero's costume. The 'tiny hero' grew to six feet tall, so we also made a giant Captain Hook too. The usual wrestling with tights and bales of straw led to the inevitable fits of giggles as the Chairman waltzed round the Church Room garden with Peter Pan in his arms. We didn't win a prize - it's the taking part that counts. Isn't it?

### **Autumn Heart & Music concert**

The fabulous Heart & Music group generously agreed to make a return visit to Stevington in 2017, though they never take much persuading, as they are assured of a large and appreciative audience. We loved their new repertoire - particularly impressive was their 'umbrellography' routine, accomplished with perfect precision. A highlight was an impromptu poem composed on the spot by a Milton Keynes poet laureate concerning a pitch-black trip to the Church Room loo! Thank

you to everyone who came to support the concert and contributed to a joyful evening, raising £256.

### **Christmas stained glass workshop**

In early December we shared a fun and creative fundraising afternoon with local stained-glass artist, Annette Jackson, as she guided us to make seasonal decorative window panels for our homes and decorations for Christmas trees. Families joined us from the surrounding villages, linking us with neighbours further afield.

### **Seasonal wreath making workshop**

In November the Church Room filled with locally foraged foliage and beautiful decorations. We were all eager to be guided by Stevington florist, Ann Prigmore, to create a seasonal wreath. Some of us with slight nerves that there might be an expectation of creative skill. Music played, mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed and the conversation was lively. In a couple of hours we had all created a beautifully festive and unique wreath to adorn our home at Christmas time. Everyone was delighted with their creation. This event proved so popular we have asked Ann to help us run it again this year. We raised £176.



### **Carols at the Cross**

At Christmas the Royal George pub provided a warm, safer and more versatile venue for our annual traditional carol singing event 'Carols at the Cross'. The weather that night was cold and windy so we were glad to be inside. Everyone enjoyed a super evening of carols, mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Bedford Brass accompanied our own Stevington Choir with some beautiful arrangements. We were very grateful to Jules and Nigel for their support. Your donations kindly raised £74.

The Royal George has offered to host us again at Christmas this year, avoiding any anxiety about organising a large gathering of people around the Cross, in the dark and with possible icy roads.

### **Connect with us Online**

www: Visit our new website for upcoming events and details of how to get involved: [www.stmarysstevington.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstevington.org.uk).

Facebook: Friends of St Mary's Church, Stevington.

**STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**  
**TODAY'S WOMEN WORKING FOR TOMORROWS WORLD**



At our December meeting we were very active making paper, beaded and wooden peg angels to decorate our tree for the Baptist Church Christmas Tree Festival. The angels looked very good and we all enjoyed making them, helped along with mince pies and mulled wine.

Our January speaker was Angela Collins who is a puppeteer and a very amusing lady. She brought along with her many of the puppets she had made herself from mainly recycled materials. Her tale was interspersed with her life story and the reason why she became a puppeteer after falling on hard times after her second husband had major medical problems. A brief Punch and Judy show followed and all members agreed that it was a very enjoyable evening.

February's talk 'Liars and Lovers' by Vic Botterill opened our eyes to the unwitting messages our bodies convey. The wooden face of a liar and the wide-eyed gaze of a lover were recognisable when they were pointed out to us, but do downcast eyes and hands in the pockets denote another liar, or anxiety? Will we remember to unfold our arms (defensive) and face our palms upwards (open) at future meetings? We were told that politicians have all the right gestures off to a T no matter what they are feeling.

Once again two members attended the Speakers Audition day looking for inspiration for future speakers.

Our walks continue as does our book club afternoon. During the next few months we hope to entertain various walking clubs for lunch - a sign that Spring is on its way!

**Dates for your Diary:**

8 March	Hidden Churches of Bedfordshire.	David Longman
12 April	Working with Blind Children - The middle years.	Gaynor Tinsdale
10 May	Annual meeting and quiz	

We welcome any visitors to our meetings (cost £4) and details of our meetings can be found on our noticeboard in the Church Room.

Marilyn Billett

## **Exhibition and Sale of Watercolours by Anne Stileman**

You are all warmly invited to the preview of this exhibition

St Mary's Church, Stevington

Friday 18 May, 7.30 – 9.30pm

Exhibition open: Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May, 11am – 5pm  
entry £2

Anne and her husband Peter were long-standing residents of West End. You may remember Anne's drawings in the magazine. Now, her fluid and sun-filled landscapes and flower paintings are exhibited at the Stileman family's request. Their wish is that the money raised should be used for the benefit of the village. Our hope is that the proceeds might form a bursary to help some young people in Stevington to further their interest in art.

We look forward to seeing you at the exhibition.

Bob Hart

Robert Eadie

Jackie Gooding

### **STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

We have had a good start to the year with a very rumbustious Burns Night. This was well attended, but there were a few spare tickets. So, if you fancy a fling and some haggis, keep an eye out for the next one. There is a piper (thanks to Richard Galley), Scottish Country Dancing (Linda Penney), a toast to the haggis (Iain Morrison) and fun all round.

We have recently spent some time fitting new (to us – thank you Lawrence Kay) stainless steel sinks and work surfaces in the kitchen. We have also renewed the dish washers in the kitchen and the bar. We had a work party upgrading the wiring in the hall to do away with much of the cabling snaking round the ceiling, and, at long last, we have redesigned the storage cupboard to make it easier to stow and access tables and all of the other stuff that is kept in there.

The Road Race is coming up on 13 May, and as ever we will be relying on a helpful band of volunteers on the day to make it all happen. Let us know if you would like to be involved, we are always looking for new helpers. If you want to do the run, register on the website [stevington12k.uk](http://stevington12k.uk).

That's all folks

Roger Penney



## STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Screening</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Type</b>
6 Mar	Carmen	The Royal Opera House	Live
20 Mar	Lady Windermere's Fan	Vaudeville Theatre	Live
22 Mar	Julius Caesar	Royal Shakespeare Company	Live
27 Mar	Bernstein Centenary	The Royal Ballet	Live
	New McGregor/The Age of Anxiety/New Wheeldon		
29 Mar	TBA		Film
4 Apr	Macbeth	The Royal Ballet	Live
11 Apr	Macbeth	Royal Shakespeare Company	Live
2 May	TBA		Film
3 May	Manon	The Royal Ballet	Live
10 May	Macbeth	National Theatre	Live
5 Jun	An Ideal Husband	Vaudeville Theatre	Live
12 Jun	Swan Lake	The Royal Ballet	Live
18 Jul	Romeo and Juliet	Royal Shakespeare Company	Live
12 Sep	The Merry Wives of Windsor	Royal Shakespeare Company	Live
9 Oct	The Importance of Being Earnest	Vaudeville Theatre	Live

Please check [www.stevingtoncinemaclub.uk](http://www.stevingtoncinemaclub.uk) for details of dates, screening times, tickets etc. as they may be subject to change.

## THE WAY WE WERE.....

Ardent readers of this magazine will recall a report in the December issue about a team of Stevington ladies, calling themselves The Flying Buttresses, taking part in the annual Bike n' Hike for the Historic Churches Trust.

Why The Flying Buttresses? Obviously there is a historic church connection, and this is the story of something that happened on Saturday 9 September 1989.....

### The Bedford Jailbreak

This is the story of one of the charity events organised by Bedford Boys' Club of which I was then Chairman, a challenge to enthusiastic teams of supporters to raise funds for us and their own chosen charities. The event started in the outer courtyard of Bedford Prison at 8.00am, lasting for the next 15 hours, by which time each team had to have completed one of a variety of challenges, without spending any of their own money! A popular challenge was to drive to our twin town of Bamberg in a car lent to them, using petrol funded by others, and crossing the Channel on a donated ferry ticket. Another was to paddle borrowed canoes from the town bridge, gaining sponsorship by the mile downstream towards the Wash.

That year the outstanding achievement was by three members of the Regional Crime Squad – car from the High School car park to Bedford School playing field, helicopter to Birmingham Airport, Britannia Airways to Miami and shuttle to Fort Worth, Texas, 5,000 miles without spending a penny! This broke the world record for a 15-hour charity jailbreak by 500 miles.

Not to be outdone, Stevington entered two teams.



*Sarah Bush  
Frankie George*

*Anna Hart  
Susie Clifton*

**The Flying Buttresses**, comprised of Sarah Bush, Susie Clifton, Frankie George and Anna Hart, decided that prison garb of pyjamas over-printed with broad arrows was not for them. As they were supporting The Church Urban Fund they were dressed as angels in short

white surplices over brightly-coloured tights. Their challenge was to drive through as many counties as they could in the allotted time, obtaining proof of each visit as they went.

Off they flew in a classy red Cavalier, much-bedecked by adverts of the owners, Arlingtons, using petrol from Kitcheners Garage. The fearless foursome, following a craftily pre-planned route of mainly dual-carriageways, dashed around at breakneck speed. The driving was shared to keep the speed up, Frankie realising at some point that she'd 'never driven on a motorway before'. Their amazing achievement after eleven solid hours of driving was to have driven through 21 different counties – and I still have the evidence to prove it! They raised £500 sponsorship – what's that worth today?

Our other team, **The Spike Islanders**, whose charity was St. Mary's Church, and comprised Roger Disson, Chris Francis and Alex Fraser, devised their own challenge by turning to kidnapping! Jim Swain, a willing participant in the crime, was well-known for making the most of good weather. In his trademark panama hat, he was snatched from his customary vantage point (the Cross) by our three desperados, and stashed away in the Red Lion for the rest of the day, a painless and enjoyable penance for being in the right place at the wrong time. By teatime the Spike Islanders had nearly achieved their ransom target of £1,000, and Jim was released into the arms of Lil, aka Mrs Swain.



*Jim Swain      Alex Fraser      Roger Disson      Chris Francis*



A celebratory supper was just under way in the Church Room when through the door burst The Flying Buttresses, who had got their timing spot on correct as they were famished at the end of their busy day. And then

justice was seen to be done. The three ne'er-do-wells, still brazenly wearing prison garb, were apprehended, by 'WPC' Sue Gorham, appropriately dressed in policeman's helmet and jacket over black fishnet stockings and high-heeled shoes. This was the signal for the room to be swiftly converted into a courtroom, and the felons were brought to their reckoning before Judge David Warburton, Counsels Simon Brown and



Steve Cowley, Clerk of the Court Peter Hart and 12 worthy men and true of the village. They were about to be sent down for not having raised the whole of the ransom money, but a quick passing round of the hat achieved the necessary outcome - £1,000 for charity!

*Peter Hart, David Warburton, Steve Cowley  
Jim Swain Simon Brown*

Thus ended a memorable day – Peter Hart

has told me that it broke another record. There were 70 people in the Church Room and 70 empty bottles to clear away!

**But would we do anything like this again? What a challenge!!**

Bob Hart

*Photos courtesy of Barbara Pheasant*

**Village Litter Pick**

**Saturday 7 April**

**10am to 12 noon**

**CASH for OLD  
Items**

Antiques, Coins and  
Jewellery purchased

**Marylyn and Ray Wood  
01933 353517**

**DEFIBRILLATOR  
TRAINING**

**Saturday 24 March**

**10am to 12 noon**

**Village Hall**



## STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB ANNUAL BOXING DAY CHARITY GAME 2017

The Club is extremely pleased and proud to confirm that this year's Boxing Day Charity Match in aid of the **National Brain Appeal** went ahead, despite the poor weather immediately prior and was a tremendous success.

Once again the two teams, one made up from players that have 'lived in Stevington' and the other team from players that have 'played for Stevington or have an association with the village' were watched by a large crowd on lovely sunny but fresh Boxing Day.

As usual the game had a bit of everything, an excess of effort and commitment, lunging tackles (cleverly disguised at genuine attempts to get the ball) wayward passes and shots, a blinding save here and there, and a glimpse of sublime footballing skill.

We are pleased to say that everyone enjoyed the event and that no one suffered any injuries. However, we really missed Charlie Finch's expert refereeing because the stand in referee made the job look much more difficult that it needed to be - thankfully there was no slow-motion replays or VAR to see how bad some of the decisions actually were!

The game ended in an entertaining 4-2 score line with the 'lived in the village team' being runners up. The real winner was The National Brain Appeal. The match and after match raffle raised an unbelievable £320 plus Gift Aid of 25% on the day – totalling **£400 of much needed funds!**



*Stevington FC Boxing Day 2017 – Charity Game Teams*

**Thank you for all your generous support.**

Shane King

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE**

Sunday 6 May 2018

Please take your domestic waste to the following locations:

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

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH AT THE SITE IF  
THE COLLECTION VEHICLES ARE NOT THERE**

**IT IS FLY-TIPPING WITH BIG FINES**

Please **do not** bring the following materials for disposal via this scheme:

- Acids
- Asbestos
- Batteries
- Clinical Waste
- Medicines
- Fluorescent Lamps
- Gas Cylinders
- Lead Sheeting
- Oil
- Paraffin
- Petrol/Diesel
- Creosote
- Toner Cartridges
- Plasterboard
- Gypsum
- Tyres
- Fridges & Freezers

**WASTE COLLECTIONS**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Rubbish</b>	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Green</b>
March	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20
April	10, 24	3, 17	3, 17
May	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
June	5, 19	12, 26	12, 26

# Stevington Baptist Church



Here to serve, support and encourage our community: seeking to bring fun and joy to church life

Sundays 10.45 – **Morning Worship**

Mondays – **Sewing Group**

Every Monday during term time from 2pm to 4pm.  
Tea, coffee, crafts and sewing.

Tuesdays – **Afternoon Tea**

March 13 and May 8 at 3pm. Come along and make new friends.

Saturdays – **Children's Craft & Fun Club**

March 17, April 21 and May 19 from 2pm to 4pm.  
Craft activities and games for the 8s and under. An opportunity for mums, dads and carers to meet new people.

[www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org)  
[office@stevingtonbaptistchurch.org](mailto:office@stevingtonbaptistchurch.org)

**13 March  
at 3pm  
Afternoon  
Tea**

## **Baptist Church Hall**

MK43 7QU

An ideal venue for quiet retreats, meetings, or family parties.

£25 a day, or hourly rates.

For details, call Carol Wareing: 825661

# GreenThumb

LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

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Our wonderful customers like our service so much, that over 40% of new customers joined us through their recommendation which, if you think about it, that's a recommendation in itself.

If you've been thinking about enjoying a great lawn this year – green, lush and weed-free, why not contact us today and let us bring your lawn to life.

Simply call: 01234 709345 or  
visit: [greenthumb.co.uk](http://greenthumb.co.uk)



\*Based on a lawn size of 40m<sup>2</sup>

## THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

I have over the winter months been researching local history using the excellent resource of the British Newspaper Archive. The articles are free to use for non-commercial purposes however, reference must be made of the copyright owner: © 2018 Findmypast Newspaper Archive Limited - Proudly presented by Findmypast in partnership with the British Library.

I have reproduced a brief report, taken from the thirty plus articles regarding the tragic event, published in newspapers far and wide throughout the UK in October 1843:

### **Melancholy Accident - Three Lives Lost**

It is our painful duty to record one of the most heart-rending circumstances that has ever come under our notice; an event that has snatched three respected individuals from their families, and filled the whole neighbourhood with consternation. On Sunday last Mrs Anderson (the affectionate wife of Mr. Walter Anderson, farming steward to the Duke of Bedford, at Oakley) accompanied by Mr. Thomas Inskip, formerly of Marston, Miss Inskip, his sister and a young pupil of Mr. Anderson's, named Booker, went to Stevington Church and attended the morning service. The parishes of Oakley and Stevington are divided by the Ouse, which they crossed in the ferry-boat kept for the accommodation of the public. After the service the party proceeded towards Oakley, and on reaching the river they again got into the boat and ferried nearly across. The wind was very fresh, and the waves became so rough that they were unable to land, they therefore determined upon returning to the Stevington side. Before however they could reach the bank again, the water rushed into the boat at the stern, it went down, and the unfortunate persons were thrown into the river. Before any assistance could be rendered three of them were drowned. The younger man Mr. Booker, with great difficulty succeeded in reaching the bank, and he ran for assistance.

The clergyman (Rev. John Wing, Vicar) was administering the sacrament at the time, when a doleful cry, often repeated, ominously fearful, caused him and the communicants to hasten to the river. On their way thither they met a young gentleman who had the conduct of the party, who, in a most afflicted state, announced that during a violent squall, pulling against the current, the boat had swamped; Mrs. Anderson and Mr. and Miss Inskip had sunk; and he himself had escaped with difficulty. On reaching the bank of the river, the clergyman,

with a few others who had hoped to have been some use, found that the boat was sunk, and the bodies hidden in the deep waters.

After a considerable time had elapsed, the bodies were recovered, but life was extinct. It was a most melancholy picture, and one that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. We will not attempt to describe the scene that occurred upon the melancholy intelligence being conveyed to Mr. Anderson's house, but it can readily be conceived by those who knew how much the parties were respected.

An inquest was held at the Bedford Arms, at Oakley, before Ezra Eagles, Esq. Coroner. The jury considered the evidence, and delivered a verdict that Dolly Anderson, Thomas Inskip, and Harriet Inskip were accidentally suffocated and drowned in the river Ouse, running through the parish of Oakley.

The occurrence has thrown a great gloom over the neighbouring villages, and particularly in Bedford, which is about four miles distant, and where the parties were well known, and very much respected. Mr Inskip was about entering upon an appointment just procured for him by Mr. Anderson. He was celebrated as a superior breeder of sheep, and formerly resided at Marston Moretaine.

Mark Jackson

## **LOCAL PLAN 2035 CONSULTATION**

Deadline Thursday 29 March

See page 59

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **DROP IN SESSIONS**

Sat 24 March	12pm-1pm	Village Hall
Sat 7 April	12pm-1pm	Village Hall
Sat 14 April	10am-12pm	Church Room

## STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

**Dec** 1st № 52 Janet Day  
2nd № 53 James Surtees  
3rd № 3 Seb Blore-Rimmer  
4th № 80 Andy Sutcliff  
Hamper № 32 Dick Sear

**Jan** 1st № 56 Mary Mackness  
2nd № 49 June Homer  
3rd № 5 Mary Morris  
4th № 59 Mike Grafton

**Feb** 1st № 79 Mick Stalley  
2nd № 26 Heather Eadie  
3rd № 40 Trish O'Brien  
4th № 53 James Surtees



The 100 Club Lottery raises funds for Stevington Village Hall and since its inception has raised thousands of pounds with the proceeds being split between the Village Hall and the lucky winners in a monthly prize-draw with a top prize of £100, making it a very attractive lottery for YOU!

Investing £60 per year, that's only £5 per month, you have the chance of winning one of four cash prizes, whilst helping to keep your local village hall in good order.

The 100 Club currently has some numbers available and if you are interested to join please contact Hugo on 01234 824894, email [Hugovankempen0@gmail.com](mailto:Hugovankempen0@gmail.com) or fill in the form below and send to 14 West End, Stevington, MK43 7QU.

Name.....Telephone:.....

Address.....

Please tick the appropriate box:

- I enclose £60 cash.
- I enclose a Cheque for £60 payable to Stevington Social Centre.
- I enclose £5 cash for the 1st month. Please let me know bank details so I can set up a standing order.

## RED LION IN SPRING (PART TWO)

Winnie and I have been walking past the saddest building in Stevington, The Red Lion, for the past three years. A year ago our hopes were dashed after David wrote his play The Red Lion in Winter. We were full of optimism that we were going to get our pub reopened but halfway through the rehearsals it all fell through. (The pub not the play.) David had written a happy ending and so the ending had to be re written.

We took over the pub twenty-five years ago back in September 92. So it seemed fitting that work started in earnest shortly after that anniversary - although I don't think that influenced the new owners!

I have been watching the work in progress for the past few months with growing excitement. When I say watching to be perfectly honest there has not been a lot to see. They have very annoyingly kept the boarding up so all I have seen is what I called my stable block being reduced to rubble and lots of vans and men coming and going - then a memorable couple of days when the services came and dug a trench and redirected the traffic.

That is until today Valentine's day when Winnie and I walked past there, and I saw beautiful new doors to the side and front and yes, I can see curtains behind that boarding. We are waiting with bated breath for the unveiling.

I wonder if it will be open by the time the magazine goes to print? If so a big welcome to our lovely village.

The Royal George is doing well with Jules' delicious food and the traditional pub games skittles and darts. Such a lovely place to meet your friends and we are all made very welcome by Nigel and Jules. They are doing a grand job.

I am sure we will all be happy to see the saddest building in Stevington restored to its former glory.

Anne Westbrook

**Remember to tell advertisers you found  
their details in  
Stevington Magazine**

# DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING



- Learn what to do in an emergency
- Learn who to call
- Learn how to get access
- Learn how you will be guided
- Learn how to help save a life
- Learn to use

**Saturday 24 March**

**10am to 12 noon. Village Hall**

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

### **Learning Lunchtime Talks** (5, 12, 19 & 26 March)

11am. Approx 1 hour with time for questions. Various subjects of local interest. Free but donations welcome.

### **Sunday Strolls** (4 March, 8 April, 6 May)

A gentle Sunday walk. Meet at reception at 10.15am. Walk lasts approx. 2 hours. Cost £1 no need to book. Call 01234 767037 for details.

### **Volunteer Tasks**

A variety of practical projects. Meet at the Forest Centre at 9.30am. Wear old clothes and bring lunch if you are going to stay all day. For details and to confirm attendance call 01234 762614 or contact [anna.charles@marstonvale.org](mailto:anna.charles@marstonvale.org). There are other volunteer tasks off site. Ask for details.

### **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.



the Forest of  
Marston Vale

### **Easter Holidays:**

For information on events including Easter Trail and Giant Nest Building visit: [www.marstonvale.org/events.html](http://www.marstonvale.org/events.html)

## HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK NEWS



We seem to have had a long and drawn out winter this year. We undertook a lot of hedge laying and coppicing of the lakeside willows, particularly where they had become damaged during the various storms. Over the coming months these will regenerate and the new growth is likely to be colonised by nesting songbirds.

It is not good policy to cut back everything though. Wild areas have been left as natural cover for water birds. Where low branches hang over the water, coots, moorhens, grebes and mallard ducks like to build nests in them.

We are also trying to encourage more reed beds along the lake edges. They fulfil a multitude of functions. Reed Warblers like to nest in them, immature fish hide out in the roots and rarer birds like the Water Rail use them for cover while they dig around for food. Amphibians like frogs, toads and newts rely on them to spawn in and in turn, they are hunted by grass snakes in the warmer weather. At the culvert, where the



water empties out of Grebe Lake into the river, they filter out loose weed and other debris and prevent the grill from becoming clogged.

Look out for the appearance of our early spring flowers. In February we had snowdrops and aconites in bloom. Weirdly, we even had daffodils out at the same time. One of the earliest blooms to see is the coltsfoot which looks a little bit like a dandelion. There should soon be violets and primroses showing.

At the end of January, we had a very popular Wassailing event sponsored by the Friends Group. The route to the chosen apple tree by the main bird hide was lit up with fairy lights. The ceremony itself involved parading along the path making as much noise as possible to drive away the evil spirits. Once the Wassail Song was sung and the poem chanted, the king and queen, suitably bedecked with decorated wicker crowns, anointed the tree with cider and the general participants bribed the tree with pieces of toast which they placed in the branches.



*Steve Hamlett & Lindsey Alton  
King & Queen*



*Hanging the Toast*

The whole point was to encourage a bumper fruit harvest this coming autumn. As we have a community orchard behind the houses in Horsefair Lane, Odell, we hope these trees became blessed by default. We will have to wait until October to find out.

We ended the evening in the main bird hide eating apple themed cakes and snacks and drinking apple juice and mulled cider. 47 people attended and a lot of fun was had along the way. The birds and squirrels feasted on the toast the following morning. It had all disappeared by 11am.

We are hoping to run our popular Easter Egg Hunt again on Good Friday, 30 March. As before, we will put up a pictorial trail around Grebe Lake and participants have to answer a set of clues derived from the pictures.

The 50 available places will have to be booked by those who want to participate. Email [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk) or call Janet on 01234 720016. As in previous years, there will be a morning session between 10am and 12 noon. After a break for lunch, the afternoon session is from 1pm to 3pm. There will be 25 places on each. There will be a charge of £2.50 per child. Please look out for the posters on the noticeboards.

The fishing season is due to end on 14 March. We observe the closed season from then until 16 June. The fishing rights both here and at our sister park, Priory Country Park are owned by Bedford Borough Council. They operate on a season permit only - no day tickets. This year, they are trying to set up a way of purchasing the fishing online as opposed to coming to the office. At the moment we don't know how this is going to work.

As we go to press, we have not been told what the 2018/19 prices will be but to give you an idea of the likely tariffs, this year's prices were as follows:

Night & Day unlimited hours	<b>£69.00</b>
Dawn till dusk only	<b>£44.50</b>
Unlimited hours (Concession)	<b>£29.50</b>
Dawn till dusk (Concession)	<b>£18.50</b>

**Please note that proof of ownership of a valid Environment Agency rod licence is required when permits are purchased plus a passport-sized photo to go on the back of your permit.**

The fishing is not easy at either venue but the rewards are great if you do manage to locate them. The carp record was broken this year by a fish weighing 38lb. In addition there are big pike, perch, bream, tench and perch. You can fish both lakes and the River Great Ouse within the park boundary. Please note that from April to October cattle graze in the river meadow. For more info please email [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk).

### **Dates for your Diary**

Easter Egg Hunt (Good Friday, 30 March)

See poster on page 32.

Health Walks (March 8 & 22, April 5 & 19)

These are organised every other Thursday at 10.30am and last an hour. We meet outside the back entrance of the Dragonfly Café overlooking the woods. This is part of a national scheme sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support & the Rambler's Association to improve your general health & wellbeing and to provide the opportunity to meet new people and socialise. Leaders: Janet Munro & Lindsey Alton. For more information please call Janet Munro on 07585 908821 or email [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk).

Friends Group Task Days (March 26, April 30)

These happen on the last Monday of every month (a week earlier if it's a Bank Holiday). Come to the Ranger's Office inside the café at 10am. Assist the regular volunteers with the general conservation tasks around the park. We supply refreshments, tools and work gloves - you come with a packed lunch, suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Tasks generally last until 3pm but you can participate for as long as you like. For more information call Richard Dowsett on 07792 721866 or email [Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk).

Janet Munro - Country Park Guardian

*Photos courtesy of HOCP*



# **Deadline Extended**

# **Local Plan 2035**

Planning for the future

**Bedford Borough Council has published a new draft local plan for six weeks of public consultation until Thursday 29th March 2018**

.....  
Your comments on the plan are invited.

The plan allocates specific sites to meet the borough's development needs up to 2035.

The plan, together with supporting papers and information about the grounds on which you can make representations, is available to view at local libraries, the Customer Service Centre in Horne Lane and online at:

 **[www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035)**

Your comments on the plan can be returned by:

- completing the online response form
- emailing a WORD version of the response form (available as above) to: **[planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk)**
- completing a paper version of the response form and posting it to: **Local Plan 2035, Planning Policy Team, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP.**

**All responses should be made on the official form and returned by 5pm on Thursday 29th March 2018**



# INSURANCE THAT'S ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Having a local office means we're accessible, whether you need to make changes to your policy, make a claim or need financial advice.

We can help you with:

- Home & Car Insurance
- Business & Commercial Vehicle Insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Protection

NFU Mutual Financial Advisers advise on NFU Mutual products and selected products from specialist providers. We'll explain the services we offer and the charges. Financial advice is provided by NFU Mutual Select Investments Ltd.

**For a real conversation  
about your needs call  
01234 824901 or pop  
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The Corn Barn, Spring  
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