

# **STEVINGTON MAGAZINE**



**JUNE 2019  
Number 189**

## VILLAGE DIARY

### June

- 2 FOSM Stevington Open Gardens.
- 5 Live Theatre Broadcast. Taming of the Shrew. Village Hall
- 6 Cinema Club. Film. What We Did On Our Holiday. Village Hall
- 11 Live Ballet Broadcast. Romeo & Juliet. Village Hall
- 13 WI Wrest Park And The Women Who Owned It. Church Room 7.30pm
- 15 Wavelength Project. Church Room. 11.00am-12.30pm. (Page 29)
- 20 Live Theatre Broadcast. Merry Wives of Windsor. Village Hall
- 22 FOSM 'A Musical Evening with Emma Field'. Village Hall. 7.30pm. (Page 21)
- 22 Charity Football - Father's Day Cup. Village Hall. 4pm. (Page 19)
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- 13 Scarecrow Festival and Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. (Page 34)
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Photographs as credited. Cover drawing by Anne Stileman

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!

Your copy of the Magazine will arrive the weekend of Stevington Open Gardens on Sunday 2 June so we haven't included details of the event. Let's hope it's a lovely sunny afternoon as it was last year and that there are lots of visitors to enjoy all the wonderful gardens and of course the tea and cakes in the Church Room.

Congratulations to Stevington Football Club! The First Team won the Bedfordshire Senior Trophy and the Reserve Team was runner-up in the Watson Shield Trophy. Both village teams finished higher than last year in their respective leagues too. The village is proud of you all! See page 24 for the full report and page 19 for details of their charity football event.

The Stevington 12K Run on 12 May was a tremendous success. A record number of entrants – almost 300 I believe. There was loads of positive feedback from the runners on the day and glowing reports and thankyous on Facebook. Well done to the organisers and all the volunteers who helped on the day.

If you need help with 'IT' in the widest sense, be it your phone, tablet, PC or TV, then go along to the Wavelength event on 15 June. See page 29.

Stevington Cinema Club goes from strength to strength with an expanding diary of live broadcasts. See page 34 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.

Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Heather and Keith

## NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 7-8 September 2019. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 25 August 2019. 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.



## STEVINGTON 12K RUN - RACE KITCHEN

This year there was a huge field of runners taking part on a truly beautiful day.

Slightly different this year - there were four drinks and food areas. As usual I was involved in the kitchen area. Our area made a decent profit of £153.70 to go towards village hall funds. I believe that each station made over £100 with the bacon, sausage and burger barbecue doing very well - every time I looked out there appeared to be a long queue for service there.

My thanks once again to the ladies who kindly contributed cakes - Helen, Mary, Denise and Rosemary (I hope I haven't left anybody out).

Finally my sincere thanks to Linda and Christine for their sterling work in the kitchen.

After more than 12 years running the kitchen area I am giving up - age and health being contributing factors. Linda and Christine will be taking over. I wish them well and hope you will give them the support I always received.

Thank you all.

Barbara Collins

*sue Ryder*

## TEAS MONDAY 6 MAY 2019 FOR ST JOHN'S HOSPICE AT MOGGERHANGER

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so successful.

Thank you to all of you who made a cake, helped on the day and also to those who came to eat the lovely cakes.

In total we made £708.44. What a result - Thank you Kathy for giving us the opportunity to raise this magnificent amount.

Margaret Pyner



## GOODBYE STEVINGTON

After nearly 10 years in the village, I'm sad to say that I have to leave. The house has sold (STC) and I'm expecting to move out in early July. This is the culmination of a 4.5 year long ongoing chronic migraine, and the loss of my 18 year long job with Nissan in September last year and there's no sign that it's going away anytime soon. As a result, I can no longer afford the mortgage and have to sell to buy somewhere cheaper with the excess, although I don't expect to find anywhere with a better view than here!

The plan is to buy somewhere near to my partner Dan's forge in South Derbyshire; ideally a small place in the countryside with space for a decent size garage and workshop and space to grow veg, where Jigsaw the cat can see out his old age comfortably. Between selling and buying I'll be sofa-surfing across the country, so will have time to visit people I've not seen in a while.

Stevington has been an amazing place to live and I'm glad to have been an integral part of it until the migraine took over. The people I've met and become friends with are really special. I'm blessed to have had so many friends and neighbours looking out for me, helping me grow as a person and to share part of your lives with. I'll obviously be in touch but will miss all of my friends very much.

Thank you for being a brilliant village.

Love from Lucy (Meakin)

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

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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.



## TO OUR 'SOON TO BE NEIGHBOURS' IN PARK END

We are pleased to be getting near to completing work on the restoration of our cottage and really looking forward to moving in. The work has certainly taken a lot more time and effort than we originally envisaged when we took the project on over six years ago.

The house has now 'been in the family' over a hundred years and I'm hoping my Great Grandad (Charlie Field), who like many others in the village worked for architectural woodworkers and joiners JP White and Sons in Bedford, looks down and approves of the woodwork and craftsmanship that has gone into bringing this cottage back to its original building footprint of c1883 (although there were also barns adjacent to the driveway entrance back then).



I'm afraid that our Great Aunt Marion may have different thoughts on her beloved old style English country garden, but we will be reinstating some trees and colourful plants in the next phase of our exciting project.

Our family would like to thank all our 'soon to be neighbours' for their patience and understanding whilst this time consuming work has been undertaken, especially over the recent weeks, when we have had a concerted push in the garden, making the most of the dry weather. Thankfully, it is now beginning to look like our dream home, and we can't wait to get in and start to enjoy this next phase of our lives back in the village.

Shane, Alison, Hannah and Sam King



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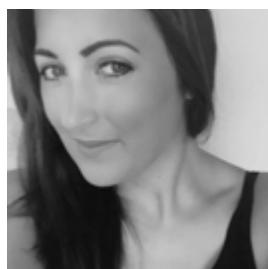
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## **STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2018 - MAY 2019**

### **Parish Councillors:**

Paul O'Flynn (Chair)

Andrew Lockwood

Pete Fisher (Vice Chair)

James Lockwood

Sarah Bush

Jane Thomas

Janet Day

Clerk to the Parish Council: Tricia Lennie

Stevington Parish Council has seven parish councillors who work on behalf of the residents of Stevington to provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development.

The Council is a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall village area both built and natural, while preserving the uniqueness of our heritage village.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council meets every two months and has held 7 meeting throughout the year. All meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Public questions are taken from 7.30-7.45pm. If you wish to raise a matter for the main agenda, you can email [stevingtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:stevingtonpc@live.co.uk) 10 days before the meeting. All agendas and meeting minutes are held on our website.

Stevington Parish Council would like to thank **Tricia Lennie** for her work as Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council would like to thank **Sarah Bush** for all her hard work and her commitment to Stevington Parish Council over many years. We have all appreciated her breadth of knowledge of Stevington and its history. We would like to thank her for her swift action and negotiating skills in liaising with the Borough Council successfully influencing them to clear footpaths, mend potholes (a challenging task in recent years) and any other issues as they arise. We will miss her!

We would also like to thank our Borough Councillor **Pat Olney** who is retiring from that role. She has worked tirelessly on our behalf providing a direct link with key people in the Borough. We wish her well in her retirement.

We would like to welcome **Lucy Norton** who will be joining Stevington Parish Council from May 2019 and **Jon Abbott** (Liberal Democrat) the new Oakley Ward Councillor and we look forward to working with him over future years at our Parish Council Meetings.

### **Financial Report April 2018 - Mar 2019**

The Parish Council started the financial year with funds of £19,574. We received funds of £22,637 made up of the precept of £15,000, interest of £49.07, VAT refund of £3,303.10 for the previous year, and £520 from the Ward Fund. The Ward Fund was used to complete the car park lining at the Village Hall and the remainder has been allocated to traffic management at the Cross and is being held by the Highways department of Bedford Borough Council. The Parish Council received a grant from The Armistice and Armed Forces Communities Programme for 10 silhouettes.

Expenditure for 2018/19 has been £17,948.71. The major items of expenditure (excluding VAT) have been £9,977.93 on village maintenance; £4,153 on administration; £2,256.54 on Neighbourhood Plan costs. The Parish Council supported the work of the Historical Trust with a grant for expenses for the commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War and purchased four extra silhouettes to commemorate soldiers who were Stevington born but living elsewhere at the time of their death. The Parish Council also resolved in March 2019 to award a £500 loan and a £500 grant to Stevington Historical Trust to support the publication of an updated Stevington History book which will be transferred nearer to the expected publication date in 2020.

The Parish Council is currently managing two restricted funds, The Disaster Relief Fund (£2,150.50) and The Anne Stileman Bursary Fund (£1,614.12).

The annual accounts were approved at our meeting on 23 April 2019 and will be uploaded to our website. All approved financial documents are available by request from our clerk who can be contacted at [stevingtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:stevingtonpc@live.co.uk). The Parish Council will be submitting its annual return to the external auditors by the audit date of 1 July 2019.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The final draft version of the NP was shared informally with the village towards the end of last year, with the revised and updated document, based on reviews and latest legislation, presented for the formal Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation and publicity stage in April 2019 running through to June 2019. The Plan has been widely publicised locally and copies made available for review in five locations within the village, at Bromham Library and online. Copies have been passed to Bedford Borough Council and the Parish Councils of Oakley, Pavenham, Bromham, Stagsden and Carlton for review and feedback. Once the consultation period ends the working group anticipate a four-week period to analyse feedback and to make further updates to the plan before submission to Bedford Borough for them to initiate the inspection and referendum phases. It is possible that the group will ask Urban Vision to provide a pre-inspection review of the NP document.

### **Windmill**

Restorations have been completed on the windmill addressing most of the issues raised in the condition report produced in June 2016. The initial expectation was that the mill would be sufficiently sound to allow for sail turning and subsequent milling of grain in preparation for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. However, after further inspection in April 2019 it has been discovered that the windmill arms are sufficiently damaged as to put a hold on any sail turning activity until further notice. Dorothea Architectural Ironwork Restoration have submitted a report and quotation for replacement and repair to Bedford Borough Council.

The Friends of Group had interest from around half a dozen potential volunteers and initial discussions with the Borough around working at height training and a maintenance day demonstration were progressing well. However, both activities have been put on hold pending the initial issue with the sails and secondly due to unauthorised works carried out to the mill by person/persons unknown. The latter issue has

raised concerns with Bedford Borough who will install a key code access system to both windmill doors immediately. The mechanism for gaining entry has not yet been discussed. In order to fund the necessary work to the sails it is possible that the Parish Council will be involved in further grant applications.

### **Appearance of the Village**

The ongoing work to maintain the appearance of the village has continued throughout the year and the Parish Council intend that this programme continues.

### **The Cross**

The Cross has been successfully rebuilt after the devastating traffic accident in the past year and the Parish Council is delighted with the renovations undertaken by Rogan Geary. The wooden bollards put in place by the Borough have served their purpose protecting the Cross after the recent traffic incident. The Highways Department of the Borough Council were informed and sent photos of the collision and discussions continue about further traffic measures that could be put in place to protect the centre of the village and its historic Cross.

### **Highways**

The Parish Council works in partnership with the Borough and its contractors to ensure that the highways throughout Stevington are maintained. Potholes became an even more pressing issue over the last year. Traffic and parking in the village will be a priority for the Parish Council over the next year. ***We once again request that residents ensure that pavements are passable for people with pushchairs and mobility scooters as well as pedestrians.***

### **Village Hall**

The Parish Council is the owner of the Village Hall working closely with the Village Hall Management Committee which consists of six trustees three of whom are officers of the Charity (Chair: Steve Cole, Secretary: Linda Penney and Treasurer: Gary Thomas), the Parish Council representative and two others. The remaining clubs and societies in Stevington are part of the Committee but are not trustees.

The Parish Council set up a working group led by Pete Fisher, Vice Chair of the Parish Council, to undertake a feasibility study into building a new village hall or the extensive renovation of the current hall. The findings have been reported to the Parish Council. The main recommendation was to focus on refurbishment and extension to the current hall and to seek out grants to support that work. Large grants are increasingly

focussed on community development in areas of disadvantage. It is more likely that we can access smaller grants for specific refurbishment and that will be the focus over the next few years.

The Parish Council would like to thank members of the Village Hall Committee who have ensured that the hall is maintained and meets all the necessary legal requirements. A small group from the committee have spent many hours repainting the hall and it now has a fresh clean appearance. The Committee continue to run events for the village. The Cinema Club and live streaming are a great asset for the village and surrounding area.

More information about the Village Hall and its events can be found on the website: [www.stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk).

### **The Royal George and the Red Lion**

The Parish Council would like to thank Nigel and his team at the Royal George for the work they do in entertaining the village. The Parish Council were delighted with the re-opening of the Red Lion bringing life and 'light' back to the centre of the village and would like to thank Teresa Shaw and her team for her welcoming atmosphere. Stevington is very fortunate to have two pubs in the centre of the village.

### **Community Shop**

The Parish Council would like to thank the Community Shop Committee and all the volunteers for their commitment in providing the village with its own village shop.

Stevington Community Shop opens in the Church Room every weekday 10–12 and 3–5 and Saturday mornings 10–12. They have a wide range of non-perishable goods, and keep prices competitive, as the shop is run entirely by volunteers.

### **Playground Equipment**

The playground now looks attractive and refreshed as over the last year the paintwork on the equipment has been renewed with bright primary colours and the damaged swing seats were replaced as recommended in the annual review undertaken by an external inspector. There are ongoing maintenance issues which are monitored to ensure the playground is kept safe and free from hazards. The Parish Council aims to ensure any repairs are completed as quickly as possible and we would like to thank Gina Thompson for undertaking the weekly safety checks. It is planned to renew the bark under the play area and purchase a new picnic table during this financial year.

There has been concern from residents over continued dog fouling on the village playing field and this situation is being monitored by the Parish Council.

**Please note that there is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) banning dogs in the Stevington Children's Play Area.**

### **Footpaths and Bridleways**

Footpaths and bridleways continue to be a focus of the Parish Council being a vital and well used part of our village. Work to improve the paths continues although the condition of certain footpaths is a challenge and the Parish Council has an ongoing relationship with the Borough to ensure they are safe for use by villagers.

### **Bulky Waste Visit**

Once again the Bulky Waste visits Stevington and this is a service that is valued by all and long may it continue. The next Bulky Waste in Stevington is on Sunday 23 June from 8.30 to 12.30 (see page 42).

### **Litter Pick**

The Litter Pick in March was another successful event with increasing numbers of villagers taking part. As with every other Litter Pick the amount of rubbish thrown into the ditches is staggering and shows the importance of the regular event to keep the village and its surrounding roads clear of unwanted litter. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has supported this event and please look out for the dates of the next event.

### **Defibrillator Training**

Stevington is very fortunate to have three defibrillators in the village. The regular training events are a valuable resource and free for all residents and we encourage everyone to attend to familiarise themselves with the easy to use equipment. We would like to thank those in the village who check on the defibrillators every week.

The defibrillators are located:

- In the red telephone box, near the Cross in Church Road
- Village Hall
- Baptist Hall, West End

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

### **Policies**

Please view Stevington Parish Council's current policies via the website:

- SPC1      Code of Conduct
- SPC2      Freedom of Information - Publication Scheme
- SPC3      Requests for Charitable or other Financial Donations
- SPC4      Inspection and Maintenance of Village Hall Play Equipment
- SPC5a     Health and Safety
- SPC5b     Village Playground Risk Assessment
- SPC6      GDPR Data Privacy Policy
- SPC7      Equal Opportunities
- SPC8      Responding to Planning Applications

Further policies may be added in due course following approval by the Parish Council.

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

Internet: <http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk>  
[www.stevington.org.uk](http://www.stevington.org.uk)

*Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly*



## **Anne Stileman Bursary Fund**

**Are you a resident of Stevington,  
studying art, photography,  
graphic design or visual arts?**

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## BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

### Oakley Ward Borough Councillor

As you will be aware from the last Stevington Magazine, Pat Olney stood down at the Borough Elections on 2 May. I am honoured to have been elected to represent Stevington, Pavenham and Oakley on Bedford Borough Council. I am also a Parish Councillor in Oakley and I am involved in Scouting North Bedfordshire as Deputy District Commissioner for Bedford & Ouse Valley District and a Governor of Sharnbrook Academy Federation. I look forward to working with the Parish Council and residents in Stevington.

### Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030

The local plan is now moving into its examination stage, with the hearing sessions opening on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 9:30am and these will run for four weeks on the following days:

<u>Date from</u>	<u>Date to</u>	<u>Number of days</u>
Wednesday 29 May	Friday 31 May	3
Tuesday 4 June	Friday 7 June	4
Tuesday 18 June	Friday 21 June	4
Monday 24 June	Thursday 27 June	4

Venue: Committee Room 1, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

These sessions are open to the public, if you wish to attend.

Councillor Jon Abbott

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# CHARITY EVENT

In aid of St. Johns Hospice Moggerhanger

# THE FATHERS DAY CUP

*In memory of Tommy Coker  
and all others that have lost their Fathers*

**on Saturday 22nd June 2019  
from 4pm at Stevington Village Hall**

*Over 40's Football Tournament featuring  
Bedfordshire's greatest talent of the past*

*4 Teams featuring some of the best footballing talent  
over the last 40 years*

**Bedford West Indians FC**

**Stevington FC**

**Goldington FC**

**Bedford Italians FC**

**Played on a Round Robin basis - Kick Off 4pm**

To follow in the evening at The Royal George Pub, Stevington

**Disco • Auction • Raffle**

**All proceed to St. Johns Hospice, Moggerhanger**

*Come along and support a great cause!*

CONTACT Aaron Coker on 07746 177 469

# Stevington-Guitar Concerts

Our next gig is on Saturday 2 November when Nashville resident Richard Smith will be visiting Stevington for a return visit. We are delighted Richard wants to come back, he is a musician of the very highest standard. Among his peers he is acknowledged as one of the very best. He will be remembered for surprising us all on his first visit when he invited Chas and Dave to join him on stage.

The proceeds of the event will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society at the request of Dave Walker. Tickets will be available from 1 September, they are expected to sell out, probably in record time.

To make sure you are up to date with the latest news ensure you sign up for our newsletter by visiting our web site [www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk](http://www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk) or like Stevington Guitar Concerts Facebook page.



Thanks for your ongoing support.

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## **EMMA FIELD in CONCERT**

### **SATURDAY 22 JUNE**

Please join us for a magical 'Welcome to my World' evening with Emma Field. For anyone who doesn't know, Emma is Steffie Field's daughter who grew up in Stevington, going on to have a glittering career as a singer and performer. This event is part of her 'solo' tour in which she entertains with songs she has performed in the musicals and talks honestly and engagingly about her life in showbiz. She has kindly agreed to perform in Stevington, accompanied by piano and saxophone. This promises to be a perfect summer evening entertainment and an insight into why this industry captures our imaginations.

Enjoy a fabulous evening of musical theatre with a little jazz mixed in. Emma's career has spanned 35 years of theatre, film, television, in the West End and abroad. This 'stroll down Memory Lane' encompasses songs and stories from a 'jobbing' actress perspective. There are some oldies but also some songs that may be new to you.

Not many people will know the craft, graft and skill it takes to put together a show like this. Emma's chat with the audience takes you on a journey - the voice and musicality are superb - and you'll wish you could come again and again!

**7.30pm Stevington Village Hall. Saturday 22 June.**



**Tickets £15 available via the  
Community Shop, Steffie or  
Tricia.**

**Bar and raffle.**

**Profits to The Friends of St.  
Mary's Church, Stevington for  
improvements at the Church  
Room.**

Steffie Field and Tricia Lennie



# Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## *Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts* *Saturday 14 September 2019*

### **2018 Bike 'n Hike Success - what next?**

Once again this sponsored event brought in nearly £100,000 in a single day! Half goes to the Historic Churches Trust to help in the maintenance and repair of churches across the two counties, and half to the walkers' and cyclists' local churches. St Mary's was one of only four churches to raise over £2,000 sponsorship in last year's Bike 'n Hike - a terrific effort including £750 from a generous anonymous donor.



They say that success breeds success, but what a challenge to come up with an exciting idea for this year's event on Saturday 14 September! Bright ideas to me please - as soon as you like! Here are a few thoughts:

This is a great part of the county for walking groups, as we see from our house several times a week! Are you connected with one of these? Could you enthuse them to take part as a group, set a challenging target, walking from church to church, and bring in some sponsorship for a good cause?

We have never really managed to get cyclists involved in groups, but this is now such a popular pastime that many are out on the roads from other villages on the day. Could we find a few from our village?

Last year, one of the villages recognised the fact that older people are just not able to cycle or undertake a long hike, so they embraced the new concept of using a car! They set themselves the challenge of visiting at least 50 churches between 10am and 6pm. With a carefully planned route, by 5.30pm they had booked in at 62 churches and raised £2,321.

The paperwork is not out for a while, but if you want more information or have a thought, please contact me on 823769 or roberthart234@btinternet.com.

Robert Hart  
(Stevington Bike 'n Hike Organiser)

## **STEVINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP**



Hello to all our volunteers and customers. I hope by the time this magazine reaches you our freezer will be stocked and ready to go with ice cream for the summer. Let's hope it will be a lovely one.

We recently had our annual cheese and wine party to thank all our wonderful volunteers; do get in touch if you would like to volunteer for two or more hours a month. It's a great way of getting to know the village and having fun too.

Our next fund raising event will be Monday 26 August. We will be serving tea and cake at Kathy's open gardens. Do come along and bring family and friends. Also, if you can make a cake for us or volunteer your time, please get in touch.

Finally, we were extremely sad to hear of the loss of our friend Carol Woods. She worked in and was a great supporter of the shop from our early days. She brought laughter and fun wherever she went. In our 'am dram' productions in the village she added her own personal sparkle. She was such a lovely person and will be greatly missed. We would like to send our sincere condolences to all the family.

Jackie Ward



## STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

We are extremely proud to report that both the First and Reserve teams completed the season in higher league positions than the previous season with 2018/19 statistics as follows:



### **First Team**

Premier Division. Finished 4th of 16 - played 26, won 12, drawn 5, lost 9, scored 67 goals, conceded 48 goals, goal difference +19 and 41 points.

### Bedfordshire Senior Trophy: Winners

### **Reserve Team**

Third Division. Finished 6th of 16 - played 28, won 15, drawn 1, lost 12, scored 66 goals, conceded 53 goals, goal difference +13 and 45 points.

### Watson Shield Trophy: Runners-Up

After the Cup Final the First Team looked on course to finish in third position behind runaway winners Shefford Town & Campton and runners up Cranfield United. However, a 0-4 reverse against Wilstead, the team we had beaten in the Cup Final weeks earlier and a draw in the last home game of the season meant that this was not meant to be. We did have another winner though in Bill Pinney, he was the Premier Division's leading goalscorer with 28 league and cup goals from 29 appearances.

We are extremely proud of the way the Reserves finished the season winning their last 7 league games on the bounce. In amongst those games was the roller coaster Watson Shield Final.

Stevington finally played Harlington Juniors in the Semi-Final, after the team they were originally going to play were removed from the tournament for playing an ineligible player in the previous round against Harlington Juniors. Stevington reserves were really unlucky and conceded a goal in the last couple of minutes of normal time and then lost the tie on the penalty shoot-out that followed. However, a few days later we learned that Harlington had played an in-eligible player in the Semi-Final themselves and the game was retrospectively awarded to us.

The Watson Shield Final was against the very strong, rough and tough Pines (Luton) first team, runaway winners of the same Division by 20 points scoring 151 goals in 28 matches in the process.

The Final was played at Cranfield United on Friday 3 May and the drama continued to unfold, which was more than could be said for the Pines kit as they had left it back in Luton, requiring a quick journey back to collect it. Having completed a league double over Stevington Reserves in comprehensive fashion most of the 135 crowd present were expecting to see another goal feast. However how wrong they were. Like their kit the real Pines didn't show up in the opening half and what little chances there were to open the scoring all fell to Stevington who by contrast were well up for the game and were perhaps unlucky not to be ahead and scoreless at half-time.

The second half action saw Stevington Reserves take the lead just nine minutes in when the Pines goalkeeper conceded a penalty and up stepped Jamie Daniels to put our side 1-0 ahead and at this stage looking the likely winners. That's the way it stayed until the eightieth minute when out of nothing Pines hit the levelling goal and just when it seemed we were heading for a penalty shoot-out and four minutes into time added on up popped Pines again to bag the winner. Most of the crowd thought Stevington Reserves were the better side on the night and at least deserved the chance of a dreaded shoot-out to settle the outcome.

So all in all it's been another good season for the club and I think all those involved in playing or supporting the teams have enjoyed the football and the camaraderie local amateur sport brings with it.

As I'm sure everyone appreciates there's a lot of time and effort put in behind the scenes at all local clubs. Without people continuing to volunteer and do this week in week out clubs soon falter and go out of existence.

Therefore on behalf of everyone involved with the club we would like to take the opportunity to give recognition and thanks to the sterling efforts of Aaron Coker, Darren King and Duncan Victorin for managing and coaching the First Team and Steve Scott and Tony McGovern for the Reserve Team.

Also Gareth King and Darren King for cutting the playing field, marking the pitches etc. It takes a lot of time, hard work and commitment and their combined efforts ensure the village keeps its football club going for everyone's benefit and enjoyment.

We sincerely hope that we are able to keep players and backroom staff together, for next season and continue to build on the progress being made at the club.

**Our immediate priority going forward is our charity football event on Saturday 22 June. The 'Father's Day Cup' is an over 40's team event featuring some of the best footballing talent that the Stevington, Goldington, Bedford West Indian and Bedford Italian football teams have had over the year well - that's what the players will tell you!**

The event is **in aid of St John's Hospice Moggerhanger**, a facility that has given much needed care and support to those in the local community when their families have needed it. Please come up to the field and support the event and the disco, auction and raffle in the Royal George later in the evening. Aaron Coker is championing the event to raise much needed funds so that other families can receive the same support that his Dad and family got when they needed it last year.

Next on the agenda is to look at what is required to upgrade our changing rooms, showers and referee's accommodation in the village hall to enable the first team to play their home games back in the village. We are extremely grateful to Pavenham for allowing us to use their facilities, but like the saying goes, 'there's no place like home', especially for a home football match!

We will be liaising with the Village Hall Committee to see what can be done to achieve this for the benefit of everyone that uses the facilities and working with the Bedfordshire Football Association to see what 'grass roots funding' is available to assist with the works.

As always we would like to thank our followers for their on-going support and look forward to your support next season and to thank Nigel and all the team at the Royal George for their sponsorship and after match hospitality.

Shane King

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## **Scarecrow Festival**

Film Characters

Saturday 13 July  
See page 34

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In January we launched a project to help Stevington folk get to grips with the internet, access services and keep in touch with family and friends.

We were fortunate to have a smart TV and four tablets donated by Wavelength, a national charity, and some start-up funding from the Mayor's Community Chest charity which enabled us to install Wi-Fi into the Church Room. The project has met once a month on a Saturday morning. Meetings have been informal, helpful and at times, I am told, hilarious! Our next meeting is on Saturday 15 June when Wavelength are visiting to make a video about the project, they are so pleased with the way the 'Stevington project' has gone they are hoping to help other rural communities start their own projects. We are delighted that Mayor Dave Hodgson will also be visiting us to see how his money has been spent and meet our Wavelength group.



To date we have established a WhatsApp group, and looked at safety online, emails and keeping in touch. We have a Q&A session, an app of the month and people help each other to overcome any technical difficulties that they may be having with their devices. Anyone is welcome to come along, sessions are informal, fun and interactive. On 15 June we will be looking at taking and sending images and helping Wavelength with their video. So, lots of opportunities for a selfie with the Mayor!

Lastly, we have created an information display on the TV in the shop. Robert Eadie has been the brains behind that initiative. If you have anything that you would like to advertise on the display talk to Robert and he will explain what you need to send him.

If you don't have a tablet you are welcome to use one of ours, we are happy to sit down one to one to help anyone get started. If you want to leave us a message, and you are not on our WhatsApp group you can leave it in our post box next to the piano in the Church Room.

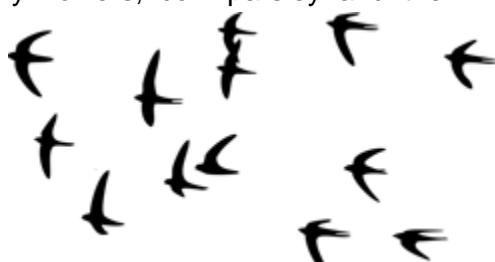
John Duffield



## ST. MARY'S MATTERS

St. Mary's is a member of the Chellington Team Ministry. The Team Clergy are the Revd. Jacqueline Curtis and the Revd. Peter Turnbull, who live at 3, The Moor, Carlton MK43 7JR. Tel: 01234 720961 or email: chellingtonteam@gmail.com. Our curate is the Revd. Lynne Sandle: revlynnesandle@gmail.com or tel: 01234 881654. If you need them or require a pastoral visit at home, please don't hesitate to make contact. For general enquiries contact the Team Office in Carlton. Email teamoffice@gmail.com or tel: 01234 720262.

Where has the year gone? June already and Stevington and St. Mary's is looking splendid with many flowers, cow parsley and the promise of warm, summer days and swallows. We have even heard the cuckoo this year. As usual, St. Mary's would like to thank all those who help and support our church.



### Looking Back

#### Lent Course

Thank you to all who participated in this interesting and thought-provoking course. It was a chance for people to meet again and also to make new friends. This year our focus was 'Christ and the Chocolaterie', inspired by the film 'Chocolat' and based on the book by Joanne Harris. We shall meet again next year so I hope you may be inspired to join the group for some challenging discussion.

#### Lent Lunches

Always an enjoyable time for people to gather together for lunch, this year's lunches were a great success, and everyone appreciated the choice of delicious soups and bread and cheese let alone the natter! £261.32 was raised for Christian Aid so thanks to all who supported this good cause.

#### Easter Services

Our services this year were a chance for reflection and celebration. Good Friday's service of prayer and contemplation was further inspired with music from Bach's St Matthew Passion and our celebratory music on Easter Sunday was led by our Choir.

## Afternoon Teas

Teas on Easter Monday in the Church Room in aid of St. Mary's, was the first day of Kathy Brown's busy year of opening their stunning gardens. It was a super afternoon, enjoyed by all and thank you to all those who gave their time to help in the afternoon and also make truly delicious cakes. £460 was raised for St. Mary's.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### Church Room

We are very lucky to have the Church Room as a meeting place for our village. It is such a useful place! We are hoping to make the interior much more comfortable and welcoming in the near future.

Best wishes to the Community Shop which is 25 years old very soon. A huge thank you to the committee who, through the shop, are the heart and welcoming face of our Church Room - as well as keeping the shop well stocked, selling tickets and offering a helping hand.

Congratulations to Wavelength which is proving very popular. If you would like any help with your phone or tablet or other IT matters, the next meeting is on Saturday 15 June 11am to 12.30 to help with general IT. Do come along to this enjoyable and buzzing meeting point. It is proving to be an invaluable IT support group. Our screen, keeping us up to date with village events, is rather smart! Thanks, Robert Eadie, for organising this and keeping us updated.

### Church Room Development - Progress Report



You will be aware that the PCC of St. Mary's Church has been working together with The Friends of St. Mary's to pursue much needed improvements at the Church Room. The committees are now progressing towards a planning application for disabled access, improved storage and linkage of the toilet and main blocks. We are now at the stage of instructing the architect to do drawings for the planning application. We are fortunate that The Friends of St. Mary's have been saving for this project and are willing to underwrite the initial costs of the planning application but, as you know, the costs of undertaking this development will be substantial and the committees, under the guidance of Tricia Lennie, are seeking grants.

St. Mary's Churchyard is expecting another visit from the tree surgeon in July to continue the good work in tidying and managing the trees. Thank you to Magnus and his team for keeping the churchyard looking so lovely. Thanks too, Bill Harris, for cutting the pathway with your trusty mower - it always looks very spruce.

The church is also expecting its Quinquennial Inspection in July so there is an air of anticipation about the belfry and the chancel! This, of course, may partly be due to our resident bat population. Surprisingly, they are less evident within the church but seem to be active enough in the porch. We have been selected to take part in the Bats in Churches Survey also in July.



### Open Door

The church will be open over the summer months during the day. Do feel free to come in and spend a few moments of contemplation and enjoy the atmosphere of our church. It has received a surprisingly large number of visitors since it has been open more often. Some visitors have come from as far afield as Canada, Austria and Germany. All the comments in our visitors' book praise the uniqueness of the atmosphere and its simple beauty.

### The Reverend Lynne Sandle

Many of you will have met our curate, the Reverend Lynne Sandle. It has been a busy year for her as she will be ordained as a priest on Saturday 29 June. We wish her all the best. There will be a special Chellington team service at St Peter's, Harrold on Sunday 30 June at 11am. Please come to share her celebration - she would love to see some Stevingtonians there. There will be a buffet lunch after the service.

Don't forget to surf the web. As people become more familiar with our website, it will make a big difference to our communication channels. [www.stmarysstevington.org.uk](http://www.stmarysstevington.org.uk). If you would like to receive information about St. Mary's and events by email, please contact Jane at [jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com).

### **From the Registers**

Funeral:	20 May 2019	Carol Woods
Interment of Ashes	11 May 2019	Ian Harris

Jane O'Connor & Robert Eadie, Churchwardens



## **STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

We have just held the Road Race, and it was one of the most successful to date. We had nearly 300 runners register, so we broke all records. Well done to the team that organises the event. We are also very grateful to the many who volunteer to help on the day - the marshals round the course, the catering and bar, the BBQ, car parking and much, much more. The race is truly a village event. We have received a lot of very positive feedback from the runners and their supporters, who enjoyed the day, sitting round the field, teas, coffees, cakes, burgers beers and the bouncy castle. The weather helped!

We are looking at holding a Village Fete. If anyone is happy to help or can put forward suggestions for stalls (of any kind) we would be pleased to hear from you. Get in touch with anyone on the committee (see below).

We have also completed painting the main hall and entrance. It was in need of a spruce up. We will move onto the toilets and changing rooms next. Thanks again to the team with the paint rollers.

We are still looking for help with the Hall's social media advertising and general on-line development. This Facebook and Twitter stuff is all a bit alien to us. If there is anyone out there (possibly a teenager looking for experience - possibly D of E) that can help out and show us how we can improve what we are doing (which is not much) we would be most grateful. Please get in contact with Steve (Chair) or Linda (Secretary) through the website ([www.stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk)).

That's all folks,

Roger Penney

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## STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

Date	Screening	Production	Type
5 Jun	The Taming of the Shrew	Royal Shakespeare Theatre	Live
6 Jun	What We Did On Our Holiday		Film
11 Jun	Romeo and Juliet	The Royal Ballet	Live
20 Jun	The Merry Wives of Windsor	Shakespeare's Globe	Live
27 Jun	Small Island	National Theatre	Live
25 Jul	The Lehman Trilogy	National Theatre	Live
31 Jul	Measure for Measure	National 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.



## BAPTIST NEWS

Stevington Baptist Church will be holding the biennial Scarecrow Festival on Saturday 13 July. We want to fill the village with scarecrows, but we need your help. Join in the fun by building a scarecrow on the theme of any character from a film. Scarecrows need to be in position, easily visible, for judging by our impartial judges, by 10am.

Please say who the character is, but the label will not form part of the judging. Entry is free and application forms are available from the Royal George, Red Lion and the village shop. There is a separate competition for children aged 10 and younger with a cup and a certificate and certificates for the runners-up. Prizes will be presented at the afternoon tea on the same day at in the Baptist Hall. Please do join in the fun.

Barbara Courtney

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

## **STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

### **TODAY's WOMEN WORKING FOR TOMORROWS WORLD**



In March we had a visit from Sarah Phillips from Keech Hospice Care. She explained that as a charity they provide free specialist care for adults in Luton and South Bedfordshire and children from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes who have life-limiting and terminal illnesses. On her laptop she was able to give us a virtual tour of the hospice and gardens. We made a donation to help with all their good work.

Duncan Willox was our April speaker. His talk was entitled 'family lawyers are almost human'. He brought us up to date with the recent proposed changes to the divorce law but also on a much lighter note recited some of his poems both reflective and amusing.

Our annual meeting took place in May at which all the present officers and committee were re-elected for another year. Reports were given by our Treasurer of our financial status and our Secretary summarised the activities engaged in throughout the year. The President thanked the committee and members for all their help over the past year. Cakes containing a vegetable as one of the ingredients were sampled at refreshment time.

Apart from our monthly meetings we have attended various County events including:

- An afternoon with Stella Rimington - the first lady to head MI5 and, since her retirement, an author of many crime books.
- At a Group meeting held at Carlton village hall we were able to sample a small supply of gin produced by a mother and daughter team trading under the name of Hustle.
- The Annual Council meeting took place in April at which Gillian Walkden the well-known gardener and broadcaster entertained an audience of some 400. An excellent and inspirational speaker.

We have participated in the village litter pick which again was very well supported.

We have also hosted a lunch for a rambling group and look forward to further visits from other walkers.

## Dates for your Diary:

- Thu 13 June   Wrest Park and the women who owned it - Adam Smith  
Fri 26 June   Visit to the Panacea Museum - 2pm  
Thu 11 July   BBQ

Visitors are welcome to our meetings (cost £5) and details of these can be found on our noticeboard in the Church Room.

Marilyn Billett

## STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

On 29 April we held our AGM and 10 members attended with two apologies for absence. Our chairman, Bill Harris, opened the 30th (29 years) AGM with a warm welcome to those attending. At the moment we have a definite membership of 12, 3 memberships lapsed (we hope that they will return when they are able to) and have gained one - welcome once again Alan Feasey.



The meeting chose to keep the same subscriptions as voted in at the 2018 AGM. That is £10 per annum plus £2 weekly and £1 for the raffle. It is the raffle rota which actually keeps us afloat.

We were able to complete our knockout competitions. The singles was won by Bill Harris and the pairs by Bill Harris and Jonathan Roff. Anna Hart was our most improved player. You may be interested to know that Bill is our longest serving member and the oldest - we just can't keep his name off our cups!

The main committee was re-elected, but the captain resigned. As we no longer play outside or indeed home friendlies it was felt we no longer need a captain as such. A solution was suggested and carried that whoever was on the raffle rota (which changes weekly) would take on the captain's duties for that night. We've tried it and so far it works.

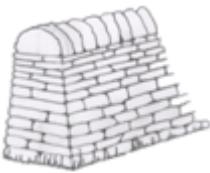
As usual our meetings are every Monday (except bank holidays) at the village hall 7 to 9pm. We're always looking for new members - please just turn up, no need to phone first. The first two visits are free.

Looking forward to seeing some new faces during 2019 - you'll like it!

Barbara Collins

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## BEATING THE BOUNDS

I had never heard of this until Hugo mentioned it. Beating the Bounds is an ancient custom still observed in some English and Welsh parishes. A group of old and young members of the community would walk the boundaries of the parish, usually led by the parish priest and church officials, to share the knowledge of where they lay, and to pray for protection and blessings for the lands.

Old parishioners mixed with the young to pass on the knowledge of the boundaries. The youngsters of the parish, usually boys, would be armed with long birch or willow twigs to beat the specific landmarks such as an old tree or stones. In some cases, the boys themselves were beaten with the sticks, so they should never forget the crucial information passed on to them by their elders. Usually, the boys would have their heads bumped against the boundary marker whilst prayers were read from the Litany of Saints. The girls and women would wear and carry garlands of flowers and foliage.

It was Hugo's idea to Beat the Bounds of Stevington parish on Easter Monday. Six of us met at the Cross and set off for the Sailing Club - Hugo & Lesley van Kempen, Janet Day, Anne Westbrook and Keith & me.



The parish boundary goes up the middle of the River Great Ouse so we got into two kayaks and a canoe and paddled our way up stream. Quite an adventure as with the exception of Hugo & Lesley of course none of us are exactly experts on the water! However, after about a mile

and a half of paddling in the sunshine we disembarked just past the bluebell wood and continued on foot. The river was absolutely beautiful. Disembarkation was easier said than done - the banks were steep and muddy but with Hugo's help we all ended up on dry land and pulled the boats out of the water. Unfortunately Anne had to leave us at this point as she had a prior engagement - but five intrepid souls continued.

Hugo had checked with some land owners so we could walk part of the boundary even though it wasn't a public footpath, in some parts the footpaths ran on or close to the boundary and for a couple of sections we had to leave the boundary and follow footpaths and rejoin the boundary later. We walked about 7.5 miles.

We had a lovely day in the sunshine. No heads were bumped or small boys beaten but we did hit a few things with sticks as we walked round (Sorry Janet I know they are poles!).



We walked back into the village just in time to enjoy wonderful tea and cakes sitting outside the Church Room - excellent planning by our leader to pick the day of St. Mary's Teas for our adventure.

After tea Keith and Hugo walked back up to where we had left the boats and paddled them back to the Sailing Club and walked back to the village - so they both did a few extra miles while Lesley, Janet and I sat in the sun!

Thank you, Hugo, for organising a lovely day out - and to everyone else for their company.

Heather Parkinson

## **MANOR HOUSE GARDEN**

We have already enjoyed two Bank Holiday Monday openings this year with a sunny and warm Easter Monday teas in aid of St Mary's Church organised by Jane O'Connor and all her many helpers; sincere thanks to each and every one. We have just had another successful open day for the National Garden Scheme Charities with over £1,900 being sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospices UK and Carers Trust as well as KIDS and MIND. The all-important tea monies, thanks to huge efforts by Margaret and Tony Pyner and their team, went to support Sue Ryder at Moggerhanger; again, a very big thank you to all concerned. Our very grateful thanks also to Richard and Helen Dunster who were so cheerful as our entrance gate 'welcomers', particularly as it was such a cool grey day to sit outside. It is particularly lovely that the visitors receive such a warm welcome in the Church Room. A visit to the garden is one thing, but a lovely cup of tea and slice of homemade cake is very much part of the occasion.

The August Bank Holiday Monday opening seems a long way off right now! Here teas are for the community shop funds. Let's hope for a sunny day!

Meanwhile we have a great peony show to look forward to and then a host of roses and clematis. Happy gardening everyone.

Simon and Kathy Brown

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## WASTE COLLECTIONS

Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
June	4, 18	11, 25	11, 25
July	2, 16, 30	9, 23	9, 23
August	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20
September	10, 24	3, 17	3, 17

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE**

**Sunday 23 June 2019**

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**

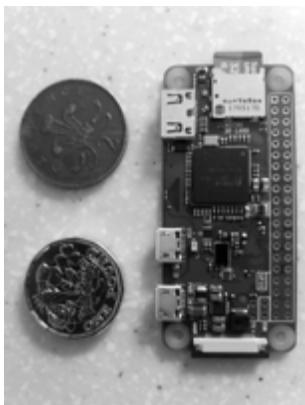
**IT IS FLY-TIPPING WITH BIG FINES**

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

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

## NATURE CAMERA

When I told my daughter that I had just visited the newly opened 'Raspberry Pi' [sic] shop in Cambridge, she said that she didn't think I was that interested in puddings and was that all they sold.



It took her only a moment to realise that my interest was in IT rather than puddings, and that I was keen to experiment with the Raspberry Pi micro-computer. You can see from the photo that micro-means micro, but it is surprising what this little device is capable of. It has micro-USB sockets, HDMI video, SD card, and various other connections I have not explored. You can attach a keyboard and screen and make it a 'grown up' computer!

There is also a mini-camera which attaches via a ribbon cable to the white connector at the end, and it was this that interested me, in order to build the 'Nature Camera' first described on the SpringWatch show. They do the clever bit of writing the computer program which does the hard work (quite beyond me!) and provide clear construction details.

So with the aid of a box (also sold cheaply by the shop or online) and a normal phone battery charger, I had an automatic nature camera which I attached to the top of a pole near our bird feeder and waited for results. The device detects movement, and then takes and records photos. Not high quality (nothing in the Roger Day league!)



but rather fun. I enclose a couple of Goldfinch images which of course will pale in the black & white of the village mag. but look quite good in colour. I was really struck with the flying Goldfinch with outspread wings.

All just a bit of fun, for an outlay of around £40. The main fun is actually the DIY building, which is well within the capabilities of a dexterous 7-year-old (or a not so dexterous nearly 70!). And of course, the browsing of the resulting photos, to see if there is anything worthwhile.



Not restricted to birds of course, any moving wildlife (or people or cars, though this might involve legal implications!?). IR recording for night-time is I think possible and might be my next project. Happy to help if anyone fancies trying something similar, and/or if you think this might be a good present/project for children or grand-children.

Robert Eadie

*Editor's note: the photos taken by the Raspberry Pi have not reproduced very well because of the small file size.*

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## **EMMA FIELD in CONCERT**

### **SATURDAY 22 JUNE**

**7.30pm Stevington Village Hall**

**Tickets £15 available via the Community Shop, Steffie or Tricia**



**Bar and raffle**

**Profits to The Friends of St. Mary's Church, Stevington for improvements at the Church Room**

*The Friends of  
ST MARY'S CHURCH*

Registered Charity Number: 1139161

# **Stevington Baptist Church**



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

Sundays at 10.45 – **Morning Worship**

Tuesdays – **Afternoon Teas**

Afternoon teas on September 10 at 3pm  
Come along and make new friends.

## **Scarecrow Festival**

Our Scarecrow Festival on the theme of film characters takes place on **Saturday July 13** followed by **prize-giving afternoon tea** at 3pm.

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

## **Scarecrow Festival**

Film  
Characters

Saturday  
13 July

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



Singing together in Bromham

# Summer Concert

from classical to pop

**Sat 6 July at 7.30pm**

St Owen's Parish Church,  
Bromham Park (MK43 8LL)

**Adults £8; under14 £5**

Includes a drink & light refreshments

Tickets at the door – Reservations 825454

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will be visiting The Cross at Stevington between 13:35 and 13:55 on the following Wednesdays:

June	5, 19	July	3, 17, 31
August	14, 28	September	11, 25
October	9, 23	November	6, 20

Come along and see Arthur, to take books, spoken word items and much more!

New members are welcome, just bring some ID along, 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.

There are a number items available including fiction, non-fiction, large print and spoken word CDs.



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

We look forward to welcoming you on board!

James Smiles, Library Manager

## STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

**Mar** 1st № 11 Steve Cole  
2nd № 60 Dave Taylor  
3rd № 99 Ray Cox  
4th № 76 Yvonne Haggerwood

**Apr** 1st № 98 Christina Gifford  
2nd № 93 Barbara Cattermole  
3rd № 99 Ray Cox  
4th № 55 Frances Hirst

**May** 1st № 55 Frances Hirst  
2nd № 10 Vivienne Aspley  
3rd № 74 Rosie Stanbridge  
4th № 46 Susan Nowell



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 in joining please contact Hugo on 01234 824894, email [Hugovankempeno@gmail.com](mailto:Hugovankempeno@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.



## THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

**Coventry Herald - 12/01/1824** - On Monday the 5th inst, an inquisition was taken before Thomas Times, gent, Coroner for the county of Bedford, at Stevington on view of the body of Mr. John Wheaton, stone mason, aged 63. It appeared that the deceased on the

preceding Saturday evening, after a hard day's work, went home and had his tea, complaining at the same time that he felt rather unwell. However, he cleaned his shoes, and made other preparations for a journey which he had intended to take the next day, to visit a relation at Bedford. Between ten and eleven o'clock he retired to rest and fell into a sound sleep. About five o'clock in the morning, his wife, who is a very aged and infirm woman, finding that something was the matter with her husband, alarmed a female who was sleeping in her house. She immediately struck a light, and on going to the bedside of the deceased, he was discovered to be a corpse. Verdict - Died by the visitation of God.

**The Bucks Gazette and Bedford Chronicle - 06/09/1834** - Petty Sessions - A woman named Lacey, of Stevington, complained she could not get her husband to live with her. The bench advised her then by all means go and live with her husband.

**The Bedfordshire Mercury - 01/06/1900** - Accident - Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, between 4 and 5 o'clock, a horse with a cart, flying a Union Jack, was running away from the direction of West End, and galloping along the village towards Bromham or Oakley. The runaway very nearly collided with the Vicar and Miss Hare Duke, and barely cleared a little girl with a perambulator and a number of other children. However, it was stopped on the top of Park Hill by Mr Abbott Teasdale, and no injury occasioned. The driver arrived shortly in another trap and took charge of the runaway.

**The Bedfordshire Mercury - 13/12/1901** - For The Assessment Of Damages - A Sheriff's Court was held at the Shire Hall, Bedford, on Saturday morning, before Mr Under-Sheriff Tanqueray and a jury of whom Mr A. E. Anthony was the foreman, for the purpose of the assessment of damages in a case which had been remitted from the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice. The plaintiff in the action was Thomas Wareing Smith, farmer, Stevington, who was represented by Mr A. T. Trethewy, of Messrs Sharman and Trethewy; and the

defendant was Cushi Manning, a travelling showman, of Kempston, for whom Mr Langley appeared. The facts of the case were that one of the plaintiff's employees was driving a team of three horses along the road at Stevington on Sept. 25, when defendant came along with his horse and cart and drove his off shaft into the body of the hind horse of the team, injuring it so badly that it died some little time after. Plaintiff estimated his damages at £25 12s. 6d., apportioned as follows: £19 10s., another horse; £1 2s. 6d., vet's fees; £5, inconvenience. The High Court had decided that plaintiff was entitled to recover. After a short retirement, the jury assessed the damages at £14.

**The Bedfordshire Times & Independent - 01/07/1938** - Last week a live snake measuring 2ft, 6in, was found by Mr. G. Wooding on a dump of farm manure. As it was thought the reptile might be a poisonous specimen it was killed. Later it was found to be a freak specimen of a harmless grass snake. Mrs Ellis (schoolmistress) has taken charge of the snake.

**The Bedfordshire Times & Standard - 06/02/1953** - Passing of A Landmark - Stevington Yew Felled - A link with the Stevington of many years ago was severed last week by the felling of a familiar landmark, a tall yew tree in the garden of the Post Office. For two centuries, or possibly more, it had weathered the elements and, aided by the skilful attention of topiarists over the years, it has become the admiration of generations of Stevington folk. Mr. Paul Field of Kempston, said that his Grandfather, Mr. George Field, who formerly ran the Post Office, had trimmed the tree for over 50 years. How well he had done this was obvious from its neatly shaped boughs which gave a symmetrical spiral effect, tapering to a point at the uppermost bough. Mrs. Edith M. Watson, who moved into the Post Office just over 18 months ago, described how such an old tree had met its fate. She said it had been impossible to get anyone to trim it, and it had interfered with overhead telephone wires. Mrs. Watson said she did not think it had been trimmed for about ten years and her fellow villagers will probably agree with her words, 'It was a great shame it had to be cut down.'

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Mark Jackson

## HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK NEWS



What a pleasure it is to see summer getting into gear and all the different wildflowers appearing as the season progresses. Richard and I like to note down in our diaries when we first spot important species. We then compare these first sightings over previous years. It's clear that swallows and martins were here earlier than last year. Contrary to this, gadwalls, small speckled ducks, have stayed longer than usual. I spotted a good dozen on Kingfisher Lake in late-April. We suspect that the 'Beast from the East', last year's ultra-cold snap, had a profound effect on many things. The RSPB have said that the extreme cold killed a lot of small birds. Let's hope that this year is better for them. Sadly, so far this year I have failed to hear a single cuckoo although I did hear one at Priory Country Park, Bedford at the beginning of May.

You may have noticed that we have a number of bird and bat boxes around the park. These are mostly monopolised by blue tits and great tits although one box was occupied by wrens. The latter also like to nest on the ledge between our storage containers in the wood yard so we have to be cautious when entering this area during nesting time. In addition, we have different nest boxes for tree creepers and on the island, goldeneye. This beautiful duck actually likes to nest in trees.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the recent Bedford Borough Council's customer satisfaction survey. They wanted to make sure that the park was serving the local community and our visitors properly. We get a lot of positive verbal compliments which is really lovely but the Council can really only gauge what people think if they receive these in writing. You can send us comments at any time on [hcop@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:hcop@bedford.gov.uk).

On Easter Monday we hosted another very successful Easter Egg Hunt for 50 children. Going forward, we are being used more frequently as a stop-off point for long distance cycling events. On Sunday 19 May a refuelling stop was set up on the picnic site for up to 100 participants of a long distance charity bike ride. We have been approached by another one wanting to come in September. They are riding from Birmingham to Amsterdam in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital. Rather them than me!

In April we played host to two judges from the Green Flag Award. We have been fortunate enough to win this for 11 consecutive years.



Bee Orchid

We are really hoping to get it again. In case you haven't heard of this, it is run by the Keep Britain Tidy Group and it is awarded for green spaces of superior quality. The Blue Flag is the equivalent award for clean beaches. We are hoping to get it again but won't know until July. We will let you know the outcome in due course. We are also proud winners of the CPRE Mark for Landscape Improvement and the Friends Group won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service last year.

For the last few months we have been struggling to revamp the park's website. There were problems that required us to change hosts and re-format everything to give us the ability to update the information quickly and accurately. We are also looking to have a presence on Facebook and Twitter, particularly when we are

planning events. We have been dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st Century. We hope that going forward the website will be a much better tool for accessing information and photos about the park. Many thanks to volunteers Lindsey Alton and Steve Hamlett for all their efforts on this project.

Visitors may have noticed that the plot of land adjacent to the entrance drive is undergoing redevelopment. A new limestone wall has been built alongside the road going up to Harrold Bridge. We have seen plans for a substantial single storey house which is replacing the current house next to the river. The new house is set to go in the middle of the plot. Watch this space.

Last month, we completed repairs to the boundary hedge running along the far side of Grebe Lake. People had pulled out the stakes and binders from some sections. The Friends of the Park spent a good couple of weeks replacing everything and re-weaving strips along the top and bottom of the stakes. The materials came from the winter willow coppicing regime in the nature reserve. Hazel would be the material of choice but we have very little of it. What hazel we have planted is not mature enough yet to be harvested. The finished hedge looks really nice now and should flourish in the coming months. Once the birds finish nesting, we can go along with the hedge trimmer and give it a haircut.

### **Important Information:**

This year's herd of 21 cattle went into the river meadow over the weekend of 4 and 5 May. Warning signs were put up at every entrance gate. We ask that dogs are kept well away from them until they have become accustomed to their new surroundings. To begin with, they are unused to the sights, sounds and smells. Settling in generally takes about a month. They will be in there until the end of November depending on how long the grass lasts. We have had cattle in there every year for about 20 years now and they've done a grand job of making sure nettles and brambles don't overtake everything.



In May, we will be working extensively in the Rabbit Warren area next to the overflow car park. Over the last few years, bramble, elder, birch and hawthorn scrub has begun to invade the grassland overshadowing the prime orchid areas. Once cut, the arisings will be raked off to keep the nutrient levels down otherwise we will only get thick growths of nettles and thistles. The next job in June will be to control the amount of ragwort in the park. This plant is toxic to grazing animals so we don't want our cattle coming into contact with it.

In the coming weeks we may start to see Blue-Green Algae appearing in the lakes. If this happens, warning notices will be erected. Please keep your dogs out of the water as the algae is toxic to dogs. We have had so little rain over the last 12 months that water levels are exceptionally low - perfect conditions to get a bloom.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **The Annual Harrold Pit Run**

The Pit Run committee have arranged to hold this annual race through the park on Saturday 15 June. For more information please Google their website.

**Health Walks** (June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, Sept. 5 & 19)  
This is a national scheme aimed at improving your health and wellbeing and to provide opportunities to make new friends. They are run at Harrold every other Thursday from 10.30am. Meet at the woodland entrance to the café for registration then walk for an hour. There are opportunities for a natter over coffee in the café afterwards. Leaders: Janet Munro and Lindsey Alton. For more info please email [janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk) or call 01234 720016 and leave your contact details.

**Friends Group Task Days** (June 24, July 29, August 19, September 30)  
These occur on the last Monday of the month (a week earlier if a Bank Holiday). Participants undertake whatever task is on the agenda according to the season. Meet in the Warden's Office at 9.30am for tea. Come in old clothes, sturdy boots and bring a packed lunch. We provide refreshments, gloves and tools. For info call 01234 720016 and leave your contact details or email [Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk).

Janet Munro - Park Warden

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

### **Sunday Strolls** (2 June, 7 July, 4 August)

A gentle Sunday walk. Meet at reception at 10.15am. Walk lasts approx. 2 hours. Free but donations welcome. No need to book. Call 01234 767037 for details.

### **Become a Volunteer**

If you are interested email [jo.roberts@marstonvale.org](mailto:jo.roberts@marstonvale.org) or call 01234 762608.

### **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.



### **Special Events:**

For information about what's on including Wildlife Walks, Summer Holiday activities and the Forest Family Fun Day on 31 August visit:

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



# **-D. REID-**

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