

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2019
Number 190

VILLAGE DIARY

September

- 10 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. 3pm
- 12 Live Theatre Broadcast. Fleabag. Village Hall
- 12 WI Harvest Supper. Church Room 7.30pm
- 14 Stevington Family Fun Day (see page 13)
- 14 Sponsored Bike 'n Hike. (See page 21)
- 15 Patronal Service. St. Mary's. 4pm
- 26 Live Theatre Broadcast. One Man, Two Guvnors. Village Hall
- 28 Wavelength Project. Church Room. 11am. (see page 26)

October

- 3 Cinema Club. Film. Fishermans Friends. Village Hall
- 8 Live Opera Broadcast. Don Giovanni. Village Hall
- 10 WI From Nurse to Crime Writer. Church Room 7.30pm
- 17 Live Theatre Broadcast. Midsummer Nights Dream. Village Hall
- 18 St. Mary's Harvest Supper. Church Room.
- 19 Host or Hostess Supper. Village Hall. (see page 16)
- 20 Harvest Songs of Praise and Historical Tour. St. Mary's. 4pm
- 24 Live Opera Broadcast. Don Pasquale. Village Hall
- 31 Cinema Club. Film. Rocky Horror Picture Show. Village Hall

November

- 2 Stevington Guitar Concerts. Richard Smith. (See page 15)
- 5 Stevington Fireworks. Village Hall.
- 7 Live Ballet. Concerto/Enigma Variations/Raymonds Act III. Village Hall
- 8 Visit to Bedford School Observatory (see page 12)
- 12 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. 3pm
- 14 WI Craft Evening. Church Room 7.30pm
- 17 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 20 Stevington Historical Trust Lecture. Village Hall. (see page 18)
- 21 Live Theatre Broadcast. Hansard. Village Hall
- 28 Live Theatre Broadcast. Present Laughter. Village Hall

December

- 10 Live Ballet Broadcast. Coppelia. Village Hall
- 17 Live Ballet Broadcast. The Nutcracker. Village Hall

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!

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

It's also time to include a tear-out form for your Christmas Greetings which will appear in the December issue. The number of greetings has increased each year since it started in 1995 and we intend to have a pull out on coloured paper again this year so you can put it on your mantelpiece with all your other Christmas cards. This year's charity is The Samaritans and in particular their Bedford branch. See pages 5 and 19 for further information.

The Stevington Family Fun Day will be held at the Village Hall and on the playing field on Saturday 14 September. It is free entry for everyone and all of the children's activities are free too. There are loads of different things going on so there should be something for everyone. See pages 13 & 14 for details. We are organising the 'Pride & Joy' Stevington Motor Show and there is going to be a great collection of vehicles and bikes on display. We'll see you there!

Make sure not to miss the Stevington Bonfire Night and Fireworks on Tuesday 5 November. It was a great display last year.

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 28 September. See page 26.

The Cinema Club has lots of events at the Village Hall in the autumn months – films, live broadcasts of theatre, opera and ballet. It's a great facility for the village. Further details of the programme are on page 36.

Heather and Keith

NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 1 December 2019. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 17 November 2019. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email stevington.magazine@googlemail.com) on that day, although we will be delighted to receive copy at any time before then.

MEMORIES OF CAROL WOODS

The first thing I would like to say is how proud Robert, Ian, Catherine, Chloe, George and Henry and I are that so many people Carol called friends took the trouble to attend St. Mary's church on 20 May to say farewell to Carol.

Carol was one of life's kindest people and when we first moved to Stevington it wasn't long before Robert was born, and she and other young mums started a mother and toddler club and a play group. As all these children got older, she started helping with the youth club which she did for many years. As the years went by Carol got involved with the Darby and Joan club helping on many trips. Carol did this with her best friend Jill King - everyone remembers this pair for their laughs and Bacardi and Coke - if we were out anywhere and couldn't see them you just aimed for the laughing.

As time passed all the clubs folded but Carol didn't sit back, she did work for many people in the village and when the community shop was formed who was doing her stint on the rota - Carol of course.

In 2002 she contracted an e-coli infection and was admitted to Bedford hospital, but Carol was getting worse and was taken to Lister Hospital in Stevenage and into the intensive care unit. As she was improving Carol had a bad heart attack and we were called to the hospital in the early hours where we were told she only had a 25% chance of surviving. But she kept being as cheerful as could be and pulled through.

It wasn't long before we were going back to our Dunkirk little ship in Kent cruising the east coast and making trips to Dunkirk. But all the time her kidneys were getting worse and it got to the point something had to be done. Carol was given three options one of which was dialysis at home, called home choice, where she was on dialysis every night for 8 hours. But this didn't get her down and Carol carried on.

Carol's life changed after she fell in Southwold breaking her arm which started to get her down and then she fell on the bus breaking her leg - this is when I could see the happy girl I married start to give up. Things got worse with her struggling to breathe and she was admitted to Bedford hospital then to Lister hospital intensive care unit. By now Carol had very low blood pressure and in the early hours of Friday 19 April we were called to the hospital where Carol was very poorly after a heart attack, but she could still raise a smile and seemed quite cheery when

we left that evening. We had another call early on the Saturday morning and were told it might be as well if all the family could come down. We stayed all day but could see she had given up - she told the doctors she wanted to go. We hadn't been home 2 hours when we got the final call that Carol passed away at 21.20. Farewell to one of the kindest people you could have known and who will leave a large gap in my life.

Lastly I would like to say a very big thank you to Ian for looking after Carol for the last 2 1/2 years - cooking, shopping and looking after the dialysis machine ie keeping it clean and ordering chemicals for the machine and taking her back and forth between Bedford and Lister hospitals.

Michael Woods

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE 2019 CHRISTMAS CHARITY



Samaritans is the coordinating body for the 201 Samaritans branches located across the UK and Ireland. Samaritans provides a safe place for people to talk, round the clock, every single day of

the year. People can get in touch by phone, email, text, letter or by visiting a branch. Volunteers also do outreach work, for example, at festivals, prisons, hospitals and schools.

Samaritans is a unique charity dedicated to reducing feelings of isolation and disconnection that can lead to suicide. Every six seconds they respond to a call for help. Every year, they answer more than 5 million calls for help by phone, email, SMS, letter, face to face at one of our local branches.

They are available 24/7, before, during and after a crisis.

Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy, and Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide.



Each branch is required to raise funds to cover its costs and pay to train its volunteers. The money we raise this year will be going to the Bedford Samaritans.



STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors:

Paul O'Flynn (Chair)

Pete Fisher (Vice Chair)

Janet Day

Andrew Lockwood

Lucy Norton

James Lockwood

Jane Thomas

Tricia Lennie (Clerk)

The Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their comments on the recent consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period closed on 10 July 2019. We have received approximately 250 comments which are currently being collated and categorised in order to produce a revised document. Further information will be available after the Parish Council meeting on 11 September 2019.

Stevington Family Fun Day: Saturday 14 September

The Parish Council is delighted to support the Village Hall Committee who are running a Family Fun Day, on the Village Hall field, which we hope will attract a large number of residents to enjoy the fun and meet their neighbours.

The Play Area and Field

The annual safety inspection of the playground was undertaken by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in June and no major problems were identified. After the inspection a snapped cable on the bridge was repaired quickly and the bark has been replenished to ensure there is a soft surface. The playground is checked weekly but do inform the Parish Council if you see any problems with any of the equipment.

The Parish Council is pleased to report that the problems with dog faeces on the playing field has improved and currently there are no plans to ban dogs from the playing field. The situation will be kept under review and the Parish Council would like to thank all dog owners and walkers for their cooperation.

The Parish Council has recently commissioned a survey of trees in the playing field borders. The purpose is to identify any trees that may need trimming to ensure the safety of any passer-by and the long-term health of the trees themselves. If any work is needed it will be carried out by competent contractors at an appropriate time.

The Windmill

The windmill is currently not accessible to the public as we are awaiting a health and safety inspection.

Highways and Footpaths

The Parish Council has been working closely with members of the Borough Council on various highway and footpath matters around Stevington. A water leak in Park Road was reported and subsequently resolved by Anglian Water; a further leak has been detected just past the bend at Park Farmhouse and is scheduled for repair soon. One of the bollards at the Cross was swiftly re-set after it was knocked over during an accident at the Cross. Luckily it did its job, and the Cross did not suffer any damage.

The Borough Council has acknowledged that they had been running behind schedule on strimming the footpaths owing to training new staff; however, it appears the majority of paths are now passable.

Unfortunately the footpath to Pavenham remains a concern as the natural springs have moved and the ground is very boggy. The landowner and the representative from Natural England are considering the most cost-effective solutions.

Pete Fisher

Email: stevingtonpc@live.co.uk

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

www.stevington.org.uk

Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly

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.



BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030

Bedford Borough Council is consulting on proposed modifications to the Local Plan 2030. The Council's Local Plan 2030 has been progressing, with hearings held by the Planning Inspectorate in May and June 2019. Following these hearings, the Council was invited by the Inspectorate to submit a number of modifications to the Plan. These include 'main modifications' which are required for the Plan to be taken forward and considered 'sound'.

The list of proposed modifications can be found at www.bedford.gov.uk/examination along with a representation form for responses. A version of the Local Plan 2030 showing the proposed main modifications is also available so that proposed changes can be seen in context. Proposed 'main modifications' are shown in red text. Green text shows proposed 'additional modifications' which are minor changes to make the Plan clearer and easier to understand.

All responses to the consultation will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. This marks one of the final stages of the Examination of the Local Plan 2030, which ends with the Planning Inspectorate's report to Council, which will set out any further modifications that the Plan requires. The Council will then have the option to adopt the Local Plan 2030.

To view and respond to the consultation visit www.bedford.gov.uk/examination. Hard copies can also be found at borough libraries and the Customer Service Centre (Horne Lane, Bedford). The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 1 October.

Have Your Say on the Future of Bedford Town Centre

Although we live in a village outside of the centre of Bedford, most of us will visit the town centre at some point for shopping or leisure.

The Council is writing its new Town Centre Plan and wants to hear ideas from users. This consultation aims to find out what people use the town centre for, how often they visit, and what might bring them into town more. Drop-in sessions are being held in the town centre with a vision wall inviting thoughts and ideas, staffed by members of the Council's Economic Growth & Development Team. These responses will then feed into the Town Centre Plan, which will then be published and further feedback invited early next year.

The survey is open until Friday 27 September 2019. It is available online on the Borough website at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/TCS/>. There will also be paper copies available at Borough Hall, the Customer Service Centre and local libraries which can be sent to Consulting Bedford, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

Are You Registered to Vote?

Bedford Borough Council has sent out this year's 'Household Enquiry Forms' to ensure that everyone who has a right to vote is on the Electoral Register.

The Council is required by law to carry out what is known as an 'Annual Canvass' every year. This involves writing to every household in the Borough, so local residents can check that the correct individuals are registered to vote at their address and, if necessary, make any changes.

Please check the details for your household and confirm no changes or any changes you have by responding either by text, online, or by phone. If they do not receive a response from a household the council is legally required to send up to three reminders. So, respond now to save you time and save the Council money.

Councillor Jon Abbott

Telephone 07784 549180

Email jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com



Anne Stileman Bursary Fund

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

Would a grant help you with equipment, travel or research costs?

**Applications for support are open all year round.
For information about how to apply email the Clerk at stevingtonpc@live.co.uk**

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STEVINGTON STARGAZERS

Visit the Bedford School Observatory and Planetarium on Friday 8 November.

The visit includes a 'night sky tour' in the planetarium by the resident astronomer, and (if the weather is kind) views of the stars and planets through a variety of telescopes including the main 16" computer-controlled telescope.

This is a wonderful experience for children from the age of 9 or 10 upwards, and I hope families will want to come along, though numbers will be limited. No unaccompanied children, please, but families are welcome with your own transport.

More information at <https://tinyurl.com/bed-ast-soc-obs> or <https://tinyurl.com/bed-sch-obs> or by contacting Robert.

Please register your interest with Robert Eadie, 826198 or robert@eadies.org.uk.



STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Very little to report this quarter.

As usual attendance has been very up and down, largely due to holidays. However we now have a membership of 14. One who had lapsed has rejoined and we have welcomed a new member - Sandra Sample. We are really pleased to have you on board Sandra.



Our regular message is that we will always make newcomers very welcome on Monday nights at the Village Hall (excepting Bank Holidays) from 7 to 9pm. Just turn up, no need to ring first. Your first two visits are free.

We are aware that there are a number of new families in the village - everybody from 12 years upwards is welcome!

We hope to see some of you soon.

Barbara Collins



STEVINGTON FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 11-5pm

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL

**GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FREE FOR ALL
CHILDREN**

LIVE MUSIC

**BBQ – BAR – PIMMS – TEA – CAKES
ICE-CREAM**

**INFLATABLE BUNGEE RUN – SOFT PLAY
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CRAFT STALLS – SWEET STALL

CHILDRENS FANCY DRESS
(EVERYONE GETS A PRIZE)

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BISCUIT DECORATING

HOOK A DUCK





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ASSAULT COURSE

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**WIN A WHEELBARROW FULL OF
ALCOHOL**

WIN A RIDE IN AN ASTON MARTIN

TOMBOLA

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

ART COMPETITION

Any medium, hand in to Jackie Ward (01234823767) by Friday 13th September. Name and age on entry, theme Stevington in Summer.

PRIDE & JOY VEHICLE DISPLAY

**Classic cars – sports cars – 4x4's – modern classics –
modified vehicles – tractors – motorcycles, - if you
would like to display your Pride and Joy contact**

hjp@parkinsonconsulting.com

Anybody able to help in any way please contact

lindarudd2307@gmail.com

Stevington Guitar Concerts

RICHARD SMITH supported by IAIN FORBES
SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2019
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Richard Smith, who resides in Nashville, will be making a return visit to Stevington. Richard is without doubt one of the finest fingerstyle players in the world, he is hugely entertaining and technically brilliant.



We are delighted to have been able to book Iain Forbes, a Glasgow based guitarist, to support Richard. Iain is a high energy musician who plays an incredibly wide and diverse range of music, he is a real treat.

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

The cost of bringing the artists we book to Stevington is ever increasing so we are delighted to have received fantastic support from Alex and Andrew at the Red Lion, who have generously offered to provide accommodation for our travelling musicians at no charge helping us to raise as much money as possible for the charities we support and to give our musicians a great stay in Stevington.

**THE
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STEVINGTON



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 or like Stevington Guitar Concerts Facebook page. And tell your friends!

Thanks for your ongoing support.

John Duffield

HOST OR HOSTESS NIGHT SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

After last year's success we are 'chancing our arm' again this October.

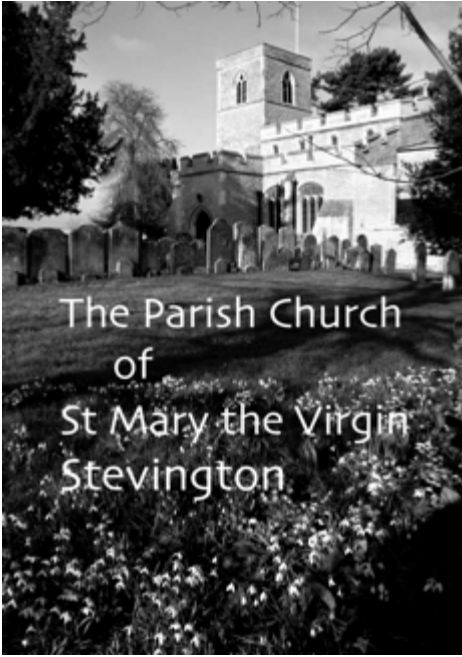
Here's a reminder of how it works:

- A host or hostess books a table at the Village Hall, ideally for 8 people but this is an example as numbers don't matter. Each diner pays £12 for their meal and the 'cook' retains £30 (or prorata) to help with their expenses.
- Every table will have its own electricity point for hostess trollies, slow cookers etc.
- The hall will open from 2 to 5pm for tables to be prepared. Tables can be dressed with your own tablecloth, crockery etc. or from 2019 the Hall tablecloths etc. will be available if required.
- Usually diners provide their own drink - although the bar will be open if needed.
- The hosts will not be able to use the Hall kitchen to cook but can use the warming cupboard for plates and also the fridge.



We've seen some very exciting and imaginative meals in the past – even takeaways!

Please ring Barbara Collins on 822296 to book a table.



NEW GUIDE TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH STEVINGTON

This new guide is a wonderful 20 page colour booklet, researched and written by Peter Hart, with photos by Roger Day. The artwork and production was by Paul Middleton.

It describes all aspects of the Church, with architectural and historical details, and covers both the exterior and interior.

It is for sale in the Church Room at only £3 per copy.

THE FOREST OF MARSTON VALE - WHAT'S ON

Sunday Strolls (1 September, 6 October, 3 November)

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 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, craft activities and concerts visit:

www.marstonvale.org/events.html

STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number: 1086669

www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk

20th Anniversary Year

The Friends of the Trust's first winter lecture will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday (not Thursday as usual) 20 November 2019 at 7.30 for 8.00. Please note the change of day.

Our lecturer will be Joe Prentice. As many of you know Joe is an archaeologist and since the mid 1980s he has specialised in the archaeology of designed landscapes and historic gardens with their associated architecture.

The subject of his illustrated talk will be the restoration of the Privy Garden at Hampton Court in which Joe was involved for some months.

There has been a Privy or private garden at Hampton Court since the reign of Henry VIII but it was remodelled in 1702 as a baroque garden on the instructions of William III. William died before the garden was completely finished, which meant all the gardeners and workmen were frightened of not being paid. They therefore submitted the fullest possible accounts of their work. The workmen's accounts were further corroborated by archaeological evidence and historic garden plans. The net result was that there was much information on which to effect the reconstruction of the garden.



On a separate matter, The Trust has nearly completed a new work, *The History and Architecture of St Mary's Church* in collaboration with Stevington PCC. We believe that very few small parish churches have been recorded in such detail. We hope to publish before Christmas and in the usual way we will be asking anyone interested in buying the book for advance subscriptions when the price is settled. We will place a copy of the book as sent to the printer in the Church Room in due course so that parishioners and others can record an interest.

Peter Hart. Hon Secretary
01234 823586

SEASONS GREETINGS

You may think it's a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but this is our last chance to remind you about sending your Seasons Greetings to friends and neighbours in the village through the pages of the December Stevington Magazine. If you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity, please write a short message below (or on any piece of paper), put it in an envelope with your donation (**cheques made payable to Stevington Magazine**) and pop it through our door before 17 November. All donations go to charity - we support a different one each year. This year's donation will be made to the Bedford Samaritans.

Name: _____ Donation: £ _____

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

Or same message as last year



Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. If you are eligible and wish Bedford Samaritans to claim Gift Aid on your donation please complete the details below and return to us with your donation. If you don't want to dismember your magazine we can supply a blank gift aid declaration form, on request.

Title: _____ Name: _____ Surname: _____

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I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to Bedford Samaritans and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

THE MANOR HOUSE GARDEN AND THE NGS

What a surprise! For the last twenty years we have opened for the National Garden Scheme Charities and many of you in the village have been really kind in making cakes, pouring teas, washing up numerous cups, or helping with car parking and reception; the list goes on.

Well, it so happens that The English Garden Magazine and the NGS have been running a competition this year and we are thrilled to announce that The Manor House Garden at Stevington has been nominated as one of the top 30 National Garden Scheme gardens to visit. In order to pick a winner, people have a chance to vote again from now until end September, to pick the overall winner and winner of the six regions. If you feel like supporting us then please follow the link shown here www.theenglishgarden.co.uk/ngs/ (The Nation's Favourite Garden, East: The Manor House, Stevington). We are up against some very big names, but very good indeed that Bedfordshire is represented! By voting YOU have the chance to win a Viking Cruise on the Danube. Good luck to all!

In order to share the honour of being chosen we would like to invite anyone who has helped with the NGS events, in any way great or small, to join us for a cup of tea and slice of cake and just have a lovely chatter. This would be on the afternoon of 11 September at 2.30pm. The tea party would take place in the Manor House Garden either on the lawn or inside if windy or wet. Do hope many will be able to join us. No need to reply, just come!

Simon and Kathy Brown

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Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Sponsored Bike 'n Hike is well-known in Stevington as a fundraiser for two very worthy charities in the two counties. Every September it raises about **£100,000** in one day. Of this, **half** stays with the **Historic Churches Trust**, to make grants to churches needing repair, and **half** is returned to the churches' own funds. Over the last three years Stevington has raised a total of **£4,038**, meaning **over £2,000** to St Mary's for urgent maintenance of our beautiful medieval building and the Church Room.

Details were in the last Magazine or can be obtained from Bob Hart.

From now on YOU CAN TAKE PART BY CAR! If like me you aren't able to walk or cycle very far, ORGANISE A CARLOAD and set yourselves a more demanding number of churches to visit. Last year this was done by a Hertfordshire church, who targeted 50 churches, and visited **63!!** I think this sounds great – lunch, snooze.....

Please make this the year to take part – the Trust and St Mary's need your support!

Robert Hart
01234 823769

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STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

We are extremely pleased and proud to report that the club will be fielding two teams in the Bedfordshire County Football League again for the 2019/20 season, with the First Team playing in the Premier Division and the Reserve Team playing in the Third Division.



Both teams did extremely well last season, with the First Team finishing fourth in the Premier Division and becoming the first Bedfordshire County Football League team (formerly the Bedford and District Football League) to win the Bedfordshire Football Association Senior Trophy, with the Reserve Team finishing sixth in the Third Division and Runners-Up in the Watson Shield (League Cup).

Both teams have managed to retain most of their players from last season and have had a number of new players join as well. Needless to say both teams are hoping to improve on last season's league positions and have good runs in their respective League Cup and County Cup competitions.

Both teams have had good attendance at pre-season training sessions and have had a couple of competitive friendly matches ready for the start of the season. The first First Team game was played on 31 August - a difficult away fixture to Cranfield United, last season's league runners up and a club looking to get promotion to the next tier of the football pyramid. The reserves start a week later on 7 September with a home game against Lidlington.

We appreciate that it's difficult to follow the club's fixtures these days as there is very limited coverage of local sports in the few (if any) free local newspapers that get distributed in the village. However details of our fixtures can be found online on the Bedfordshire County Football League website at:

www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk/currentseason.php.

We have a really positive feeling in the club right now and are confident that both teams can build on the success of last year. We have had good attendance at training for both teams. We need a strong squad of players to ensure that we are always able to field a strong starting eleven and have a good substitutes bench as the league are continuing to allow teams to have 5 'roll-on and roll-off' substitutes.

The club hasn't lost sight of its aim to get both sides back playing home fixtures at the Playing Field and we will now start in earnest consulting with the Bedfordshire Football Association, Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to see what changes can be made at the Village Hall to meet the Bedfordshire County Football League standards for teams competing in the Premier League.

Unfortunately there will not be 'quick fix' solution, as fairly 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.

On a closing note we are pleased that all of the 'back room teams' for both sides are carrying on from last year, together with continued support and hospitality from Nigel and his team at the Royal George. Without their collective support and week by week commitment the club would definitely not be as strong as it is today, so thank you to you all from everyone in the village.

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of the club and look forward to seeing you at this season's matches (home or away) and at our future Charity Fund Raising Events.

Shane King

HANDY LARGE SCALE LOCAL MAP

The community shop now stocks a specially commissioned map of the local area showing all the boundaries and footpaths.

It is a larger scale version of the standard O/S map, showing Stevington, Oakley, Bromham, Harrold & Pavenham. The map is printed and laminated on both sides and comes with its own handy wallet that fits neatly in your pocket.

The weatherproof map is an absolute bargain at only £3.80 and is specially commissioned to help raise funds for St. Mary's Church and the Community Shop.



BEDFORD SAILING CLUB



Another busy summer with lots of members enjoying a BBQ, camping, rowing, kayaking and swimming or simply settling down with a glass and a book, taking in the wildlife or watching a glorious evening sunset. We continue to offer free kayak and rowing tuition and familiarising you with using our extensive range of club boats - just ask!

Membership is an absolute bargain at only £45 per annum for a FAMILY or £30 for an individual.

A growing membership has helped us to invest in improving the facilities, the latest of these being a new solar powered battery for the club's electric outboard and a new pontoon for easier and safer access to the river.



Why not contact us for a free introductory tour of the facilities and a paddle?

Sailing, canoeing or kayaking:

Dave Brear daveabrear@aol.com 07929 265671

Rowing or sculling:

Hugo van Kempen hugovankempen0@gmail.com 01234 824894



Our next meeting will be on **28 September 2019 at 11.00am** when we will begin to look at social media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the like. We have some exciting local guest speakers who use these platforms, to explain what they do, what they don't do and what's hot and what's not. It should be a fun and informative session. As always everyone is welcome.

On 15 June we had visits from:

- Wavelength, the national charity that donated the smart TV and tablets to Stevington;
- Dave Hodgson, The Mayor of Bedford who has supported our project from the outset and assisted us to be able to make wifi broadband available in the Church Room; and
- Caroline Rigg, practice manager at Harrold surgery who explained how patients can access a wide range of services from their website.



One of the spin offs of our project is a rolling display on the TV in the Church Room which can be used to advertise and promote any village activities. If you would like to explore how to get events on the display talk to its developer, Robert Eadie.

Wavelength donated some tablets to the village so if there is anyone who wants to dip their toe in the water and get online these tablets are available for loan or can be used in a guided session in the Church Room. We have a post box in the Church Room, next to the piano, where you can leave a note for us or you can come to our next meeting and have a chat about it.

Best regards
Stevington Wavelength Team



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.

Open Doors and Food for Thought

What a difference an open door makes both literally and metaphorically. Since opening St Mary's church doors nearly every day this year, the church has welcomed so many visitors. From all walks of life and from far and wide, people have enjoyed the fact that the church is open and have entered for many different reasons. Perhaps they have been walkers passing by; coming to research family graves; visitors to the village, the Holy Well and Kathy and Simon's garden; those with historical interests and people wanting a few moments of quiet and contemplation. Whatever the reason, the visitors' book reflects how much people appreciate St Mary's simple but impressive beauty and the churchyard with its atmosphere of serenity and calm. And yet, and yet - rather like our threatened environment, is St Mary's another endangered species?

Church Guide

The completion of St Mary's Church Guide was awaited with anticipation and it certainly doesn't disappoint! It is a wonderful publication. Not only does it look beautiful in its layout expertly presented by Paul Middleton and stunning pictures from Roger Day but the clarity and historical detail of the text, written by Peter Hart, is more than impressive. Again the range of talent and expertise in Stevington is remarkable. Copies of the guide are available in the Church Room and the church for £3.



Church Tours

This year it has been a pleasure to receive two different groups visiting historic churches in the area. On Saturday 10 August a group from Morley College in London came with their own guide to visit the church, followed by a second group from U3A in Bedford on Monday 12 August. On this occasion the group were lucky to have Peter Hart as their guide. Both events, along with the tea and cake provided, were a resounding success. Thank you to those who kindly provided cakes and their time, to Robert for organising and, of course, to Peter - blue badge on its way to you!

The Churchyard

The churchyard received its final visit from the tree surgeons and many thanks to MS Tree Care for the great job they did in pruning, cutting back and clearing the area. Plans are afoot to think of more ways to make the most of the area as a haven for the range of eco systems which already thrive there.

Quinquennial Inspection

The five-year Inspection of the building and grounds took place in August. Mr John Barker is our appointed church architect and, although his final report has not been completed, he was pleased to say that the church fabric was in good condition. This is thanks to the care and commitment of both our present and previous churchwardens and PCC. Repair work does have to be carried out, the most important being at the top of the tower but then - there's always something to be done!

Bats in Churches Project

St Mary's was selected to take part in the Bats in Churches project and we received a visit in August from one of the organisers, a local bat expert and a representative from Historic Churches Trust. We gained several gold stars



for being very positive about our bats and, although we don't have as many bats as some churches, we do have to think of ways to live with them and minimise their impact on the church fabric. Our visitors were very helpful and we are looking forward to working with them over the next few years.

Church Room

Detailed plans are now being drawn up ready for submission to the Borough Planning Department in order to apply for permission to build an access ramp. We shall keep you posted with the progress made.

Michelle Mativi has done a fabulous job in renewing the leaded glass window and replacing some of the damaged panes and restoring it to its former glory. Many thanks to John Hirst who has coordinated this project with some help from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Board Games

As part of our ideas to make the Church Room an even more welcoming community hub along with the shop and Wavelength meetings, we would like to have some space for playing board games - though a bit of a moot point how friendly relations would be after a heated game of Monopoly or Scrabble! If you have any board games that are in good condition and you would like to donate, please bring them to the Church Room so we can have a selection for people to play, get together and have a cuppa on the side.

Looking Ahead

Patronal Service - Choral Evensong

Sunday 15 September at 4pm - Refreshments

Harvest Supper

Friday 18 October - Good Company and Good Food

Harvest Songs of Praise

Sunday 20 October at 4pm

Explore St Mary's with a Guide and Glass of Wine

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. If you would like to receive information about St. Mary's and events by email, please contact Jane at jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com.

From the Registers

Weddings:

Natalie Ward and Michael Poole

1 July 2019

Holly Goodwin and Scott Dewson

3 August 2019

Jane O'Connor & Robert Eadie, Churchwardens

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details in**

Stevington Magazine



STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Normally we do not plan a lot over the summer as many folk are away. But coming up we have the Family Fun Day on 14 September. This is advertised elsewhere in the magazine, and you should have had a leaflet through your letterbox. Our thanks to the Parish Council for a generous donation which has enabled us to put this day on for free. Do come along and enjoy!

Coming up we are also planning a Hostess Supper on Saturday 19 October. We have held many of these, and they are usually great fun and we all have a feast. The idea is that the host/ess cooks up a meal, served in the hall, and receives donations from guests - any number from 2 to 10. Music and games are part of it. If you want to learn more, ask anyone from the committee, or drop us an email.

Firework night will be, as usual, 5 November. This is a Tuesday this year - put it in your diary.

Having completed painting the main hall and entrance we plan to move onto the toilets and changing rooms. Volunteers with an ability to use a paint roller will be welcome.

We are still looking for help with the village 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 for 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 (stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk).

That's all folks,

Roger Penney



BAPTIST NEWS



Thank you to everyone who took part in July's Scarecrow Festival. The judges were very impressed with the high standard and ingenuity of the entries - particularly that of the Great Escape (bless my soles)! Congratulations to Carol and Graham Wareing for winning first place for their wonderful Charlie Chaplin entry. Once again Florence Richbell took the Junior cup with her intricately detailed representation of Peter



Rabbit with the neighbourly trio of Leo, Zara and Sid coming second. A special afternoon

tea saw the Baptist Hall crowded for the awards ceremony. Congratulations to all the winners of cups and certificates and thanks to everyone who took part in the fun, as well as to the judges, whose task was made more difficult by the high standard being set. As the decision has been made to alternate the Scarecrow Festival with the Christmas Tree Festival there is plenty of time for villagers to get their thinking caps on for the next festival which will take place in May 2021! The theme will be based on a Profession or Trade which gives plenty of scope for some innovative entries.

Please put the date in your diary for the next afternoon tea - Tuesday 10 September at 3pm. All are welcome and there is always a wonderful array of cakes and savouries on offer as well as a quiz.

As usual the church hall will be open to support the Beds and Herts Historic Bike 'n' Hike which takes place on Saturday 14 September from 9am to 5pm. The sponsored Bike 'n Hike is an annual fundraising event organised by the Beds and Herts Historic churches Trust. Half of every cyclist's and walker's sponsor money goes to the Trust and half goes to the church of their choice. Further details can be found on page 21.

As this goes to press we heard the sad news that Alek Murzyn has died - our thoughts and prayers are with Mary, his family and friends.

Barbara Courtney
www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org

MOBILE LIBRARY

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

September	11, 25	October	9, 23
November	6, 20	December	4, 18

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 FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 14 September 11am-5pm

Free Entry



The Friends of
ST MARY'S CHURCH

Open Gardens

Our second Open Gardens event was held on 2 June 2019.

We were blessed with lovely weather, the gardens were magnificent and clearly reflected the passion, care and preparation of their owners. The event attracted approximately 200 visitors and raised a staggering £2,049.89. Lots of compliments were made about the beautiful gardens, the friendly welcomes visitors received and the lovely teas. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and particularly our hard-working gardeners and organisers Fran Newman and Chris Galley who all did a magnificent job.

Emma Field Show

Regrettably this event had to be postponed due to one of the musician's ill health. Emma is hoping to get things back on track and to bring her show to Stevington in the future.

Avis Clayton Rugby World Cup sweepstake

I have just received notification from Paul O Flynn that the Avis Clayton Rugby World Cup sweepstake is now open. FOSM are extremely grateful to Paul for organising this longstanding village event and for the annual donations FOSM has received since it began. We look forward to Paul's, always accurate, predictions throughout the tournament and thank everyone who supports us through their participation.

We have some ideas for new events in the coming months and for the return of some old favourites. Thank you to everyone who supports Friends of St. Mary's Church. If you are not a member perhaps you might like to join by visiting our website:

<https://stmarysstevington.org.uk/friends-of-stm/>.

John Duffield

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STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

Date	Screening	Production	Type
12 Sep	Fleabag	National Theatre	Live
26 Sep	One Man, Two Guvnors	National Theatre	Encore
3 Oct	Fishermans Friends		Film
8 Oct	Don Giovanni	The Royal Opera	Live
17 Oct	A Midsummer Nights Dream	Bridge Theatre	Live
24 Oct	Don Pasquale	The Royal Opera	Live
31 Oct	The Rocky Horror Picture Show		Film
7 Nov	Concerto/Enigma Variations/Raymonds Act III	The Royal Ballet	Live
21 Nov	Hansard	National Theatre	Live
28 Nov	Present Laughter	The Old Vic	Live
10 Dec	Coppelia	The Royal Ballet	Live
17 Dec	The Nutcracker	The Royal Ballet	Live
16 Jan	The Sleeping Beauty	The Royal Ballet	Live
29 Jan	La Boheme	The Royal Opera	Live
25 Feb	Marston & Scarlett World Premieres	The Royal Ballet	Live

Please check www.stevingtoncinemaclub.uk for details of dates, screening times, tickets etc. as they may be subject to change.

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



Adam Smith was our June speaker and his talk was entitled 'Wrest Park and the women who had owned it'. Wrest Park belonged to the de Grey family from 1290 into the 19th century. The ownership of Wrest Park during that time had on occasions been passed down through the female line due to the lack of male heirs. The present house was built in 1834 in a French chateau style - quite unusual for an English house. The last de Grey to own Wrest Park was Francis 7th Earl Cowper who inherited from his mother Anne, dowager Countess Cowper. He died in 1905 at which time the house passed to his nephew, Auberon Herbert, who was killed in action in 1916. He was not married so Wrest Park passed to his sister, Nan, who was responsible for overseeing the transformation of the house to a wartime hospital. The house was sold in 1917. In 1948 it became



the home of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering and when this closed English Heritage took it over and launched a 20-year project to restore the gardens to their pre 1917 state. A very enlightening talk on one of our local landmarks.

In late June we visited the Panacea Museum in Bedford. The Museum offered a detailed history of this extraordinary religious society which was founded in the early 20th century. We spent a couple of hours viewing videos, reading an enormous amount of historical information and visiting various rooms in the house which had been part of the community's headquarters. The museum also includes other buildings that formed the original community's estate. We relaxed afterwards with tea and cake in the beautiful tranquil gardens that are attached to the house.

The July meeting was a BBQ in my garden and once again the weather was kind to us. The event was well attended and members enjoyed the occasion.

We take a break in August but on Thursday 12 September will hold our Harvest supper at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

Other activities during the last 3 months have included providing lunch for two walking groups and two members have attended another Speakers Day Auditions. We continue with our darts, book club and occasional local walks.

Dates for your Diary:

Thur 12 September	Harvest Supper
Thur 10 October	From Nurse to Crime writer - Alison Morgan (change to our printed programme)
Thur 14 November	Craft Evening

Visitors are most welcome to our meetings - please see the noticeboard displayed in the Church Room for forthcoming events.

Marilyn Billett

Editor's note: The members would like to thank Marilyn and Geoff for hosting a wonderful summer BBQ. A good time was definitely had by all!



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**BOOKING NOW OPEN FOR
'ACTIVE ADULTS' COURSES**

Booking is now open for Bedford Borough Council's 'Active Adults' Sports Courses.

These are relaxed, informal sports sessions aimed at the over 35s, and are ideal for people who maybe haven't done a sport for a long time or who would like to have a go at something new.

As well as Badminton, Tennis, FitSteps, Golf, Indoor Bowls, Martial Arts, Nordic Walking, Pilates, Walking Football and Yoga, there are new activities this term including Clubbercise, Dance Yourself Fit, Fit in the Park, Just Play Football, SwingStreetJazz Solo Dance Class and Yoga in the Evenings.

Cllr Doug McMurdo, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said 'With lots of different sports on offer at venues across the Borough, this is a great chance to get back into sport in a friendly atmosphere.'

The courses start week beginning 23 September and run for 8 weeks. The sessions are run exclusively for adults, run by experienced and qualified coaches. Unless otherwise specified, all the courses are aimed at beginners with no special equipment required.

Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/activeadults to find out more.

GIVING LONDON THE RUN-AROUND!

For many years Jan and I have been supporters of a charity called The Karibuni Trust. It was founded by a Methodist minister and his wife, Bill and Joy Murphy, after they saw the dire circumstances of families living in the Kibera slum in Nairobi – the largest slum in Africa. You can read all about the charity and the children they support at karibuni.org.uk.

So that's how I came to give London the run-around. This was the London 10k Run, sponsored by Asics on Sunday 21 July. So, three months ago, I decided to raise funds for Karibuni by trying to do it! Since then I've been doing the Bedford Parkrun – a weekly run of 5k round Bedford Park – and I joined the Gym at Twinwoods; you may even have seen me struggling in at the tail end of the Stevington 12k! But I did that, and now I have done the London 10k.

It dawned a lovely sunny day with forecast temperatures into the 20's – a bit warm for long distance running, but there's plenty of shade from trees and buildings.

The start was rigidly controlled. We were all in 'pens' and shuffled forward from about 9.00, until our pen got towards the official start, in Piccadilly. There were about 9,000 starters so you can imagine it was a big event, and, at the start, and nearly all the way round, there were hundreds, if not thousands of spectators cheering us all on. There were even people calling out 'go for it Graham!'. Not because they knew me but because we all had to have our name on our number, pinned to our vests.

After Piccadilly, it was up and down Regent Street, and then down to Trafalgar Square, the Strand, up and down the Embankment, over Westminster Bridge and back, round Parliament Square and ending in Whitehall. Thinking about the logistics of it all, no wonder all roads in the West End and around Parliament and Whitehall were closed all Sunday morning!

I had decided, in keeping with my training and advice from the personal trainer at the gym, to keep to an even pace and not be afraid to walk, especially up hills, of which there were a quite a few gentle ones.

I also walked when I drank the cups of water at the water tables every 2k or so.



Transforming Young
Kenyan Lives

www.karibuni.org.uk
Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

When I do the 5k Parkrun round Bedford Park there are no spectators – other than the marshals and the odd dog walker – so the encouragement they give really made a difference, and I finished the 10k in 1:14:52. My personal best for the 5k is 33:30 so I was very pleased to have only taken a few minutes more than twice that time. Just 8 seconds inside my target.

There was a party atmosphere the whole way around, warm and encouraging, with various charities' bands of supporters cheering and waving like mad when their runners went by, and they were augmented by steel bands, jazz bands, and cheer leaders along the route.



Afterwards, the Karibuni runners gathered together with the joint founder, Joy Murphy and other trustees and families at a pub in Northumberland Avenue. I don't know who bought my pint, but it was one of the best and certainly one of the most welcome I have had.

So now it's over and I'm thrilled to see that I've raised over £800 which, after adding gift aid will be around £1000 for the trust. A big thank you to all those who sponsored me or simply dropped a few pounds through my letter box. It will all make an enormous difference to some very deprived children.

And I think I'm getting quite a taste for this running lark!

Graham Follett

WIMBLEDON 2019 – FIRST THURSDAY

I'm not really a tennis fan, though like many others, do watch too much of it on TV during Wimbledon fortnight, but I have long hankered after a personal visit to the event. A couple of years ago I heard from a friend how he managed to get tickets by queuing and decided to follow in his footsteps.

It does mean an early start, so I left the house around 3:45am to catch the 4:15 train. First problem was that I entered the station car park, for once almost empty, at 3:58, and for some reason the car park day starts at 4am. It was going to charge me one day for 3:58 – 4am, and then another for the rest of the day. Being of Scottish descent, I balked at this, drove out of the car park and re-entered at 4:01am to be charged for just one day.

Train, almost empty of course, to St Pancras then two tube journeys got me to Southfields station just after 6am. By now there were crowds walking down the roads towards the Wimbledon site, where I arrived around 6:30 to join about the fifth long queue and be given a queue number of 5,109! I was relieved, as I knew that they allocate about 10,000 tickets to those queuing on the day. The LTA are proud of the fact that it is probably the only major sports event where you can still buy tickets on the day. Those camping overnight were just starting to strike camp, confident that being at the front of the queue they would get Show Court tickets. I was just aiming for a 'Grounds Admission' ticket.

The crowds of queuers were all in great spirits, with quite a few champagne corks popping even at that time of the morning! Food and toilets were available, though queues for both were quite long. It now seems incredible, but I then queued for about 5 hours, gaining access to the grounds around 11:30. By then, there were campers pitching camp not only for Friday, but also for Saturday tickets!



Security checks were 'airport-like', with X-ray machines for our bags and our persons. Belts off (so I had to hold my shorts up) etc. I was in! Straight to Henman Hill. Where is it? None of the signs mentioned it, so I had to ask one of the many assistants. 'Up there to the right'.



I watched Harriet Dart on the big screen winning her second round, then decided to have my lunch (prepared the previous day) in one of the many areas available to have your own picnic. Then on to Court 12, one of the many courts which have masses of unreserved seats, so I queued for perhaps ten minutes, and got a great seat up in the stands. From Court 12 you can actually see courts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 where doubles were being played, but I was watching Cilic who is quite a powerful player, taking on Sousa. You don't get any idea on the TV how fast they hit the ball, and how close to the net all their shots go. Cilic lost in the end, but I really enjoyed watching live Wimbledon tennis for the first time.

It was incredibly hot and sunny, so I retired to the shade for a while to have my strawberries and cream (much cheaper to bring than to buy at Wimbledon prices, which are rumoured to be about £1 per strawberry!), before heading back to Henman Hill to find Nadal trying to tame Kyrgios! I don't think many left the hill until that match finished around 7:45pm, so it was back on the crowded roads to the Tube station, and train back home.

I think I got back home around 10:45pm. It had been a very long day, but well worth the experience.

Robert Eadie

Photos Robert Eadie

Stevington Baptist Church



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**NEW ONLINE COUNSELLING AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SERVICE
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN BEDFORD BOROUGH**

A free, online counselling service for children and young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues has launched in Bedford Borough.

The service, Kooth, is provided by XenZone, an online mental health provider commissioned by Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, as part of a wider partnership with neighbouring councils and health commissioners.

Kooth is available for young people aged 11 to 19 living in Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Children and young people have access to articles written by young people, can join forums to receive peer-to-peer support, access self-help materials and keep a daily journal.

The regular forums cover a range of topics from exam stress and anxiety to eating disorders and grief.

Young people can also drop-in or book a one-to-one online 'chat' session with a trained counsellor between 12pm and 10pm on weekdays, and from 6pm to 10pm at weekends, all year round.

Cllr Louise Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing said, 'This innovative service enables children and young people to access expert counselling and emotional wellbeing support all year round in a way they feel comfortable, without the need to share their name or personal details.'

Dr Sanhita Chakrabarti, Clinical Lead for Children, Young People and Maternity Services at Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group said: 'In Bedfordshire the CCG and partners are focussed on improving access to children and young people mental health services, and children and young people's mental health is a critical component of the NHS Long Term Plan. I am delighted that local young people will be able to get support through this ground-breaking new service'.

Children and young people can sign up to the service via their laptop, tablet or smartphone and can access all the self-help materials, articles and forums linked to emotional wellbeing at www.kooth.com.

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Pat Pickup

GRANDMOTHERS

THE VIEW OF AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's little girls. A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys and they talk about fishing and tractors.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old so they shouldn't play hard or run. They should never say 'hurry up'. Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie children's shoelaces. They wear glasses and funny underwear, and they can take their teeth and gums out. They don't have to be smart, only answer questions like why dogs hate cats, and how God isn't married.

They don't talk baby talk like visitors. When they read to us, they don't skip bits, or mind if it's the same story over again.

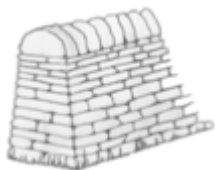
Everybody should have one, especially if you don't have TV, because grandmothers are the only adults who have time.

An essay written by an 8-year-old Brownie
Provided by Anna Hart

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Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

Jun	1st	№ 13	Barbara Collins
	2nd	№ 36	Christina Sear
	3rd	№ 52	Janet Day
	4th	№ 43	Heather Robinson
Jul	1st	№ 98	Christina Gifford
	2nd	№ 17	Ged Puckett
	3rd	№ 51	Peter O'Dell
	4th	№ 43	Heather Robinson
Aug	1st	№ 34	Mary Hughes
	2nd	№ 21	Hillary O'Dell
	3rd	№ 72	James Pease
	4th	№ 48	Lesley Taylor



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 Hugovankempen0@gmail.com or fill in the form below and send to 14 West End, Stevington, MK43 7QU.

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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.

WE ARE FINALLY IN AT 93 PARK ROAD STEVINGTON – THANK YOU!

There's been a great deal of interest in our little project up at Park End and having secured the purchase of the property at the end of February 2013, we are pleased to be able to confirm we finally moved in at the start of August, some 6 years and 5 months later!

At the outset I'm not really sure what we expected the finished article to be, other than simply extending the cottage into the barn and building a small extension to make the building habitable for modern day family living.

Unfortunately that naivety soon wore off and reality quickly set in as we became involved with the Council Planners, Listed Building and Conservation teams and the enormity and complexity of the project began to set in. Local Architect Mark Lightfoot worked wonders in getting plans that mirrored the building's Ordnance Survey footprints of 1883, 1901 and 1926 approved.

These were supported by a photograph provided by Steve and Judy LeClair from New York State USA (possibly distant relatives) whose ancestors used to live at 93 and Old Mill House next door. They were passed to us via Joyce Keech and were key in getting the final plans approved.



Having spent virtually every spare weekend we had working on the project, plus countless hours of research on sourcing suitable materials and finishes, you'd think that it would feel like the project would never end, but in reality it feels like the time has simply flashed by.

But all that hard work is behind us now and the project is 'practically complete' and we are so pleased with what we've been able to achieve and to finally move in.

We would like to thank all those that have supported us in our 'dream' of restoring our house, one that has been in the family for over 100 years, so fittingly the first thank you is to all our family that supported us throughout the project. Unfortunately not all of them are still here to see us finally finish but I'm sure they would have loved what we've done. So thank you Mum, Uncle Norman and Auntie Sylvia (thankfully still with us) for your encouragement early on.

We simply couldn't have done the works without the countless weekends that Gareth and Darren came and helped us, officially unpaid but reimbursed with a beer or two at the end of the day. Looking back it would probably have been cheaper to get someone in, but not half as much fun and we all agreed it would have been great if Dad had been around to join in, he would have loved what we've been doing together and we would have loved working side by side with him, he made hard physical work look easy!

So thank you Lucy, Jane, Megan and Grace for allowing them to assist us and apologies for any delays on projects you had planned for them to do at home during this time.

Unfortunately we could, and did, break plant and equipment as fast as we learnt how to use it. We would have been lost without the ever present support and expertise of Steve Litchfield, our close friend and next door neighbour from when we were all growing up together in Court Lane all those years ago. Without you Steve we wouldn't have had the fun we've had and would still be clearing the site with pick axes and shovels - so a very sincere thank you.

We've also had regular assistance from Ian Woods who made a fantastic job of preparing the outside of the house, John Keech in making the structure weathertight, Steff Watts, Paul and Toby Haggerwood and Steve White, who made a great job of finishing the clay floor tiles in the cottage as well as earlier 'enabling works'.

I'd always dreamed of building a house on the grounds of 93, but never somehow imagined restoring the cottage. Fortunately Alison, Hannah and Sam have always been supportive and been keen to restore the cottage itself as part of the 'family heritage'. I'd always intended doing a lot more of the work myself, but they made me accept we needed to bring in builders to help, otherwise it would never have got finished.

We always intended to support local businesses wherever possible and the village is lucky to have so many good builders living here. Unfortunately for us they were all busy at the time and unable to take on the packages of work as they came round.

We were lucky to secure the services of another local company Andy Milne Construction Ltd (we had played football and cricket against Andy and his Dad in years gone by) to carry out the work. He also employs a team of local craftsman, who have made a fantastic job using traditional building materials and methods that aren't used on a day to day basis in modern construction. To a man their attention to detail and the quality of their finished work has been remarkable and has prolonged the life of this building. So thank you to you all for your effort and for remaining polite with such a demanding client (I know I must have been a pain in the backside at times)!



All of our timber products were designed and supplied by Apex Oak in Leighton Buzzard and all made using traditional construction methods and jointing details, a real feature of the restoration.

All conservation grade rainwater goods were recommended and installed by Aaron Coker (friend from the football club) who even guaranteed them until it rained or when he left site, whichever came first. Joking apart they really compliment the building.

We would also have been lost without the help of other members of the family, Sadie and Jerry Craddock, who through their businesses, Cordelia Jade Lighting at Milton Ernest Garden Centre and Jez Electrical Services in Clapham supplied all our light fittings and carried out the electrical installation respectively.

We've also had some wonderful bespoke light fittings manufactured by a family friend Lee Vernon that have added real personal character to the project as have the blinds and curtains made by Ellie, her mum and sister.

Finally thank you the Parish Council and to our neighbours for their support and patience whilst carrying out these works, we honestly didn't anticipate the works taking so long as they have - like yourselves we look forward to peace and quiet going forward (once everything is finally finished and the site tidied up).

There have been so many people involved in providing technical guidance, support and encouragement throughout this project, simply too many to acknowledge in this short article. But please rest assured that you haven't been forgotten or overlooked and you are all included in 'spirit' in this family thank you.

As a fitting tribute to Great Aunt Marion who lived here all her life and loved the house and village we have decided to name the cottage 'Meadowview'. She loved the fields and the privacy and view they gave her and in the 50 years or so I can remember going up there to see her she would often say to us all 'keep off those fields I say' - hence Meadowview as we could only look at them and not play and run wild on them!

Shane, Alison, Hannah and Sam King.

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THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

The Luton Times and Dunstable Herald - 10/09/1870

- Theft By Navvies - On Friday evening last, Charles Towns, of Stevington, had occasion to go into Mr. Field's beerhouse at that place, where there were a considerable number of navvies present. He had a purse with £2 9s. in it in his possession, and it appears one of the navvies was aware of it, as he got up and put his hand in Towns' pocket and took it out. Towns collared him, when the money was passed to a companion. He then seized him, but eventually the purse and money disappeared. The two men were detained and police-constable Mardlin was sent for, who took them into custody and conveyed them to gaol. Next day they were taken before G. Higgins, Esq., and remanded. They gave their names John Thomas and Richard Morris.

The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 26/11/1887

- Bedford Board Of Guardians - The Results Of Poaching - An application was received for the remission of the school fees of the children of a woman named Mary Parker, of Stevington, whose husband was undergoing a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment passed upon him at the assizes for night poaching. The Clerk said there were seven children, the youngest of which was six months old, and rejoiced in the extraordinary name of Jubilee Jack, and three of them earned a small amount of money. The united earnings of the family were 9s. 6d. a week, and there were eight persons to keep. Mr. Peer said the granting of these fees would not satisfy the woman, and she would not send the eldest of the children to school unless the Guardians granted her some relief. On a former occasion when her husband was in prison three of the children were placed in the House but the mother declined to take that course again. The Clerk said Her Majesty's Judge did not sentence so severely as a rule for poaching as the magistrates, but this was a bad case, and the man had been convicted several times before. The application was granted.

The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 06/02/1897

- Oakley - A Death Trap - A School Teacher Narrowly Escapes Being Drowned - As Miss Walbridge, who has recently been appointed teacher at the Stevington Board School was proceeding from Oakley Station to Stevington on Saturday, from the 8pm train, the night being rather dark, and she not being very familiar with the road, instead of crossing Oakley Bridge and the smaller one about a hundred yards beyond, before

turning sharp to the right for Stevington Park, she turned to the right after only crossing Oakley Bridge, and in a few minutes found herself in the water. This it would be impossible to avoid, as the river branches at a rather acute angle about two hundred yards from the road, leaving her almost surrounded with water. Fortunately, Mr. White who lives some little distance away, heard her screams and ran to the rescue, or she must have been drowned. Great praise is due to Mr. White for his prompt action. Strange to say, the young lady was returning from the funeral of her only sister. Eight years ago there were nine in the family, and one of them has died each year since, leaving her the only child of the family.

The Bedfordshire Times And Standard - 29/09/1939 - Baby Scalded To Death - Evacuee Mother's Loss at Stevington - The story of how a fourteen month-old baby girl, evacuated with her mother from London to Stevington, died as a result of scalds, was told at the inquest at Bedford County Hospital on Monday last, conducted by the Coroner for North Bedfordshire (Mr. R. G. Rose).

Dr. D. K. Stewart house surgeon at Bedford County Hospital, said that the child, Nina Patricia O'Hanrahan, was admitted at 3.40pm on 22 September suffering from scalds. She died at 11.45pm on 23 September. Death was due to heart failure caused by the scalds.

Mrs. E. M. L. O'Hanrahan, wife of Mr. J. H. G. O'Hanrahan, of 32 Cumberland Road, Walthamstow, said that she was evacuated from Walthamstow on Saturday, 2 September. They went to live with Mr. F. Watson and his wife at 2 Church Road, Stevington. On Friday she was in a room with her baby daughter. Another person, Mrs. de Barr, was holding a saucepan of boiling water, and shouted 'I am dropping it'. She (witness) took the saucepan from Mrs. de Barr and put it on the floor. She turned to talk to Mrs. Watson who was in the passage outside the room and when she next looked at her baby she was sitting in water and began screaming. Presumably the child had pulled the saucepan over. Mrs. R. L. de Barr corroborated.

The Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death in accordance with medical evidence.

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Mark Jackson

HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK NEWS



It doesn't seem possible that the 6-week school holiday period has already come and gone. The birds are finishing up a very successful nesting season. Some species like the blackbird have raised at least two broods. One particularly tame female has been making full use of the local soft touches AKA the park staff and volunteers who have been rooting through leaf mould to find worms for her and sacrificing bits of their packed lunches. It's always a joy when a wild creature trusts you enough to perch on your boot while you make a phone call.

It has been an excellent year for grass snakes with multiple sightings reported to us. We caught one enterprising reptile sunbathing in the wood bin inside our compound. They are completely harmless to humans but you wouldn't want to be a frog or baby rodent. They are excellent swimmers and can often be spotted hunting through the reed beds along the lake edges. They make good use of the piles of rotting logs we leave strategically round the park to lay their eggs. As the wood decomposes, it generates heat which helps to incubate them. In winter, the same log piles offer safe havens for them to hibernate in. Toads, frogs, insects, fungi and rodents also make use of them so they are very valuable little habitats.

We've just about managed to get round the whole park to trim all the hedges back. It is not a job you can undertake while the birds are nesting. We have put a lot of effort into laying the hedges around the perimeter of Grebe Lake and it would be a shame to let them get out of hand again. From October to March we undertake all the heavy work



associated with woodland management. This has to be done when the trees are dormant during the winter. Autumn/winter is also the time to plant new trees. The roots then have time to become acclimatised to their new surroundings during the colder months.

Back in July, we discovered that we had been awarded another Green Flag for outstanding greenspace. This is the twelfth consecutive year that we have won this but this year, we scored maximum points in all categories. This is a massive achievement and we couldn't have done it without the contributions from all the volunteers from The Friends of Harrold Odell. Indeed, community engagement was highly praised by the judges who, in their feedback, described us as, quote - 'an exemplar site'. High praise indeed!

We have recently had some issues involving dogs and their owners. The vast majority of dog owners using the park are excellent but sadly the few that are not make life very difficult.

Twice in recent weeks I have had to insist that a dog is put on a lead in the river meadow. The owners were allowing their dog to jump up at the cows causing them to start running. This is utterly unacceptable! The cattle are in there to graze off the rough grasses and are an integral part of river meadow management. Staff and volunteers have worked amongst them with absolutely no problems and found them to be a really mellow bunch. We need them to stay that way. It is illegal to allow a dog to interfere with livestock in any way.

The other issue is used dog bags being tossed in the hedges and hung on gates. This is so disrespectful and lazy. All dog owners know their responsibilities and we try and meet people halfway by providing free dog bags at the disposal stations. If left in the river meadow, there is a real danger of the cows eating contaminated plastic. If anybody witnesses littering of any kind in the park, please report it to us. We can be emailed via the website www.hocp.co.uk.

On a more positive note, the countdown to autumn signals the ripening of the hedgerow fruits. You can find a wide variety of wild fruits around the park. We have blackberries, crab apples, elderberries, rose hips and several varieties of eating apple which have sprung up from cores tossed down in the grass over the years. Most apples are not worth picking before the end of October. We are happy for people to harvest this bounty as long as it's done with care.



We also have a community orchard situated behind the houses in Horsefair Lane, Odell containing some really old fashioned fruits like meddlar and quince plus heritage apple and pear varieties. We planted it in 2010. Again, we wouldn't recommend picking anything until the end of October as it won't be properly ripe. Before we know it, winter will be here along with the winter bird migrations.

Dates for your Diary

Family pond dipping with Beds. Natural History Society

Monday September 2 10.30am – 1pm. Come to the gazebo on the picnic site to participate. Wildlife displays and nature table on show. Contact Sheila Brooke brooke.se@btinternet.com This is a free event.

Health Walks (September 5 & 19, October 3, 17 & 31)

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 afterwards. Leaders: Janet Munro & Lindsey Alton. For more info please call 01234 720016 and leave your name and contact details or email janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk.

Friends Group Task Days (September 30, October 28)

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 and sturdy boots and bring a packed lunch. We provide refreshments, tools and gloves. For info call 01234 720016 and leave your name and contact details or email Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk.

Janet Munro - Park Warden

Photos Courtesy of Janet Munro

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Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
September	10, 24	3, 17	3, 17
October	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
November	5, 19	12, 26	12, 26
December	3, 17	10	None

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