

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2020
Number 194

VILLAGE DIARY

Because of the uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic there is no Village Diary in this edition. We hope that in December it will be jam packed with events taking place in the village.

In the meantime, as lockdown is eased, please keep an eye out for posters round the village and check the Stevington Support Facebook group and the websites and Facebook pages of the pubs, village organisations and the churches to keep up to date with what is happening.



Photo courtesy of Sally Macdonald

NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 28-29 November 2020. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 15 November 2020. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email stevington.magazine@gmail.com) on or before that day.

Photographs as credited. Cover photo by Heather Eadie

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 Smart! Prebend Centre. See page 15 for further information.

This is the second 'lockdown' edition of the Magazine and it has been difficult to put together as all of the planned village events were cancelled and little can be planned going forward. We had no idea whether anyone would provide articles – but you did – so thank you for that!

This edition celebrates the 250th anniversary of Stevington Windmill. Peter Hart has written about its history (page 25) and Mark Jackson has pulled together some fascinating newspaper articles (page 48). There is a report on a wedding at the Windmill (page 40) and the Stevington Writers have written a poem (page 36).

Hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel – the pubs are open, as is the village hall and we are all slowly working out how to meet and carry on as normal. WI is meeting outside and the book club is meeting in small groups in members' gardens, other groups, including the Stevington Pilates class, have taken place over Zoom.

If you need help getting connected to people and services via 'IT' in the widest sense, be it your phone, tablet, PC or TV, then contact the Wavelength group. See page 31.

Stay safe everyone and let's hope that we will soon be able to meet all of our friends and neighbours without restrictions and that that village life can get back to normal.

Heather and Keith





POPPY COLLECTION 2020

Due to the Corona Virus it is highly unlikely that there will be any house to house collection this year. Currently we are thinking of ways we can collect safely so that we can send our usual contribution to the British Legion.

We will place collection boxes in the shop, the church and the pubs. In addition there will be a stall at the Cross on three successive Saturdays: 24 and 31 October and 7 November between 10am and 1pm. Please put these dates in your diary.

Remembrance Sunday is 8 November and we will hope to have our usual service outside at the church - with social distancing.

Joan Hart

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

It is with great regret that we have decided not to hold the annual St Mary's Christmas Concert in December 2020. It is likely that communal singing will continue to be prohibited and the social distancing needed to make the event COVID secure would mean that it cannot be the inclusive evening we have been used to. We look forward to a time when it will be possible for us all to meet in celebration once more.

Tricia Lennie



Thank you

**to everyone who has helped friends,
neighbours, strangers and the wider
community during this difficult time.**



YVONNE DOROTHY HAGGERWOOD

Thank you all for the cards and flowers following Mum's passing.

Mum was a true Spike Islander, being born here in 1940. She lived in West End with her parents, Cyril and Dorothy, and her brother Barry. She went to the village school and on leaving school got a job at Paiges, a clothes shop in Bedford.

In 1961 Mum married our Dad, Michael Haggerwood, and lived in Silver Street. In 1966 she moved to 42 Court Lane and was one of the last village ladies left of her generation and the last lady of the original row of homeowners in Court Lane.

Mum loved her ballet. She helped in the village shop and on the Stevington Race days helped on the water stations with June Homer.

She was very proud of her grandchildren: Phil, Laura, Nathan, Toby, Sophie, and Jemma, and her great grandchildren: Jayden, Zara and Amara.

Mum managed to reach her 80th Birthday in April this year, but after a short illness passed away on 9 June.

We could only have a small funeral, and Mum had requested donations rather than flowers. We have managed to donate £380 to St Johns Special School, where Jemma attended. They were over the moon and very grateful; they knew Mum and said she was a wonderful lady.

Thank you

Mandy & Andy Stupple, John & Karen Haggerwood,
Paul & Andrea Haggerwood and families.

PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Do you ever feel there is too much information but still wish you knew what was going on? Why not sign up on the Parish Council website www.stevington-pc.gov.uk to receive a free weekly email newsletter. Agendas, minutes and the latest local notices will be sent straight to your inbox each Wednesday.

STEVINGTON WINDMILL – BY STANLEY ORCHART

Anyone interested in a painting of Stevington Windmill? This is a watercolour by Stanley Orchard and was bought by my parents, Reg and Dorothy Allen, who lived in a cottage in Church Road in the late 1940's / early 1950's (last one on the left hand side going towards the Church before the School building on the righthand side - Pear Tree Cottage - I think!) I lived there as a child from birth in 1949 to circa 1954 when as a family, with my two younger brothers Nigel and Miles, we moved to Harrold. I have happy memories of our time in Stevington and remember going to Queen Elizabeth's coronation party in 1953. Myself and my brothers left Harrold in the 1970's and my parents died there in the early 1990's. Whilst having fond memories of the painting, and walks to the windmill, none of us wishes to keep the painting.



The painting is a watercolour and is signed and dated 1965. The external frame size is 69 cms by 57 cms, and the painting 43 cms by 32.5 cms. There is minor water staining on the mount in the bottom righthand corner. I'm glad to be able to offer it to someone in the village so if you are interested make me an offer; I will donate 25 percent of any payment to a village cause decided by the editors.

Simon Allen simonallen99@gmail.com

(The editors can send a colour photo if a potential purchaser wants to see more detail)

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FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

A culinary celebration of life after lockdown.

We are now offering an exciting two-course and three-course fixed priced menu to celebrate our love of food and our continued support of our wonderful local community and suppliers.

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We are also delighted to introduce a special Garden Menu for people wishing to dine informally in our gardens.



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STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors:

Pete Fisher (Acting Chair)

Janet Day

Andrew Lockwood

James Lockwood

Lucy Norton

Jane Thomas

Tricia Lennie (Clerk)

The Parish Council

At the PC meeting on 24 July 2020 (Zoom meeting) Paul O'Flynn the Chairman announced his retirement from the Parish Council. Paul has been a member of the Parish Council for 11 years and Chairman since 2014. The Councillors expressed their thanks for his leadership over those years and the support and guidance he has provided. Paul also represented the Parish Council at the Barringer Trust. Much has been achieved over that time and the village has benefited hugely from his efforts. Under his leadership we have reached Regulation 16 with the Neighbourhood Plan, the Red Lion has reopened, there are three defibrillators in the village, refurbishment of public benches, inspections of the playground are undertaken weekly, restoration of the windmill continues, twice yearly litter picks, COVID-19 assistance and much more.

Once again, the Parish Council would like to thank Paul for all his hard work and wish him good health and happiness in the future.

Casual Vacancy

With the retirement of the Chairman, we now have a Casual Vacancy on Stevington Parish Council (see the details on the Casual Vacancy in this magazine). A Casual Vacancy is when a seat on the Community / Town Council becomes vacant during the current term of the Council. The Parish Council would like to co-opt a member to the Parish Council to serve on the council until the next election in May 2023.

We look forward to hearing from any interested residents of Stevington.

The Barringer Trust

With the retirement of Paul O'Flynn, the Parish Council has approached Daniel Norton, from West End, to serve as the Parish

Council representative to The Barringer Trust. The Parish Council would like to thank Daniel who has accepted this role and will report back to the Parish Council as required.

Internal audit report 2019-2020

The Parish Council would like to state that the 2019-2020 report was received and there were no issues arising from the report. Thanks to Tricia, the Clerk, for her hard work over the last year to achieve this clean audit.

Neighbourhood Plan

Stevington Neighbourhood Plan is currently at Regulation 16 stage with the public consultation completing at 5pm on 24 August. An independent inspector has been appointed (Wendy Burden) who will review the plan to ensure that it meets the basic conditions and will make any recommendations for amendments to the Parish Council. This review process usually starts two to three weeks after the consultation phase has closed and can last two to three months depending on the complexity of the plan. If the plan passes inspection then the final phase will be the Parish referendum; due to current COVID-19 restrictions the earliest this can happen is May 2021 but the plan has weight in planning decisions during this time so although delayed it still remains a material consideration until made.

Borough Councillor: Jon Abbott

Jon Abbott reported to the Parish Council that the Bedford Community Hub had managed 1,000 volunteers and many thousands of food parcels during the COVID-19 lockdown and that the R rate was starting to go down because of the efforts made. Bedford High Street is currently reduced to one lane and BBC seek feedback on this initiative which is designed to make the High Street safer for pedestrians and encourage use of town centre facilities. Bromham Road bridge has opened on schedule and this has eased traffic flows. BBC Local Plan Review 2030+ is now open. The call for sites closed 5pm on 14 August 2020 and consultation closes 5pm 4 September 2020. Jon Abbott supported the call for a co-ordinated response from North Bedfordshire Parish Councils. He stated that 16,000 further homes are scheduled for Bedford Borough, on top of those identified in the recently adopted 2030 Local Plan.

The Windmill

The sails have been successfully replaced by Dorothea Restorations. This is good news and will allow the Parish Council and village to

celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the windmill in the Autumn of 2020. The Parish Council is working closely with Bedford Borough Council towards drafting a memorandum of understanding that would allow a 'friends of group' for the windmill to be actively involved in the routine maintenance of the mill but also to agree a schedule where it may be possible to have the mill sails turning occasionally. Initial discussions have been held but are currently on hold due to COVID-19 priorities for the Borough; these will recommence as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

The Village Hall

The Parish Council would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for the renovation work that they have completed at the Village Hall during lockdown. We would also like to thank the committee for all their time and effort in ensuring that the hall is COVID secure and ready for opening, hopefully in September.

The Playground

The playground has now reopened and the weekly inspections have restarted, however it is not being cleaned and disinfected. Parents and carers are asked to follow the advice on the notices in the playground to ensure their children are kept safe from the risk of COVID-19.

Community Support during COVID-19

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have continued to support neighbours, family and friends during the ongoing crisis. The volunteers have continued to undertake prescription collections. As fewer people require this service we will be winding the collection service down unless there is a demand.

Planning

The Parish Council has commented on several planning applications over the last few months and we would like to thank residents for their support in ensuring the views of the community are heard.

Jane Thomas

Email: clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.stevington-pc.gov.uk

Sign up for the weekly bulletin by going to the website.

Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly

BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

Since the last magazine we have seen a bit more of a return to normal, although Bedford Borough's coronavirus infection rate has remained higher than some of our surrounding local authorities. Thanks to the majority of people listening to the guidance issued by the Borough Council the infection rate is currently falling; they are urging the public not to get complacent.

It has been noted all across the country that it doesn't take much for an area to have a sudden increase in cases. So please keep staying 2m apart from others, washing your hands and wearing a face covering in busy places, and help slow the spread of coronavirus.

There are now two permanent test centres in Bedford, a drive through centre at Borough Hall and also a walk-in centre in the Prebend Street car park opposite. This facility is for those arriving on foot or bicycle. These are expected to remain for the foreseeable future.

Transport

Works have begun to build a new footbridge over Manton Lane, which will make it easier for pedestrians to cross this busy road, improve road safety, and reduce congestion. This new bridge is part of the Transporting Bedford works, which have already seen this stretch of Manton Lane widened with new traffic signals installed to help ease congestion and make the road safer.

Construction work on the foundations of the new bridge has now started, with the bridge expected to be complete and open by the end of the year.

Preparation works to move utilities on Clapham Road are also happening this Autumn ahead of major works starting in the new year to help ease congestion in this area. This will see part-time signals introduced on the Paula Radcliffe Way / Great Ouse Way roundabout to help traffic flow better during peak times, the Manton Lane / Clapham Road roundabout will be reconstructed with full-time traffic signals and pedestrian and cyclist crossings, and Clapham Road will be widened to help create more space for traffic.

The works to complete the repairs to the bridge over the A6 between Lovell Road & Clapham have finally been completed, with the full strength of the bridge now restored.

Leisure Facilities

The Higgins

The Higgins Bedford reopened to the public on Tuesday 25 August. The Council is confident that it is safe to begin a cautious and phased reopening of leisure and culture services, with stringent infection prevention measures in place.

Visitors will once again be able to enjoy displays telling the story of the local area, alongside nationally significant collections of art and design.

New measures will be in place for the safety of visitors, volunteers and staff, and to help ensure an enjoyable experience for all. This has included reducing the capacity of the museum to ensure that people can socially distance. This means visitors will need to book a free timed entry ticket online before their visit by visiting www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk or by calling 01234 718044.

Libraries



Bedford Central and Kempston libraries have opened for a new 'Select and Collect' service, as well as for customers to return books they have had on loan during lockdown.

Select and Collect gives customers the opportunity to borrow library books again by making requests based on their favourite genres or subjects, online or via the phone. Library staff will then choose books based on these preferences and issue them to customers, who will be notified when they are ready to collect from library entrances during Select and Collect opening times. Please remember that you must wear a face covering when visiting a library, unless you have a legitimate reason not to.

When books are returned they will be quarantined for 72 hours, and safety measures have been developed for the selection, issuing and packing of books for collection. Customers will also be able to return the items they have at home to Bedford Central and Kempston libraries during Select and Collect hours. Due dates will continue to be extended for any items already on loan, and charges will remain paused for any items that are already overdue.

Leisure Centres

With lockdown measures easing over the summer, various shops and other facilities locally began to open and Fusion Lifestyle and the Council are looking at options for local leisure facilities. The Council have a 10-year contract with Fusion Lifestyle to manage eight leisure facilities on behalf of the authority, which is set to run until February 2024.

In partnership with Fusion Lifestyle, the Council are continuing to work hard to put in place arrangements that will allow the residents of our Borough safe access to the vital services that these facilities provide, whilst ensuring staff are protected also. Fusion Lifestyle have requested significant financial support from the Council to enable them to reopen facilities locally.

Bedford Borough Council is facing a huge financial challenge, with the costs of responding to the coronavirus pandemic creating a funding gap of over £20million in their budget. With responsibility for adult social care, caring for vulnerable children, and statutory duties to keep the roads safe, collect waste, and a range of other services the Council is already facing very difficult decisions in the coming months.

There are ongoing discussions between Fusion Lifestyle and the Borough Council, both around the long-term and an interim solution that will enable some leisure facilities to open soon.

Green Waste Collections

These have now returned to fortnightly collections. These collections were suspended and then reintroduced monthly to ensure that the bin crews could continue an uninterrupted collection of household waste and recycling, whilst ensuring they could socially distance.

Now, with crews stabilised the Council has reintroduced garden waste collections on a normal schedule of every two weeks, with the recycling collections.

You can check your bin collection dates at www.bedford.gov.uk/bins, and the schedule will be back to normal so if you have a printed calendar for your bin collections this year that will also be correct.

Councillor Jon Abbott

Telephone 07784 549180

Email jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com



STEVINGTON MAGAZINE 2020 CHRISTMAS CHARITY

The SMART Prebend Centre provides facilities, support and guidance; to relieve rough sleeping and to prevent further homelessness.

The day centre in Bedford is normally open every day of the year, supporting those who sleep rough, are vulnerably housed and often face issues around social isolation and exclusion. It is funded entirely on charitable donations and grants and the support of the local community; it is a place of safety, meeting the basic needs of service users; providing food, warmth, water, a place to get clean and rest. It costs approximately £250,000 per annum to keep the project open. We generate all funds for the centre through fundraising activities.

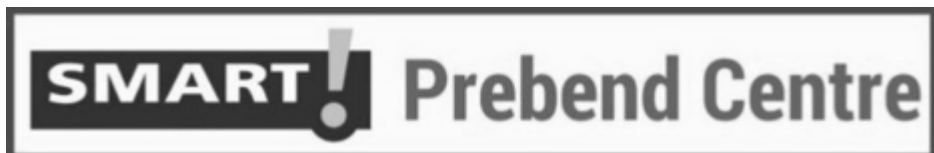
Following the latest government advice, the centre is currently closed. Working closely with Bedford Council, we have been able to secure hotel accommodation for our registered rough sleepers, so that our service users can self-isolate and keep safe. Our staff, volunteers and partners continue to provide as much support as possible to those who need help during this most challenging time.

Top 5 areas we offer support for:

- Rough sleeping
- Financial / budgeting
- Drug and alcohol problems
- Undiagnosed mental health issues
- Diagnosed mental health issues

Top 5 ways we support:

- Assisting service users to register and access doctors surgeries
- Harm reduction advice for drug and alcohol use
- Assisting service users to access temporary accommodation
- Helping service users to access mental health services
- Supporting service users to gain benefits and income



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 15 November. All donations go to charity - we support a different one each year. This year's donation will be made to the SMART Prebend Centre.

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 SMART Prebend Centre

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

Title: _____ Name: _____ Surname: _____.

Address: _____.

_____.

Postcode (Essential): _____.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ to SMART CJS 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: _____.

Registered Charity: 1069087

**Sponsored
Bike 'n Hike**



A VERY DIFFERENT BIKE 'N HIKE 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

After much deliberation, the Trustees of the Historic Churches decided to proceed with the annual Bike 'n Hike. COVID-19 has meant complete closure of churches, leading to loss of income for regular maintenance of the buildings. So we are going ahead with the Bike 'n Hike, but THIS YEAR IT WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT to keep everyone safe.

As ever the objective for participants is to visit as many churches and chapels as they can and to obtain sponsorship for their efforts. The event is open to everyone, whether churchgoers or not, bikers, hikers and other visitors, whether by car (yes, BY CAR), mobility scooter or horse! However, because of the pandemic:

- We are not asking churches to be open
- We are not asking for someone to be there to welcome visitors
- There cannot be any refreshments
- Toilets may not be open
- There will be no Register of Visitors
- You will sign your own sponsorship forms.



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

We are also asking participants:

- To follow Government guidance on COVID-19
- If a church is open, touch as little as possible
- Have a hand sanitiser with you.
- Bring your own refreshments.

Please take part this year, to enable the Trust to make grants for maintenance and repair of the beautiful churches that surround us. Ring me if you have any queries, or would like a Sponsorship Pack, which contains important information, a Sponsorship Form and a list of all the Churches and Chapels in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire (Tel 01234 823769, mobile 07484 800330, email roberthart234@btinternet.com).

Robert Hart, Stevington Representative

A footnote from Churchwarden Jane O'Connor

St Mary's are really grateful to Historic Churches and, of course, to Stevingtonians, for their fantastic generosity in supporting our community Church over the years. This year, we intend to participate again in the Bike 'n Hike and raise the much-needed funds to repair our Church tower, so please support us and cheer us on. Happy biking and hiking!



**Stevington Guitar
Concerts**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we postponed JP Cormier and Tim Eady's concerts from May this year until next year. Sadly Catfish Keith's concert due to be held in November this year has also been postponed for a year. We are not booking any gigs until it is felt safe for audiences to meet again to listen to live music.

I have got one or two ideas about ways we might be able to hold small concerts in Stevington to get live music back as soon as possible and have got some incredible musicians lined up to come, but for that to happen social distancing guidelines will need to be further relaxed.

To keep up to date like us on Facebook and register for our newsletters by visiting our website:

www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk

John Duffield

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The Friends of ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our 2019 Annual Review was recently delivered to Stevington households explaining how we raised £6,454 to assist with the upkeep and improvement of the facilities at the Church and Church Room. Regrettably our plans for 2020 were put on hold as we all tried to keep safe and adjust to the implications of COVID-19.

Our online open gardens was a great success, photographs of 34 Stevington gardens were submitted and can still be viewed online as a reminder of the heatwave and the huge amounts of gardening that took place at the beginning of the lockdown. To view the online open gardens visit www.fosmstevington.uk and follow the open gardens link.



Such was the success of the online open gardens we contemplated creating a calendar using photographs that had been submitted, but we came to the conclusion a calendar featuring only pictures of gardens in May would not work. Not to be put off we are inviting Stevington Gardeners to submit photos of their garden each month. Hopefully, this time next year we will be in a position to create a Stevington Garden Calendar featuring a relevant photo each month.

Photographs can be of anything in your garden that you feel would be an appropriate image that reflects the month it was taken. You don't have to send a photo each month. Please send your photographs to robert@eadies.org.uk.

A Friends of St. Mary's Church membership form was attached to our annual review. If you are not already a member of Friends of St. Mary's Church you might like to consider joining us. It is an ideal way to help us support the Church and address the lack of fundraising we have been able to carry out this year.

Donations can also be made by following the link to the open gardens page on our website or by contacting our treasurer Tony Pyner.

Team FOSM

Picture courtesy of Ann & Andy Frost

BEDFORD SAILING CLUB



We continue to be open!

In spite of the various precautionary lockdown restrictions in place the sailing club has seen an enormous increase in demand and use. We have also managed to make number of improvements to the facilities.

Members are able to book an allocated time slot to allow for social distancing and can use a selection of club equipment for swimming, canoeing and kayaking to explore the river Great Ouse or just enjoy a picnic or BBQ at our idyllic riverside spot.

We hope to return to normal free access as soon as the government restrictions are lifted.

Free coaching sessions for rowing, sculling and canoeing have started again, so please contact us to reserve a place for you and your family.

A family membership is an absolute bargain at only £45 for the year! Villagers wanting to join the membership of this fantastic local facility or to book a time slot can contact Dave at daveabrear@aol.com or Hugo at hugovankempen0@gmail.com.

Hugo van Kempen

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.



STEVINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Firstly, we would like to send our condolences to Michael Robinson's family for the loss of a respected and lovely man. Michael was a strong supporter of the shop for many years. He greeted all with a smile and sense of fun. You were often met with a story, music and even sloe gin. He will be greatly missed.

Since our introduction of safety measures regarding the virus, we have now been informed that customers will be allowed in the storeroom to choose their own goods. This will involve one person at a time or one household at a time. But if any shopper can't wear a mask for medical reasons, then they will have to ask the shop keeper to get their shopping.

A reminder that June will still be selling her eggs from her porch, cash only please, at 19 Church Road.

For the time being we are only opening in the mornings, and if anyone would like to volunteer to do two hours a month, please get in touch with one of the committee. We thank all those who are already volunteering. It is very much appreciated by all.

Sending best wishes to everyone and stay safe.

Jackie, Sarah, Doreen and June



STEVINGTON WI PLANT & PRODUCE STALL



PLANTS - CAKES – JAM – CHUTNEY

Everything that your village WI does best!



We will be at the Cross from
10am to Noon on Saturday 3 October.

Don't be late or we will be sold out!



STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number: 1086669
www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk

The publication of *The Stevington Enclosure Award 1807*, which we announced in the previous edition of this Magazine, was held up by the COVID lock-down. However, we have now received from the printer a small run of fifteen but await the maps which accompany the text and which are being printed separately. They should arrive shortly.

The Award changed the landscape of Stevington from the mediaeval open fields to the scene which, in essentials, we see today. The book explains what happened, how it happened and the consequences.

The ring-bound book contains the annotated text of the Award, the *Carlton Chellington and Steventon Enclosure Act of 1805* which led to the Awards and a number of analytical appendices. It runs to 134 pages and is on sale for £20.00 via the Trust's website or direct from me.

We still have a few copies of *St Mary the Virgin Stevington: History and Architecture*. This book was published last year and is one of the most detailed studies of a small parish church. It is published in hard back, illustrated in full colour with over one hundred stunning photographs by Roger Day and is on sale for £20.00.

Because of the COVID crisis the Friends of the Trust will not be mounting the usual winter lectures in 2020-21.

Peter Hart. 01234 823586



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
clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk**

STEVINGTON POST MILL - THE FIRST 250 YEARS



© Thomas Hart

Stevington Post Mill was constructed in 1770. We know this from a carved inscription on one of the crosstrees. The name *post mill* derives from the fact that the whole body of the mill that houses the machinery is mounted on a single vertical post, around which it can be turned to bring the sails into the wind. The round house was added some time later in the 19th Century.

The land on which the Mill stands is called *Mill Close* and is reached via *Windmill Lane*. The identity of the Mill builder is not known, though it is possible that A M Sims was the millwright as A M Sims is inscribed on the crosstree along with 1770, 1833, H and 1792. It may have been built to the order of William Bithrey of Carlton who owned the land or Israel Wheaton who occupied it. However, from 1797 it was occupied by Richard Poole to whom it was conveyed in 1804 by William Bithrey and later allocated to him in the Enclosure Award of 1807. Poole was a yeoman farmer (60 acres) and baker of Stevington and his family owned and operated the bakery in Silver Street until Rebecca Poole died in 1908. Other branches of the family were also millers, established in the nearby villages.

With the threat of invasion by Napoleon Poole was put on notice to supply the troops with 400 *quartern loaves* a week if required. A quartern loaf weighed four pounds and fifteen ounces, so his potential throughput was considerable.

Richard's son, William, inherited *Mill Close* but he soon ran into financial difficulties and the land passed through various hands until George Field bought it from Alfred Raban in 1917. By then the Mill was in urgent need of renovation. Percy Keech, a village carpenter and wheelwright by trade, who had served with the Royal Flying Corps in the Low Countries, where he had made something of a study of the many windmills, was retained by George Field to carry out the work. A F Cirket wrote: *By 1921 all was ready and work began on 22nd September. The mill at this time was in working order but very dilapidated* (Stevington Windmill 1966).

The most difficult part of the operation was to lift the main structure weighing 12 tons from the main post. Four straight trees were donated for the purpose by Lord Amphill of *Oakley House*. New mill stones were obtained from Milton Ernest Mill and installed by Messrs Course of Bedford. Percy Keech was assisted by five or six Stevington men including Charles Field and Alfred Hulett, carpenters, and Alfred Mackness, a builder, with his man, James Ruffhead. The work took twelve weeks to complete and one day Lord Amphill, who took a great interest in the project, spotted the first rotation of the sails and yelled to Percy: *Keech, Keech your Mill's working!*

Fred Harpin, who lived in the *Mill Cottage*, recorded that *Farmers brought their Barley, beans and oats to be ground down for cattle feeds;*



it was not used a great deal for fine grinding. Often if a breeze sprang up in the evening the mill would work all night. The rocking of the Mill when in motion could have the same effect as a rough voyage at sea. Fred was quite a character and, it is said, possibly apocryphally, that one day he fell out with his brother, tied him to a sail and inverted it; it was reported that his shouts of could be heard in Thurleigh.

Photo courtesy of Heather Eadie

A visitor to Stevington in 1929, R Thurston, collecting material for his Book *In Search of English Windmills* (1931 with Stanley Hopkins), could not believe his eyes as he approached the Mill: *The cloth was furled neatly on all four sweeps as they arose over a little hump across the green fields. The mill was in perfect condition and freshly painted.*

George Field kept the Mill in working order until 1939, though by then it had not been used for three years. He claimed that he was too old to work it himself and that local farmers took their stock feed to be ground at large modern mills nearby.

In 1951 the then Bedfordshire County Council purchased *Mill Close* and renovated the Mill as part of its contribution to the Festival of Britain. The work was carried out by Messrs Clayson & Son of Harrold. It was listed Grade II* by the then Department of the Environment in 1952 which noted: *This is the only complete windmill left in Bedfordshire and probably the last windmill in England to work with four common sails.* New cloth sails were made by Messrs E Hole of Burgess Hill Sussex and first used in 1958. At that point the Mill was still considered to be in full working order.

For a number of years, the Mill was open to visitors who could obtain a key from one or other of the two public houses in the Village. However, by 1998 the sails were in poor condition and were removed. New sails were installed in 2004 and on one fine day the canvas was fitted so that once more the sails turned as they had for 150 years. However, the sails did not last and with appropriate timing new sails were installed this year.

The Mill is now owned by Bedford Borough Council and with care and attention this iconic Stevington landmark could last for another 250 years.

Peter Hart

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
September	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
October	6, 20	13, 27	13, 27
November	3, 17	10, 24	10, 24
December	1, 15, ??	8, 22	None

CASUAL VACANCY

Whilst Councillors are elected to serve for a four-year term, when a vacancy arises in the intervening period the Parish Council must give notice of the vacancy. The Parish Council does not intend to hold an election but can move to co-opt somebody onto the Council to serve until the next election in 2023. This is the common practice for parish councils, principally because it saves the cost of an election.

When a casual vacancy arises, ten electors could force an election

However the rules have been changed for a temporary period because of COVID-19. New Regulations were put in place in April 2020. They are The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Essentially the Regulations mean that no elections can be held until May 2021, so any vacancies on the Parish Council will have to be filled by co-option.

How does the co-option process work?

The Parish Council intends to publicise the casual vacancy. We will advertise the vacancy on the website, social media, noticeboards, Church Room, Village Hall, West End and the Cross.

Once people have indicated that they wish to apply, all applicants should then be invited individually to an interview with the Parish Council. When all the candidates have been seen, the full Council should then decide whom they wish to appoint. All applicants will be informed as soon as possible after the decision has been taken.

Think you might want to be a Parish Councillor?

Serving your local community is an honour. It can be hard work but it can also be hugely rewarding, though not in pecuniary terms. Every councillor has to comply with the 7 Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Whilst it is not a full-time job, and the Parish Clerk handles the day-to-day running of the Council, there is a time commitment. Preparation is required for every Council meeting, which means reading papers and preparing reports on your area of responsibilities: such as planning, highways, footpaths, windmill, playing field etc. You will report at each Parish Council meeting on progress on issues within your portfolio.

If you are interested in finding out more about what is involved, Parish Councillors will be happy to talk with you about what they do. Simply reach out to them, explain your interest and they will take the time to explain what is involved.

Eligibility

A candidate for a Parish Council is qualified if, when nominated:

- he or she is a British citizen, Commonwealth citizen, citizen of the Irish Republic, or a citizen of another European Union State (obviously these rules may change post-Brexit).
- has attained 18 years of age, and
- is either:
 - On the register of electors for that Parish **or**
 - during the whole of the preceding twelve months, has either occupied land as owner or tenant in the Parish, or had a principal place of work there, or resided in or within 4.8 kilometres of the Parish's boundary.

Contact the Clerk if you are interested:

clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk

Tricia Lennie
Stevington Parish Clerk



CHURCH GROUNDS APPEAL FOR TOOLS AND VOLUNTEERS

Tools:

Thank you to all who donated their old tools for re-use in keeping the church grounds tidy. We are still short of a few items: wheelbarrow, pruners, shears and secateurs, so please check your garden

shed for any useful spare tools.

Volunteers:

We are also trying to get together a group of volunteers to have an informal monthly get-together and tidy up the church grounds (and the church rooms grounds). If you have a little time and energy to spare in tranquil surroundings, please contact Hugo on 01234 824894 or hugovankempen0@gmail.com.

STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

After going through an unprecedented spring and summer, living and dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic and now trying to get back to some form of normality, we are all looking forward to the start of the new season which is currently scheduled to start on Saturday 26 September.



Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty that the COVID-19 crisis has placed many of us under the Club has had to make the difficult and unfortunate decision to only enter one team in the Bedfordshire and County Football League this year. A number of our Reserve Team players were unable to commit themselves to playing each week and in accordance with League and Football Association rules the Club has therefore had to withdraw the Reserve Team from Division 3. We would like to thank all the players that played last season and for those that aren't able to re-sign for us this year, for whatever reason, we wish you all the best for the future.

As things stand the First Team will start what will be a very different Premier League season again on Saturday 26 September. Due to losing at least a month of the season already there will be no Cup competitions and currently communal changing and showering after the game will not be allowed.

This will present the League with a bit of a quandary and present us with the opportunity to play our home fixtures at the Playing Field as it is only the changing room facilities at the Village Hall that fall below the required standard, requiring us to play home fixtures at Pavenham. Watch this space as we are sure the League or Football Association will find some other reason!

With the vast majority of First Team players signing on again, together with some of last season's Reserve Team players and a couple of new ones, we are confident that we should be well placed for another competitive and rewarding season.

As you will all recall the First Team were top of the Premier Division and unbeaten when the league was cancelled just prior to COVID-19 lockdown. Most other leagues recognised the league position at the time of cancellation or calculated average points per game when the league ceased and many conspiracy theorists amongst us are of the opinion that if a more 'favourable team' was leading the league they would have been crowned winners (despite us being the longest standing team in

the league). However, there are more things in the world to worry about at the moment.

Following good attendance at extended pre-season training and a couple of challenging friendlies against teams in higher leagues, things are looking good and we hope that we are able to continue our unbeaten run when the new season kicks off.

Details of our fixtures can be found online on the Bedfordshire County Football League website at www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk and details of fixtures can be found at www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk/currentseason.php

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of the Club and look forward to seeing you at this seasons matches, home or away, joining us for after match reviews at the Royal George and at our future Charity Fund Raising Events.

Shane King



WaveLength

Stevington

Our monthly meetings were put on hold at the beginning of the lockdown period in the interests of everyone's safety. Since that time, we have tried to offer one to one advice to help people stay connected.

During September we hope to be able to restart Wavelength meetings at the Church Room. Our meetings will be limited in size to remain in line with social distancing requirements. To this end we will keep each meeting focussed and invite people who want to explore similar issues.

We will announce a date for the first meeting shortly on our WhatsApp group, but in the meantime please let us know if you are having any difficulties accessing online services or communication apps that you need help with.

To let us know about issues you would like to address you can contact John Duffield, Bob Collins, Robert Eadie or Roger Day personally or email duffieldjc@aol.com.

John Duffield

STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Help your village hall and WIN £100! For only £5 per month you are helping to raise valuable funds to keep your fantastic village hall in good order whilst helping yourself to the chance of winning £100!

Unable to operate and raise revenue due to the current lockdown the village hall is in desperate need of funds. A dedicated team of volunteers help keep the building in good order throughout the year and with your help we can secure the future of the building until we re-open with our usual programme of films, theatre, ballet, opera, carpet bowls, table tennis, yoga, Pilates and private functions.

EVERY MONTH 4 lucky winners get £100, £50, £25 or £15 cash.

The 100 Club has several numbers available, so go on, try your luck and help save your village hall!

Contact Hugo at hugovan Kempen0@gmail.com or on 01234 824894.

These are the most recent lucky winners:

Jun	1st	№ 10	Vivienne Aspley
	2nd	№ 14	Bob Westwood
	3rd	№ 15	Ann Frost
	4th	№ 59	Mike Grafton
July	1st	№ 86	Steve Cowley
	2nd	№ 46	Susan Nowell
	3rd	№ 55	Frances Hirst
	4th	№ 35	Marina Markham
Aug	1st	№ 13	Barbara Collins
	2nd	№ 8	Barbara Pheasant
	3rd	№ 87	Geoff Billett
	4th	№ 52	Janet Day



Hugo van Kempen



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



In view of the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus we have been unable to meet at our usual venue at the Church Room. We have tried to keep in touch with our members and in July a Treasure Hunt around the village was organised by Jackie and Barbara. This proved to be a success with everyone who took part. A few members commented that they had discovered certain aspects of the village that they had not been aware of despite living here some considerable years! Afterwards light refreshments were served in Jackie's garden with social distancing being observed.

Another event was organised in August. It was planned to hold a picnic in my garden on Thursday 13 August, but the weather put paid to this with a thunderstorm and torrential rain. We therefore postponed the event until the following week when the weather was completely different. Each member brought their own picnic and we were able to enjoy a couple of hours of glorious summer sunshine together.

The sponsored County WI walk to be held on Sunday 20 September has now been cancelled. We have agreed to hold our own walk on the same day meeting at Harrold Country park at 10am. If any of our members would care to join us, we will be very pleased to see you all.

It is planned, COVID restrictions allowing, to hold a Plant and Produce stall at the Cross on Saturday 3 October commencing at 10am until around noon. All produce items must be double wrapped please.

For your information:
We were informed by our National Board in July that Denman, our educational college, is to permanently close.

Denman



Over the last few months Denman has been running 'Denman at Home'. WI members and non-members are welcome to a new series of informative and entertaining shared virtual experiences in the comfort of your own home. The courses are varied ranging from cookery, craft demonstrations, history lessons and activities for all the family. Cost £5 per session. You can sign up for these courses via the Denman website at www.denman.org.uk.

We are having to plan any activities virtually on a monthly basis. Please keep an eye on our noticeboard in the Church Room for our future events.

Please stay safe.

Marilyn Billett



STEVINGTON WRITERS GROUP

Stevington Writers' Group wishes Stevington Windmill a Happy 250th Birthday. This acrostic poem is an example of work produced for our monthly Zoom meetings which haven't just survived but thrived under lockdown. We are lucky that Bob Collins set up a website with a private members' area for us a couple of years ago. This has now really come into its own. We agree a loose title for the coming month, such as 'Lockdown' or 'Opening Up' or 'It's Not about Me' and then we can post our drafts onto the website where other members can read them and leave comments at any time. We are encouraging and supportive of whatever people want to write. We know that good writing will go through several drafts and we've produced poems, short stories, memoirs, travel writing and song lyrics. Ultimately, if members write it, we are interested - although we can only discuss extracts of longer writing in our hour and a half monthly meeting.

As we haven't been able to do our usual social activities this year, such as literary dinners and writing in various locations (we were very nostalgic about last year's 'Writing by the River' when Hugo took us for boat rides from the sailing club in midsummer *sighs*) we are planning to put together a slim pamphlet which includes writing from all members. Maybe by Christmas? Watch this space!

If you want to join the group email either:
bob.rj.collins@talk21.com or tricia.lennie21@gmail.com.

When do you know you're home?

In the glimpse of sails, protective and proud against cloudscape.

Now, we no longer think a village should grind its own grain

Discarding dedicated hands, strong and calloused, that worked the pulleys,

Moved sails into the wind, judging speed and direction.

Instead, wheat ripens from green to gold and is

Lost, in a hum of dust vapour, earlier each year

Leaving only images of bales, your outline and the sky.



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. The vicars are joined by the Revd. Lynne Sandle. If you need them or require a pastoral visit at home, please don't hesitate to contact. For general enquiries contact the team office in Carlton. Tel: 01234 720262 or email: teamoffice@gmail.com.

It has been so long since we were together but it looks like things are beginning to change - even though it may be small steps. The important thing is to keep safe and well. At last St Mary's was able to open its doors for personal prayer in July and will continue to do so from 10am-6pm each day.

Good News! Morning Eucharist was held in St Mary's churchyard on Wednesday 19 August. The rain held off (must have been divine intervention) for an uplifting service in our beautiful churchyard - it was lovely to see so many friends, all socially distanced, come together from the village and across the Chellington Team.

All are welcome to join us for Morning Eucharist which resumes from Sunday 6 September at 9.30am. The normal pattern of weekly services has been slightly altered but information can be found on the website. Zoom services continue on Sundays at 11am (see Chellington Team Newsletter or ask us for more information) It is good to welcome Reverend Lynne back from furlough.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Michael Robinson and his family. Michael's funeral was on Thursday 13 August. There was a private service at the graveside but the roads of Stevington were lined with people who wished to show their respects.

Future events are still uncertain but we hope to organise a Harvest celebration to take place over the coming weeks. The plan is to have an open air service and bring your own picnic and it would be wonderful to see the Stevington community come together to celebrate the bountiful harvest of this year as well as give thanks for all the positive ways people have helped each other over the last months. Look out for posters in the next few weeks!

St Mary's PCC will be holding its annual meeting in October. Information will be posted shortly. Our merry band is very hard-working and deserves huge thanks for their dedication and commitment. We would welcome anyone who would like to join our team - just get in touch.

Many thanks to all who continue to support St Mary's; it is much appreciated.

*May the peace of the Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.*

Northumbrian Community Blessing

From the Register:

Funerals: Michael Robinson 13 August
Jane O'Connor and Robert Eadie, Churchwardens



STEVEINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Stevington Baptist Church held a meeting in July to discuss the practicalities of reopening our church. However, like many other churches at the moment, it was decided that it was not safe to do so at present. We are committed to protecting the lives of

everyone who visits the church and want them to remain safe and well. Many of the measures we would need to put into place would be too difficult to implement. The main challenges we face are the age of the congregation and the age of the church building. Although we continue to remain closed we will constantly monitor the situation and plan to hold another meeting in October. Meanwhile, a small group of us continue to meet midweek for prayer and bible study so if you would like to join us or would like us to pray for you or a particular situation please email, in confidence, office@stevingtonbaptistchurch.org.

We also encourage you to connect with the many churches who are broadcasting their Sunday services online.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John c14 v27

Barbara Courtney

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WEDDING AT THE WINDMILL

22 AUGUST 2009. IT WAS THE PERFECT DAY.

We stood in the layby on Park Road, the sun beaming over us as we looked over the fields towards Stevington Windmill where we were soon to be married. The wind was mild enough that Adrian Fett, who had been instrumental in the rebuild of the post-mill and was in charge of its continued upkeep at that time, had been able to turn the windmill for us so that the sails faced front for our wedding day.



We waved as the last of our guests passed and then made the short journey down the lane to join our guests and led them in procession along the track that winds up to Stevington Windmill. It was wonderful heading up that track, the windmill ahead of us, majestic against the clear blue sky, our guests' excited chatter behind us as music carried gently on the wind.

We held the ceremony under the sails looking out over the rolling hills, and then spent a happy few hours in the summer warmth under the shadow of the windmill, enjoying cakes and summer drinks, while our guests explored the wonderful post mill. When the time came to leave, we did so in a shower of petals, our guests following as children ran back and forth making the most of their petal confetti.

It was a wonderful day in a magnificent setting, a setting which was already of great importance to us for our first date had been at the windmill. It was New Year then. We had picked up the key for the mill



from the local pub. I remember how excited I was as we were handed the large, steel key. The three of us (Clover's son, Todd, was with us) headed through the pretty village, our excitement growing as we closed in on our destination. It didn't disappoint. Our first glimpse of the windmill was as we turned into the lane that leads up to it, and there it stood; proud against the cold steel sky; a light frost dusting its sails and the tails of its red tiled frock. Todd and I ran on ahead, the frozen ground crunching under our feet. We had the key to the windmill!



We three explored every inch of the windmill that day, marvelling at the mill stone, the huge gears, levers, hatches and chains. It was the start of three wonderful relationships, that with my future wife and stepson and with the windmill itself.

We had many visits back to the windmill after that, sometimes for picnics, sometimes for walks and photos. Sometimes it was somewhere just to sit and while away a few hours. So it was that when we came to marry, Stevington Windmill was our first choice for it to happen. We contacted Adrian who, to our delight, was happy for us to marry there. He also invited us to use Bromham Watermill and its grounds for our reception.



Arrival of Bride & Groom
 Procession to Windmill
 Ceremony of Marriage
 Cutting of the Cake
 Afternoon Refreshments
 Opportunity for Photographs
 Bride & Groom leave for Reception
 Guests Relocate to Bromham Mill
 Bride & Groom Receive Guests
 Speeches
 Buffet Reception
 Firework Display
 Bride & Groom Depart



Would like to invite you to the celebration of their marriage on the 22nd of August 2009.

The ceremony will commence at 3:30pm at Stevington Windmill, followed by an informal reception at Bromham Watermill.

The evening will conclude with a firework display at around 9:00pm.



What a wonderful day We started our day leading a procession up to the windmill and ended our day with fireworks at the watermill.

We have moved away from the area now, but still make a point to come back to visit Stevington Windmill whenever we can.

Pictures courtesy of Clover & Douglas Heather

Clover & Douglas Heather



STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

THE HALL WILL REOPEN FROM TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER.

THE CAR PARK WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 8.00AM - 8.00PM/DUSK

When the Hall and associated facilities closed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we know many villagers missed the social activities held there. We are hoping to resume as many of these as possible within the government guidelines.

The Hall is COVID-19 secure, with a COVID-19 risk assessment written, hand washing and hand sanitising facilities in place, and procedures to maintain social distancing and other mitigation measures established.

During the closure period, we have taken the opportunity to redecorate and upgrade areas of the Hall and hope you will appreciate these when you visit it.

If you have any queries, please email:
info@stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk.

Stevington Social Centre Committee

STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Decent news at last about our club, we hope to restart our meetings on Monday 5 October.

My operation is scheduled for 1 September and I expect to contact you all personally once I get home.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Take care



Barbara Collins

FARMING NEWS

Hello,

By the time you read this, we will be in full swing, harvesting the combinable crops and preparing the ground for autumn drilling (sowing). Therefore, I have taken the liberty to prepare early (in July) and write about non-topical stuff, so that if I'm short on time I will have at least written something.

After the inaugural "Farming News" article last time I was inundated with requests to write about nature, the environment and the decline of honeybees. Sorry, this is not what this column was meant for - our intention was to publish an open account of current field and business operations so that residents could see what was going on and then potentially read about *why* they were going on, without having to guess.

However, as I said earlier, it's early July and a bit of a slack time, so let's talk about pollinators and the **real** story of what is going on and not what you see on BBC's Countryfile...

First off, don't waste your time and money trying to create a food source for pollinators in the summer by buying these "BeeBombs" or "Bees 'n' Bugs" wild flower mixtures that purport to create a habitat by "simply scattering" the contents on any rough ground you have under your responsibility. Read this next bit carefully.... "**it doesn't work like that**". In reality it takes a degree of management and no little time (usually a generation) to create a sustainable summer habitat and food source for pollinators. And even then you may just end up with some very pretty flowers in the summer. "What's wrong with that?", you ask. Well, it doesn't really address the issue of declining honeybees and other important pollinators (by-the-way, honeybees only make up about 10% of all pollinators and are by no means *generally* the most important). The big issue is the lack of food early on in the year coming out of winter – there's usually no grub about for the chaps to feed on so they die early of starvation. Planting your BeeBombs in January isn't going to help as they will not grow and don't open up until much later. With this in mind there is a quick and simple thing farmers, and the general public, can do - plant early pollinating plants, namely Goat and Grey Willows, Blackthorn and even Hawthorn, crabapple, Wild Cherry and Maples (all trees I'm afraid and unfortunately not very sexy). These trees produce lots of pollen in March so that when the female bees come out of hibernation, they are able to get adequate supplies of pollen (which is high in protein)

which is used to build them up and increase egg fertility. The good news is that it's easy to do and in November I'll show you how you can help this winter. You may not have noticed but farmers have been doing stuff like this since 1992 and even before then. Ken Prentice certainly was.

Anyway, back to what's going on right now...

Most of the cereals and other combinable crops have been cut in the past two weeks and yields were generally disappointing because of the incredibly wet autumn sowing period and the 60+ day drought in April and May. Prices remain reasonable because, by and large, we will be net importers of grains for the next 12 months (we usually have an exportable surplus).

Civil unrest in Belarus (Europe's largest producer of liquid UAN fertiliser) has caused speculators to influence traders to increase the prices of ammonium nitrate, urea and UAN liquid fertiliser by £40/tonne. This is a shame but fortunately most of us have had ours pinned a few weeks ago.

The forage maize at Duck End Farm will be harvested before the end of September and will be fed into the anaerobic digestion plant in Cold Brayfield for energy production.

No winter oilseed rape is planned to be grown in the parish because the crop's main enemy, cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) is now pretty much uncontrollable. The banning of neo nicotinoid seed dressings, whilst a triumph for the BBC's Countryfile is bad news for farmers, sustainable world food production and McDonalds burger fans – big end users of rapeseed oil, not just McDs, will now have to fall back on the next best thing - cheap imported palm and soya oil from countries without regulated agricultural production practices. Rapeseed prices are currently pretty good but that's because there isn't much about.

Currently the fieldwork you will be seeing is autumn seedbed preparation in readiness for drilling (sowing) the autumn cereal crops like wheat, barley, oats, beans and rye. There are a few farmers in the county trying winter linseed for the first time but not, as far as I'm aware, in Stevington. Once the seedbeds are drilled and rolled they will have a pre-emergence application of herbicide to kill blackgrass, the most pernicious weed we have these days in cereals. Once the crops are up with a couple of true leaves, they will receive a follow-up blackgrass herbicide and a dose of aphicide to control the vectors that spread Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV). We used to be able to use a seed dressing

to control BYDV but this was banned so now we have to use a spray. Crazy.

From next month onwards the rams will be let into the fields to join the ewes and ewe-lambs for some long-awaited action. Please do not allow your dogs to let them take their eyes off the ball, so to speak. Please keep them on a short lead, even if the fields look empty when you enter them.

And finally - at long last, but only until further notice, the government have scrapped the ridiculous 3-crop rule that forced small farmers to grow at least three different crops in one year. This proved to be totally unworkable and did not at all fulfil its objective in increasing biodiversity. Instead it forced farmers to create seedbeds in unsuitable soil conditions and put back the many years work we had done to improve soil health.

All the very best, hope it stops raining/rains* soon...

Tim, Damian, Will, Jeremy, Peter, Joe, David and Ben

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Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy, in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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THAT WAS THE WINDMILL NEWS THAT WAS

Northampton Mercury - 07/10/1809

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The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 24/02/1939

A Fall From Grace - Stevington Mill, which one of my colleagues visited on a recent country walk, has fallen from grace; a fall that it does not deserve. To look at it from a distance you would think that no sturdier example of a working mill could be found in England. It is true that Stevington Mill could - and did until about three years ago - hold that place of pride. Now it stands in perfect working condition, but its sails turn no more. One is prone to jump to the same conclusion that is true about hundreds of rotting windmills in this country - that it does not pay to make flour in them nowadays, with so much machinery ready to do the work cheaply and quickly. But this is not entirely true about the Stevington Mill. Mr. George Field, the village storekeeper at Stevington, who used to farm as well as keep his shop, owns the mill and had it renovated in 1922 at a cost of five to six hundred pounds. It may yet work again he thinks.

He assured my friend that it was in perfect working order. All that was needed was some new sails; given them, the mill could be set going within a few hours. My friend was curious to know why it was no longer in use. "Before I had to give up", said Mr. Field, "I used to grind all my own flour, barley, beans or grist of any sort. It would grind anything. There are two reasons why I do not use it now. One is that I don't feel up to it, and the other is that there is not much work going round to the little mills."

It seems that Mr. Field used the mill largely for his own purposes, and indeed it was he who worked it "I used to manage if I had one man to help me", he declared.

"Like a Ship"

A farmer whom my friend met in a field near the mill, and who seemed to have known the mill in its working days, regaled him with a description of what it felt like to be working in the body of the mill as it swung in the wind; it would rock like a ship and shudder. It was a story

tinged with regret, a story of joys that were no more. (Some cynic will say that work is no joy, even in a windmill. But how much more joyful that must be than standing beside grinding soulless machinery). This farmer, when my friend suggested that the mill might make a neat country residence in the summer, told him that by lifting a stone away from the lower door of the mill, he could get inside and see what it looked like. These instructions were followed and my colleague was much attracted by the cosy round house on which the top part of the mill (the body) revolves. It is a little fortress.

"The Cloth was Furled"

Mr. R. Thurston Hopkins, when gathering material for his book, "In search of English windmills", in 1929, apparently found Stevington Mill in its heyday. In his narrative he describes it as the piece de resistance of the whole tour. "I could scarcely believe my eyes," he wrote. "The cloth was furled neatly on all four sweeps as they arose over a little hump across the green fields; the mill was in perfect condition and freshly painted. The roof, of red corrugated iron, so carefully arranged, is by no means a disfigurement. The body is black and the sail-frames are of unpainted wood, whilst the round-house is white with a red roof, and to complete this wonderful picture the tail-pole is red and the steps unpainted."

Far from the Madding Crowd?

"For a suitable setting," his eulogy continued, "the broad green undulating field, dotted with tall old trees, could scarcely be improved upon, and the adjacent village is appropriately a sequestered hamlet of little old cottages, unspoilt by the ravages of so called progress, and, in a phrase, 'far from the madding crowd'."

"Progress" Catches Up

A bit defiant, surely, was Mr. Thurston Hopkins about Stevington's being far from so-called progress. But you see, progress has caught up. That lovely tail-pole no longer swings round. It's only use is to provide a seat or leaning post for the lads of the village who go to watch the Stevington football team play in the shadow of the mill.

But I suppose it is true to say that the village is still unspoilt. Bedford, five miles away, has not sprawled quite that far, but



Photo courtesy of Sally Macdonald

since 1929 it has gone a long way towards it. The awful, I might say shameful, mushroom growth along the roads from Bedford is creeping insidiously into the countryside, and Stevington is indeed not very far away now from the madding crowd of "bungaloid growths."

Bedfordshire Times & Standard - 15/06/1951

Stevington Mill - Sir, Some time ago I believe you published a piece of news from the village of Stevington about proposed Festival of Britain plans. One item was the suggestion to renovate the charming post-mill there.

Last week I suggested to some friends that we visit the mill, but we were dismayed to find it far more weather-beaten than two years ago and with the windows smashed, flour-chutes torn down roundhouse tiles broken and altogether pitifully derelict.

DUDLEY ORMAN, Salisbury Street, Bedford.

The Biggleswade Chronicle & Bedfordshire Gazette - 07/12/1951

The estimate of the cost of tree-planting on roadsides had been exceeded and the cost of restoring Stevington windmill, at £150 had been £705.

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Mark Jackson

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GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

The past few months have been dry with the occasional heavy downpour so those of us who care for our gardens have been watering. If you don't have a waterbutt already installed now is the time to consider getting one to make use of those occasional gifts from the skies. Watering soil (not leaves) in the evening ensure the water goes down to the roots. Watering in the morning rejuvenates the plant but much of the excess just evaporates into the air. If you have a greenhouse with plants growing in it, water the floor of the greenhouse regularly to maintain humidity which cools the plants. Autumn is a good time to put in new plants and especially to divide and transplant those which have become a bit scraggy. Remember to water any new plants daily in hot weather and for at least 3 weeks until they have become established.

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

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

SEPTEMBER

- Deadhead your flowering perennials to prolong their display. It is worth deadheading buddleja back to the tiny new flower buds in the axils of the next pair of leaves. Butterflies can live until the first frosts in early November so they need your help in providing fresh blooms of their favourite plants for as long as possible.
- Asters are just coming into flower, some of them grow very tall and will need staking or tying back to an existing support to keep them tidy. You may be lucky and see a late butterfly feeding on the nectar of sedums.

- Keep deadheading roses if you want to enjoy those late blooms we sometimes see in October. Now is the month to train and tie in those long flexible stems of climbing and rambling roses. Shrub and bush roses can have their taller stems shortened to avoid damage or for 'wind-rock' if the site is exposed.
- When late flowering clematis has finished blooming prune the plant back to its allotted space.
- Cut back other climbing plants to keep them away from downpipes, gutters and from growing under roof tiles or into thatch.
- If you have forgotten to trim your evergreens, do it in early September but not severely as spring or early summer is the best time to shape them.
- Keep container soil moist and free from those autumn leaves which collect and prevent rain from getting at the roots of your plants.
- By September, herbaceous perennials can show signs of dying back. To tidy up cut off the dead leaves, stems and compost them. If the compost bin is dry give it a bucket of water to reactivate the biological processes.
- Now is the time to buy new bulbs such as scilla, chinodoxa, muscari, narcissus and crocuses all look wonderful when growing in short grass. Try planting spring bulbs in broad drifts under trees. Alliums come in a wide variety of sizes and colours combining well with summer flowering herbaceous perennials or between lavender or buxus plants.
- On the vegetable plot clear all spent foliage and compost it. Fork over the ground and plant pak choi, lamb's lettuce and perennial spinach. Leave the rhubarb plants to take the goodness from the stalks back into their roots ready for next year. Pick the last of the cultivated blackberries. Pick runner beans every day and if you want seeds for next year leave a few on the plant to mature drying them off a bit in the greenhouse before extracting the seeds.
- Harvest from your tree fruit, wash and dry the fruits before keeping in the fridge for a few weeks or boil and freeze in small blocks for longer storage. The wonderful crop of wild plums this year will be made into pickle, a fruity brown sauce and a chutney. Try wrapping apples in newspaper and storing in a cool, dark and airy place. They will need checking once a week for going soft or growing

mould. I usually put old stored apples out for the birds to peck at in the lean months of January and February.

OCTOBER

- Most jobs remaining on the September 'to do' list can be done early in October.
- Cut back buddlejas to shoulder height to reduce the damaging effects of 'wind-rock'.
- If you would like a cheerful evergreen container by the door, plant it up before winter and choose some violas to smile at you each time you pass by. Remember to water the container regularly.
- If we experience an early leaf drop, do collect up those leaves which fall on your lawn. If left they inhibit light and moisture to the lawn grass and can encourage lawn moulds. Put the collected leaves in a black plastic sack, prod once with a fork, close the top and put out of the way. In a year or so the leaves will have rotted down into leaf-mould which can be used in potting or in improving the texture of heavy soil.
- Collect up and compost fallen, rotting fruit from your trees. If left it can introduce disease into your fruit tree e.g. brown rot in the apples which remain on your trees.
- Keep mowing the grass, now on a higher cut and collect the leaves at the same time. Together they will rot faster in a black plastic bag or a covered compost bin.
- There will be berries on your garden shrubs and in the field hedgerows for birds and small mammals to eat.
- If you would like to plant something to benefit wildlife, look around your friend's gardens and in the garden centres to see which berrying shrubs you like that would suit your garden. Make a note to go and buy and to put in those plants next spring.
- Insects and small creatures will be looking for safe places to hibernate. Many head for trees and areas thick with shrubs. Moths can also hibernate in long grass if it can be left undisturbed. I recently learned that spiders can predate on butterfly chrysalis, maybe it's time to clear the cobwebs out of the shed.
- On the vegetable plot tidy up any remaining debris, fork over the ground and top-dress with well rotted farmyard manure or garden compost. The rain and frost will continue to improve its decomposition and the worms will take down all the small pieces into the soil.

NOVEMBER

- Now is the time to plant tulip bulbs in the ground Plant them really deeply and follow the planting instructions which come with them. I have more success with lilies in pots than with tulips, so this time I am going to find some short stemmed varieties and plant up a couple of containers which will be on trial for their performance next summer.
- Lift begonias early in the month and before the first frost and dahlias after it. Clean off all soil and dead pieces, put them in a cardboard box in compost and keep in a dark airy place over winter.
- Some of us like to cut down the dead herbaceous plant material at the start of winter, others prefer to leave it until late spring knowing that this will provide cover and protection for wildlife throughout the cold winter months. One year the local song thrush found a vast number of snails to eat from our garden in February, we found dozens of broken shells around flat stones I had left there for the purpose. I hope it will do the same this winter as we had far too many snails these past summers.
- Keep fleece to hand ready to wrap around camellias, rhododendrons, bay or any other tender plant you have left outside which needs protection from frost, cold winds or low temperatures. I find fixing the fleece with clothes pegs quick and easy especially if the job has to be carried out in the dark!

Please let me know if there is a subject you would like me to write about, by email to info@susanyoungdesign.co.uk or contact the editors.

Susan Young

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When we restart, the times for stops at Stevington is as follows:
The Cross - 1.35 to 1.55pm

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Stay safe, and we look forward to you borrowing from us soon!

The Kempston Mobile Library team.

HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK NEWS



Well - what can I say? We continue to journey through strange times. There have been so many wonderful acts of kindness and amazing fund-raising efforts around the country like Captain Tom's. We were hoping that this would lead people to consider how they treated the others around them and mainly, I think that has been the case.

However, those of us working in countryside management (and I include farmers in this) have had to deal with some truly awful behaviour. The relaxation of lockdown seemed to cause some people to lose their minds! While the pubs were shut, people were emptying the supermarkets of booze, coming out into the countryside with picnics and drinking themselves into a stupor. That was bad enough but then, when their picnic was finished, getting up and leaving all their rubbish where they sat. When has that EVER been acceptable??

For the last 6 weeks, all we've seemed to have done is retrieve rubbish. Until recently, Harrold was never a site that had this problem. It is obvious that we've been discovered by people who have never visited before. The skate park in particular has been a target for antisocial behaviour with youngsters breaking down the closure barriers to get in then leaving litter. The same happened in the bird hides and around the outdoor classroom. All we want is the park to be treated with a bit of respect but recently it seems the last thing on some people's minds - just use and abuse.

As I write this towards the end of August, the Dragonfly Café has reopened and after nearly 3 months, the public toilets and play areas are available. The toilets are for now being cleaned 3 times a day with anti-viral chemicals. This means that they have to close for about 30mins to allow these to dry. The cleaner has been subjected to abuse when this is happening. No thanks for actually having the toilets open at last and that they are being kept as safe as possible for people!! It is safe to say we will not tolerate this if we see it happening.

The café is operating a takeaway service ONLY. No sit in meals to maintain social distancing. They are opening from 10am - 4pm daily. It is a one-way system - in via the door overlooking the lake and out via the door facing the trees. Masks must be worn whilst in the building.

The Health Walk programme may be able to restart in September once we have thrashed out how we can safely operate. The dates are now posted on the website www.hocp.co.uk. One bit of good news - our volunteers returned on 6 July after a rigorous health and safety induction.



We are now catching up on some serious work as nature has done what it is brilliant at and that is growing. They have been helping us to cut back the hedges, open up the pathways, paint benches, repair some fishing platforms and splitting more logs to top up the firewood supplies.

Hedge Laying (Jan 2020)

The fishing restarted on 16 June. It is a sport that is able to naturally socially distance the participants. The Environment Agency came and stocked 10,000 more baby barbel in the river recently. The river Great Ouse at Harrold was once famous for its big barbel in the 1970's and 80's.

Dog owners should be aware that the annual bloom of blue-green algae is well under way. It is toxic to dogs if ingested in high quantities so your pets must be kept out of the lakes. Warning notices have been posted around the park and on the website to that end. Please heed them! We need you to give our cattle a wide berth as well. There is a shortage of grass this year due to the exceptionally dry weather we've been having.

The gales at the beginning of July brought down a large willow tree which has fallen into Kingfisher Lake just along from the main car park. It was large enough to need heavy-duty haulage to winch it out so we can get in with our chainsaws and cut it up. Peter Hall, the Estate Manager at Dungee Farm, came with his big Unimog truck and winched it out of the lake for us to cut up. We had to deal with another one down in Otter Holt Wood.

We have had a Phase 1 Habitat Survey done by the Wildlife Trust, commissioned by the Borough Council. We are eagerly awaiting their report. Knowing what flora and fauna exist in the park will inform the 5 year management plan. We are an important site for wildlife and have been given County Wildlife Status. Coupled with that, Lindsey Alton, one of the volunteers, has spent the last 2 years updating the park's plant list and doing an annual butterfly survey. At the end of the year, she shares the results with the Butterfly Conservation Group.

The Friends Group have commissioned a new bench which has now been installed at the Odell end next to the junction of several paths. Peter Schwartz, a local chainsaw carver, assisted by his friend Stuart has carved animals, birds and insects relevant to the park into several large cedar logs. The old bench had started to rot badly. The new one was commissioned to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Friends Group.



Peter Schwartz Bench

Going forward, there are further plans to replace the fish bench in the main picnic area and some carvings for the area around the outdoor classroom. Historically, there have been carvings along the length of the shelterbelt path that runs parallel to the road but over the years, these have rotted and been torn apart by our resident badgers looking for beetle grubs living in the timber.

This autumn is going to be a bumper one for hedgerow fruits. The blackberries were ripe 3 weeks earlier than usual. The sloes are extra large this year and there are crab apples everywhere along the bridleway.

I'm afraid that there's still no definitive information about events as things are still up in the air because of the virus. However, we have now restarted the monthly volunteer tasks.

Friends Group Task Days (28 Sept, 26 Oct, 30 Nov, 21 Dec)

They occur on the last Monday of the month (a week earlier if it falls on a Bank Holiday). Volunteers come with sturdy clothes and footwear and bring a packed lunch. We supply refreshments, gloves and tools. For more information please email Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk or tel. 01234 720016 and leave your name and contact details. We will return your call when we are back in the office.

Health Walks (10 & 24 Sept, 8 & 22 Oct, 5 & 19 Nov, 3, 17 & 31 Dec)

These are resuming at last after a long break. They will be happening once a fortnight on a Thursday starting at 10.30am from the woodland entrance to the café. They last an hour with the aim of improving your health and wellbeing and meeting new people. They are free of charge but you need to complete a form when you join for the first time for insurance purposes. Your information is used only for health walk specific communications. Leaders are Janet Munro and Lindsey Alton. Tel. 01234 720016 and leave a message and contact number or email janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk for further information.

Janet Munro - Park Warden

Photos courtesy of HOCP



HELP US GET GROWING AGAIN

Many of you enjoyed spending time at the Millennium Country Park and our other community woodlands during lockdown. We're so happy that our woodlands gave local people a haven in nature for their well-being throughout

such a difficult time.

As you know, our income has been significantly reduced, with the Forest Centre having been closed for many months and events cancelled. You can help us to get growing again, and look after your local woodland for just over £1 a week by becoming a Friend of the Forest online today! (www.marstonvale.org/friends).

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