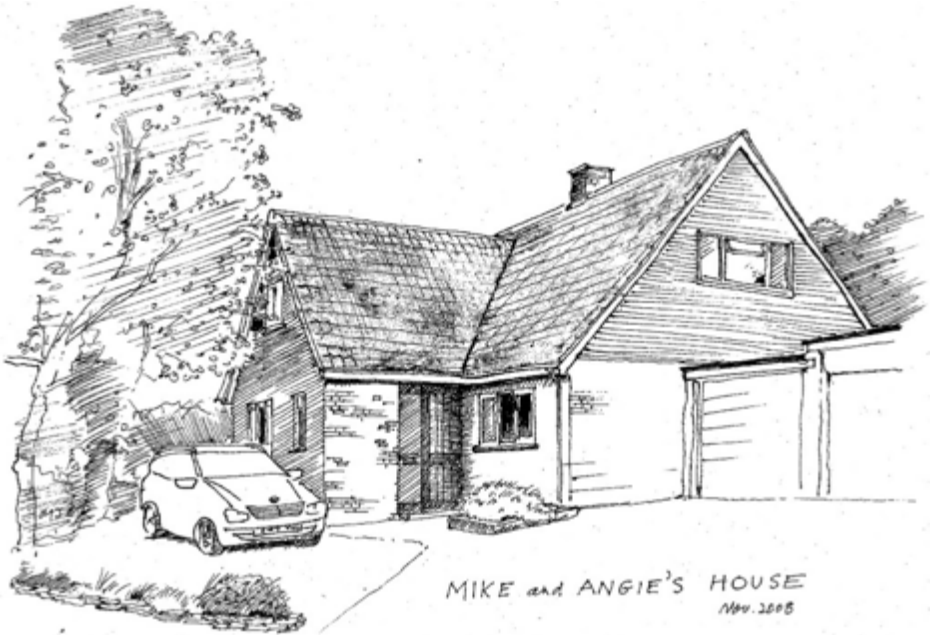


STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



JUNE 2022
Number 201

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

- 1 Cinema Club. Film. West Side Story (2021 version). Village Hall
- 2 Jubilee Beacon Lighting. Playing Field.
8.30pm (see page 18)
- 3 Live Music. Red Lion Garden.
3.00-5.30pm (see page 18)
- 4 Children's Commemorative Photograph.
The Cross. 10.30am (see p18)
- 4 Nature Walk. Church Room. 11.00am
(see page 18)
- 4 Kathy Brown's Open Garden.
1.00-4.30pm (see page 18)
- 4 Teas and Plant Sale. Church Room.
1.00-4.30pm (see page 43)
- 5 Jubilee Big Lunch. Playing Field. 12 noon (see page 18)
- 8 Parish Council EGM. Environment Group. Village Hall. 7.30pm (see p30)
- 9 WI. Campaign to Protect Rural England. Church Room. 7.30pm (see p41)
- 22 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm (see page 47)
- 26 Open Garden & Teas for Ukraine. 2.00-5.00pm (see page 21)



JULY

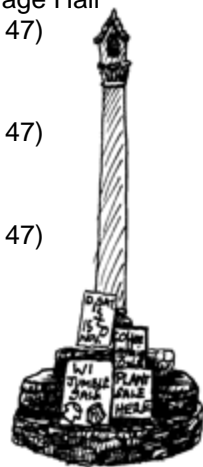
- 7 Cinema Club. Film. Nomadland. Village Hall.
- 14 WI. BBQ (see page 41)
- 15 Bat Prowl. St Mary's (see page 45)
- 16 Churchyard Green Event. St Mary's (see page 45)
- 21 Cinema Club. Live Theatre Broadcast. Prima Facia. Village Hall
- 27 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm (see page 47)

AUGUST

- 21 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 24 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm (see page 47)

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Bike 'n Hike. Hold the date! (See page 25)
- 28 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm (see page 47)



Look for information about any other Queen's Platinum Jubilee events on the village Facebook pages and notices at the Cross.

Photographs as credited. Cover drawing by Mike Robinson

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!

It's the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this weekend – see page 18 for a summary of some of the events that will take place in the village. No doubt the village will be decorated with bunting and flags again so do please let us have your photos for inclusion in the next edition of the Magazine. If we have enough from the weekend of events we will do a colour insert, as we have done on previous occasions, in the next edition.

In the last issue Pat Pickup, a former editor of the Magazine, wrote a brief history of the Magazine to mark the 50th anniversary and the 200th edition of Stevington Magazine – this time Paul Middleton, who was the first Editor, tells the story of how it all started (see page 34). Pagination is still as much of a challenge fifty years later!

It is good to see the scaffolding come down from around St. Mary's Church tower. The new stonework looks good and will maintain the fabric of the building for future generations - and of course it has improved the view from our kitchen window! Read about it on page 45.

It is also good to hear from the Parish Council in their report that repairs to the Windmill have now been completed and that it is planned to have the sails turning once again (see page 11).

We were saddened and disappointed to read that Stevington Football Club is having to close after more than 60 years of continuous presence in the local league. See page 22 to read the sad story. It would be great if some way could be found to prevent this.

Have a wonderful summer everyone!

Heather and Keith

**NEXT MAGAZINE**

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 3-4 September 2022. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 21 August 2022. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email stevington.magazine@googlemail.com) on or before that day.



KEN ALLCROFT

I'd like to thank our friends in Stevington for their condolences and kind wishes, after the death of my husband Ken on 1 February 2022.

We came to this village in 1967 with our two daughters, Rita and Karen, who went to the village school. Ken was a keen golfer and Vice President of the Bedford and County Golf Club, where he spent many happy hours. We have seen many changes in the village over the years but life in Farley Way has been good to us!

Thank you all again.

Ann Allcroft



THE ROYAL GEORGE

In early May 2022, Nigel Stead, after a number of years as the landlord of the Royal George decided to move to pastures new. I would like to put on record our thanks for all his hard work during his time and for his support of the village sports teams and organisations. It was reported

that the Royal George was to close but this is NOT the case. The Royal George will remain OPEN being managed by the owners with the support of their family and friends.

Daily opening times will be posted in the near future, at present we are open:

- Monday to Wednesday 5pm to 7pm
- Thursday 5pm to 11pm
- Friday and Saturday 3pm to 11pm
- Sunday 12 noon to 7pm

Fish and Chips Friday will recommence in the near future, along with a revised food menu.

We would like to thank all those who have offered their help to ensure the pub remains open, viable and an asset to the village community.

Gareth and Jane King
Megan and Grace
Royal George 07810 868738

Position Available

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Stevington Parish Council

Salary - depending on experience, current guide **£10.63-£11.73 per hour**.

Hours - **30 hours per month**, home based.

This is a flexible, interesting, and varied post supporting a pro-active and community focused rural Parish Council.

The role requires a person with good all round business skills including accounting, minute taking and financial management, solid IT experience including productivity tools, website management and online banking and will also possess strong verbal & written communication skills with the ability to interact positively with a wide range of people.

Applications are invited from suitably experienced persons, ideally with a CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification or otherwise a willingness to obtain it. In the latter case, training and support may be offered to a suitable candidate.

Please view the full job description: www.stevington.com/clerk.

Or request details via email: recruitment@stevington.com.

Application deadline: **Friday 17th June 2022**.

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STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

Parish Councillors:

Pete Fisher (Chair)
Andrew Lockwood (Vice-chair)
Janet Day
James Lockwood
John Strutt
Richard Taylor
Casual Vacancy



Clerk to the Parish Council: Tricia Lennie

The past year continued to be affected by the pandemic and I'm sure that we have all either experienced the virus personally or know a neighbour who has. It has always been the case in Stevington that residents rise to a challenge and with the lifting of restrictions it is good to see village life returning to normal; club meetings and other events have resumed and we are looking forward to the planned Platinum Jubilee events in June.

The village demographic has changed quite a lot over recent years. We have seen, and welcomed, new faces and young children to the village; we sincerely hope these individuals feel comfortable in our friendly community and actively participate in village life.

Governance

The Parish Council has seen a change in Councillors this year:

- Richard Taylor was co-opted in November 2021.
- Aaron Keep resigned in March 2022 and we thank him for his contribution.

Stevington Parish Council (SPC) would like to thank all Councillors (past and present) for their time and efforts working in support of our Parish, which is given on a purely voluntary basis, and remind residents that there is a Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Tricia Lennie, our Parish Clerk is resigning from the Parish Council after 6 years and we are now recruiting a replacement. We would like to thank Tricia for her hard work in managing Council business over this period.

SPC is extremely grateful for the support of volunteers who assist by carrying out specific tasks on our behalf.

- Sarah Bush produces welcome packs for new residents coming into the village.
- Stephanie Wingrove checks our three defibrillators weekly, keeps a check on items that have a shelf life and arranges replacements. The defibrillators have been deployed several times recently, thankfully they were not needed but it is reassuring to know the equipment was available.
- Jane Thomas monitors the bottle bank on Court Lane and arranges for it to be emptied when necessary.
- Daniel Norton serves as the Parish Council representative on the William Barringer Charity.
- Gina Thompson completed weekly safety checks of the children's play area but has now resigned, and Mo Botha who has offered to join the rota.

Council Meetings

The Council met in person six times in 2021/2022, members of the public also attended some meetings. If you wish to attend any meetings in the future, please contact our Parish Clerk for meeting details. All Parish Meeting minutes, accounts and procedures can be accessed through the web site, which is managed by our Parish Clerk.

Income

SPC income increased by just over £3,000 in 2021/2022, mostly as the result of a Community Infrastructure Levy payment which arises when new dwellings are created in a parish. During 2021/2022, numbers 1 and 2 Red Lion Cottages were added to the parish. Community Infrastructure Levy payments must be allocated to infrastructure developments and will contribute to traffic management expenses.

Expenditure

Grants were made to village organisations over the year:

- £150 to Stevington Football Club for pitch maintenance.
- £500 loan (repaid) plus £500 grant to Stevington Historical Trust towards the publication of Stevington History revised.
- £20 to the British Legion for the Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath.
- £50 to Stevington Environmental Group for the support of a youth group.
- £1,500 to St. Mary's Church, Stevington, towards upkeep of the Churchyard.

Maintenance of the village surrounds and assets accounts for a significant proportion of our funding, full details are available but in summary:

- £675 for painting of village furniture and play equipment.
- £249 for a new dog waste bin in Church Road.
- £614 for defibrillators batteries (3-year life) and pads (2-year life).
- £89.50 for annual ROSPA inspection of the children's play area.
- £665.50 for a survey of the roads at the Cross as evidence used towards the traffic management case.
- £1,000 for annual insurance cover which includes Stevington Village Hall.

The appointed contractor for grounds maintenance at both St. Mary's Churchyard and the Playing Field gave notice from the end of August 2021. Following this SPC decided to split the contract; in future St. Mary's Church PCC will manage the Churchyard maintenance and a new contractor has been appointed for the Playing Field maintenance.

Staff costs remain static at £4,000 as the annual pay award of 1.75% for 2021/2022 was not nationally agreed until after the end of the financial year, when £70 back-pay was transferred.

The annual accounts have been sent to our internal auditor who reports they all look good and these can be seen on our website. All approved financial documents are available by request from our Clerk who can be contacted at clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk.

Planning

SPC has always taken its responsibilities seriously with regard to planning applications. Each application is considered on its own merits and in the wider context of the area in which it is situated.

We continually monitor and respond to all the planning applications in writing to Bedford Borough Planning Committee meetings. In determining all planning applications, SPC take account of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan and the views of the residents of Stevington.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Stevington Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) was adopted by majority vote on 6 May 2021 and is now a material consideration in all planning decisions made within the Parish. It will be reviewed by SPC on a regular basis to ensure it remains fit for purpose and that it continues to deliver to its stated aims. Stevington NDP will also become a reference

document to the next Local Plan which is scheduled for consultation later this year.

Windmill

The outstanding repairs to the mill were completed by millwrights Dorothea in February 2022, the windmill is now at a standard where it will, once again, be able to turn its own sails. SPC are in discussions with Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Dorothea to arrange a suitable date for a demonstration of the mill turning, this will be advertised to the village once agreed. The 'Friends Of' group are also in advanced discussions with BBC with respect to visual checks and other support tasks such as basic maintenance etc. Restoration of public access continues to be reviewed by BBC, mainly regarding health and safety aspects, and we hope to be able to share further news on this soon.

Highways

Councillors have spent a considerable amount of their own time liaising with our Ward Councillor, BBC and other bodies regarding traffic management through the village. This is nothing new and has been on the SPC radar for some years.

However, this year we have had some progress, the matters of both a 7.5-ton weight restriction being introduced for Silver Street and a 20mph speed limit for part of the village are at advanced stages with an on-site meeting held with BBC on 4 May. Other road safety measures being pursued include the planned acquisition during FY22/23 of mobile Speed Indicator Devices, activated by vehicle speeds, with some funding being made available by the Ward Fund. During the recent meeting the poor condition of road markings and signage was brought to BBC's attention as a matter of significant concern. There was also a proposal to erect white 'gates' at the Park End and West End entrances to the village, together with 'dragon's teeth' road markings alongside to re-enforce the start of the 30mph limit, these have been shown to slow traffic in other locations. We also hope to have the 30-mph limit at West End extended beyond Hart Farm. The longer-term ambition for average speed cameras being introduced remains a key objective.

We are keen to be made aware of any highway-related incidents, particularly those resulting in a near-miss collision or damage to property and a register for this purpose is in operation. Please provide any such notifications, ideally with a picture and/or vehicle details, directly to the Parish Clerk.

Whilst we appreciate these measures do not solve all our issues, they are a start and something we can build on in the future.

Environment

With increasing concerns over global warming and climate change, SPC supported the establishment of the Stevington Environmental Group. The consultation group will provide a forum for the Parish community to come together to learn about, discuss and debate actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity of the Parish. Also, Councillors have met with Senior Flood Risk Officials at BBC to establish a Stevington Flood Group supporting mitigation and preventative actions.

Village Hall & Playing Field

Our representative on the Village Hall Executive Committee has worked closely with the committee over the past year to enable the hall to function successfully.

We continue to monitor play equipment in the playing field on a weekly basis. Minor repairs have been undertaken when necessary to keep items serviceable, however, we are aware that the equipment may need more extensive repair or replacement in the long term.

Policing Matters

Stevington remains a low crime area, particularly when compared to other locations also within North Bedfordshire's Rural Community Policing area. The Community Policing priority of 'Motor Vehicles - Crime and Anti-Social use,' determined following local consultations during January and February, will continue into July 2022. Police activities for this priority have so far included 62 sessions of speed enforcement and 7 stolen vehicles recovered across the area.

If you do need to report any crime please dial 999 for emergency situations i.e. crime in progress and police high priority response required. Dial 101 for non-emergency crime-related information, where a high priority police response is not required. Contact Crimestoppers for anonymous reporting of crime, Dial 0800 555 111 or online.

Pete Fisher
Chair
Stevington Parish Council

Email: clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.stevington-pc.gov.uk

Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly

BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

Council Tax Energy Payment

You will have heard and seen about the government's initiative to help households with rising energy costs; they have announced a £150 Council Tax energy payment for households living in Council Tax bands A to D, as their main home, and B and E where there is a disabled band reduction.

If you don't pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit you should have now received an 'access code' to get the £150 energy payment.

This code is to ensure that people do not fraudulently apply for payments for homes they don't live in, so that people receive the payment to which they are entitled. You can only get your unique access code by letter and email from the Council, it is not available from the Council's Customer Service Centre.

Once you have received your code, you can complete the form to claim this at www.bedford.gov.uk/counciltax. If you do not have access to a computer, smartphone, or tablet, you can use the free computers at local libraries or call the Customer Services Centre for support on 01234 718097 and press option four.

If you pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit, you do not need to take any action. You will receive your payment automatically after your first Council Tax payment of the year has been taken, to ensure that the Council has the correct details. These payments started in April and the majority of people who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit have now been paid their £150 Council Tax Energy Payment.

Borough Council Announces Solar Panel Scheme

With the cost of energy continuing to rise a scheme has been announced to encourage residents to come together to invest in renewables through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage - 'Solar Together Bedfordshire.'

Bedford Borough Council is working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire and Luton Councils as part of Solar Together Bedfordshire.

Solar Together Bedfordshire helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers (www.solartogether.co.uk/bedfordshire).

Bedford Borough residents can join the group-buying scheme which offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge

points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate as well as increase their independence from the grid.

At this stage, the Council is inviting people to register online to become part of the group. There is no obligation to go ahead with the installation. So if you are interested, please visit:

www.solartogether.co.uk/bedfordshire.

Northern Gateway Scheme

The final phases of the scheme are underway and should be completed by the end of June. As part of this, there will be overnight closures for resurfacing work to occur. This will have already started by the time you receive this magazine.

These temporary road closure(s) are anticipated to be in operation 20:00 - 05:00 hours each night they occur.

Manton Lane Roundabout and approaches 16 to 27 May

- Manton Lane (Roundabout to Turner Way)
- Shakespeare Road (Roundabout to Byron Crescent)
- Clapham Road (Roundabout to Linden Road)

Between Manton Lane and Paula Radcliffe Way Roundabouts 16 May to 17 June

Paula Radcliffe Way Roundabout Southern Side 25 May to 11 June

- Paula Radcliffe Way Roundabout Southern Side (Clapham Road to Great Ouse Way)
- Paula Radcliffe Way South Bound (Oakley Exit to Roundabout)

Fairhill/Cut Throat Lane (Aldi/Brewpoint) 25 May to 17 June

Paula Radcliffe Way Roundabout Northern Side 8 to 17 June

- Paula Radcliffe Way Roundabout Northern Side (Great Ouse Way to Clapham Road)
- Paula Radcliffe Way North and South Bound (Roundabout to Oakley exit)

Clapham Road Village 13 to 22 June

- Clapham Road (Paula Radcliffe Way roundabout to Towers)

Local Plan 2040

The Council has a legal responsibility to set Local Plans, deciding where growth and development will take place in Bedford Borough in future years; from homes and jobs to schools and infrastructure.

Following changes to national policies and the setting of new housing targets by the Government, the Local Plan 2040 is an update of the recently agreed Local Plan 2030, which was adopted in 2020. The majority of the existing planning policies are still up to date and do not need to change. The Local Plan 2040 therefore focuses mainly on a strategy to guide housing and employment growth to meet the Government's targets, and the infrastructure needed to support it.

It also updates planning policies where these have developed since the 2030 Local Plan was written; these include those to do with climate change, environmental quality, the town centre, affordable housing and self and custom build homes.

The Council is legally obliged to plan for a set number of homes every year. New affordability data published by the Government in March 2022 has seen an increase of 40% in the number of homes that must be planned for in Bedford Borough - to 1,355 per year to 2040.

Whilst there are still areas of uncertainty around national plans which impact the Borough, including the Oxford - Cambridge Arc and the precise route for East West Rail, the Council is legally obliged to submit an updated Local Plan by January 2023.

At the April meeting of the Council Executive, they considered the Local Plan 2040 for its next and final stage of consultation. The following was agreed:

- Officer responses to the consultation comments received during the Draft Plan: Strategy Options and Draft Policies consultation June 2021.
- That the Local Plan 2040 'Plan for Submission' and its evidence base documents for the purposes of public consultation be agreed, and that it also be agreed that the evidence base documents will be the subject of a further Executive Decision prior to the commencement of the consultation.

This will enable the preparation of the Local Plan 2040 to progress in accordance with the recently updated Local Development Scheme and that the consultation this summer will be the third on this Local Plan, and the final one before the plan is submitted to Government in January 2023.

Councillor Jon Abbott

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QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE TO SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022

**A CHANCE TO MARK A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY
AND CATCH UP WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Below are the events which have been confirmed. Look for information about any other events on the village Facebook pages and notices at the Cross.

**Thursday
2 June
8.30pm**

Commemoration plaques for trees to be dedicated. Beacon lighting.
At the top of the playing field.



THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
BEACONS
2ND JUNE 2022

Richard Galley has kindly agreed to play the music selected to be played nationally prior to beacons being lit throughout the country.

**Friday
3 June
3 to 5.30pm**

Live music in the Red Lion garden with the Cook Brothers.

**Saturday
4 June
10.30am**

Commemorative Photograph.

All village children aged under 18 are invited to take part in a photograph shoot at the Cross. Parents and carers help with marshalling appreciated. Please email the clerk at clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk.

11am–12 noon

Green Canopy Nature Walk

with environmentalist Pat Knight. Meet at the Church Room at 11am. Places are limited so please book by emailing duffieldjc@gmail.com.

**Saturday
4 June**

1pm - 4.30pm

Kathy Brown's garden open and teas in the Church Room.

Organised by WI, Community Shop and The Friends of St. Mary's Church. Plant sale, and raffle. Donations of plants and cakes are welcome.

Tea room open to all. Please drop in. Payments for entry to the gardens will be donated to the Friends of St Mary's for the renovation of the Church Room.

**Sunday
5 June**

12 noon

onwards

The Big Jubilee Lunch



Bring a picnic up to the playing field and catch up with family and friends in the village. The hall will be open in case of bad weather. Bar open. Ice creams available.

Decorating the village

Thanks to the Women's Institute who will be decorating the Cross. Let the Clerk or Janet Day know if you plan to decorate the lion head fire hydrant near you.



Janet Day
on behalf of Stevington Parish Council

Stevington Guitar Concerts

Thank you to everyone who supported our last concert on 23 April when Jule Malishke travelled from Germany to play for us. The concert was a sell-out success which raised £800 for Bedford Hospital Primrose Unit.

Jule was supported by Kelvin Davis and Gary Jones who played a laid-back set of Blind Blake influenced country blues.

Jule showed us why she is becoming one of the most sought-after soloists on the European acoustic scene. Unbelievably she ended her performance by being joined on stage by multi award winning Italian guitarist Antonio Forcione who just happened to be in the audience!



Over the last 15 years Stevington Guitar Concerts has been visited by some of the best acoustic guitarists on the planet. We have been blessed with fabulous support that has helped us attract such acclaimed musicians to visit our tiny village and raise so much money for charities and good causes.

A big thank you to all the people who lend a hand to make these events happen including:

- Steve Cole - sound and matters technical
- Bob Collins - lighting
- Barbara Collins - organising such terrific raffles
- Jean Blayney and Jenny Bentham - running the Bar
- Roger Penney, Linda Penney, Paul O'Flynn, Tricia O'Brien and Hugo Van Kempen for setting up and taking down the venue and hospitality.

But most of all a big thank you to our amazing audiences - without them none of this could happen.

To keep up to date with our next gig sign up for our newsletter on our website www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk or like our Facebook page.

John Duffield



UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

IN AID OF THE RED CROSS UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

OPEN GARDEN AND CREAM TEA



At

**PEAR TREE COTTAGE
27 CHURCH ROAD**

FOR STEVINGTON RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS

On

SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2-5PM

**ENTRANCE £5
INCLUDING CREAM TEA**

VERY LIMITED PARKING ONLY IN ROAD.



UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Our 2021-22 season finally came to an end in early May. After a very promising start, leading the league at one stage and still being potential title contenders at Christmas, our final Bedfordshire County Football League Premier Division league statistics were as follows:



Eighth position from 15 teams, played 28 games, won 11, drawn 4, lost 13, scored 41 goals, conceded 54 goals with 34 points.

We found the end of the season schedule extremely challenging with player unavailability due to injuries, work commitments and previously booked sporting holiday commitments booked during the Covid-19 crisis. This combined with some very strange fixture scheduling by the League Committee, which included a very late change of venue for a mid-week fixture that could have affected the title chase (swapping the fixture from a 19.30 kick off under floodlights at Cranfield to an 18.15 kick off at Crawley Green in Luton) meaning that the players could not get to the venue after work. We had to concede both fixtures to Crawley Green in the last two weeks of the season as we were unable to get a side, potentially impacting on Sharnbrook's (our local rivals and friends) bid for the league. Then ironically the League then scheduled us hosting the local Cranfield United side at home the following final Saturday of the campaign, with us winning 5-0 up at the playing field.

After the match we held our traditional end of season club presentations and award winners were:

Top Goalscorer	Louis Green
Players Player of the Year	Alex Smith
Managers Player of the Year	Allessio Cammarano
Supporters Player of the Year	Alex Smith

The club was extremely pleased for Alex as he has been with the club for 10 years and has been solid and consistent throughout all that period. Thanks to Ian Collins and Tommy McGirl for managing the team over what has been a very difficult last couple of seasons.

In the run up to the end of the season the Bedfordshire County League held a meeting to outline plans to introduce major changes to its Premier League, with the introduction of league appointed Referees Assistants at £35 each per game and an increase in Referees fees to

£50 per game (currently £40) for all league games. Despite our club objecting to what will amount to an increase in current officials' costs by £80 per home match, several clubs voted to approve the proposal. Therefore, it is almost certain that this will be introduced from the start of next season, with the actual cost of each home game likely to be close to £200 per game when all other expenses such as pitch hire, first aid kit, laundry costs etc. are taken into consideration.

To keep the club financially sustainable this would require us to increase match subscriptions to £10 or £15 per game and having been involved in collecting players subs for over 30 years we know that this will not be tenable.

Therefore, the unaffordable increase in costs, combined with the challenges of being able to field sides in the closing stages of the season and current players' reluctance to drop down divisions (where the increased costs would not be applied), has resulted in the club deciding that it will not be participating in the league next season and has no option but to fold and cease playing.

This was an exceedingly difficult and emotional decision to consider and make for a number of our long-standing club members. Being involved with the club has been a very important part of our lives, giving us access to structured sport whilst having fun and making lifelong friendships and acquaintances. For those of us living in the village or having strong ties with the village, it was also the realisation of the importance of having sports teams and facilities available in the village to maintain and promote its community spirit.

At least four generations of our family have played for the club and I can recollect our involvement back to the 1960's. In fact, one of my earliest memories is our Dad bringing the kit back home to the cottage we lived in at West End (where the Baptist Chapel Car Park is now) to be washed in the twin tub washer, the water being pumped into a tin bath and Gareth and myself being put in it for a bath before we were put to bed! Gareth, Daz and I are all bitterly disappointed that we have not been able to keep it going longer so that others can have the fun and enjoyment we have had from it.

Stevington Football Club has a long standing and proud history and is currently one of the longest ever-present clubs in the local league having completed every year since the 1960-61 season after having to drop out of the league for a couple of seasons due to having players 'poached' by other clubs due to their success in the 1950's.



There's some fascinating history about the club in the Stevington Historical Trust 'Stevington - The Village History Revisited' publication (pages 268 & 269) and it is well worth a read.

I have to say I have found it extremely hard putting this article together as its obviously brought back a wealth of very fond, treasured, character and friendship forming memories which it is difficult to put into any form of order.

However, I can't close without mentioning the passion and commitment that Alan Cox and our Dad, both secretaries for many, many years (from 1934 and late 1960's respectively) put into the club so that others could have a local club to play for when there was very little else to do on a Saturday afternoon. More recently we all need to thank and acknowledge Gareth's efforts in keeping the club going; without his input we would have reached this sad position a lot earlier than now.

There are simply too many club characters and friends to remember and thank in this article and I will hopefully do them all due justice in a future edition of the magazine.

We recently returned from our delayed 2020 Stevington Football Saga Trip to Benidorm which incidentally was announced on Radio 2 by Ken Bruce on the day before our departure. We are not sure he believed that the backroom staff and previous sponsors of the club were going away to 'reflect on what they would all do on Saturday afternoons going forward' - whilst away none of us could decide what we would be doing!

Thanks to everyone that came along to support the team, or for the de-brief of the games in the pub afterwards, over the years and special thanks to Nigel and the Royal George team for their continued support and sponsorship after all our matches.

Final special mention to Martin Williams, Steph Watts, Clinton Tatham and Aaron Coker who followed the team home and away whatever the weather and for friendship we have developed over the years.

Shane King



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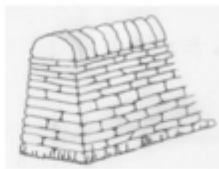


PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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.

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www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org



STEVEINGTON VILLAGE HALL

stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk

A number of successful events have taken place since Christmas. Stevington Cinema is proving as popular as ever, with increasing numbers of the audience travelling from surrounding villages. Visitors often express their surprise at the 'hidden gem' we have in the hall - if you haven't been for a while or, if you have yet to come along, we'd be delighted to see you. The last film (5 May) was our biggest audience ever for a film: 'Belfast' was enjoyed by 70 viewers. See elsewhere in the Magazine for more information.

The guitar concert on 23 of April was another sell-out success. Many thanks to John Duffield and the very many volunteers who worked to make it so successful. £800 has been donated to the Primrose Unit, a charity from which many in Stevington have benefited.

The annual 12K road race on Sunday 8 May was another great success in this, its 40th year. Some 170 runners registered and many commented how well-run and friendly the event is. Thanks to the Road Race Committee who worked tirelessly to organise the race. The annual road race is a real community event with so many volunteers giving generously of their time to mark out the course, provide facilities, marshal the runners, serve food and refreshments etc. Stevington is a very special village (but you already know that).

With the better weather, it is lovely to see families enjoying the play area and young people playing ball games, skateboarding etc. Parents, could you please encourage your children to use the field and terrace areas and not the car park - for their safety and for the comfort of our neighbours?

Sunday 5 June 2022: Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As part of the Jubilee weekend celebrations, being coordinated by the Parish Council, a Big Lunch (bring your own picnic) is planned at the hall. Get together with friends and family, plan your food and drink, and have fun on the field, hopefully in the sunshine. The hall will be open

from 12.00; the bar will be open and the kitchen will be offering hot drinks and snacks as well as delicious ice cream.

The village hall is run by volunteers who give freely and generously of their time. If you have enjoyed any of our recent events, you will appreciate how hard our volunteers work to make these a success. We would love to increase our volunteer team so that we have a 'bank' of people we can contact when help is needed - if you can offer help at an event such as setting up the hall, assisting in the kitchen, making cakes, marshalling, manning the entrance etc. or if you have particular skill that could contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the hall, please send contact details and how you would like to assist to secretary@stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk. Thank you to those who have already approached the Committee - we will be in touch to take you up on your offer at an appropriate time if we haven't already done so.

Regular activities in the Hall are:

- **Carpet Bowls** on Monday evening, 7.00-9.00pm. All over 12 years old welcome; just turn up on the night.
- **Pilates** on Friday morning. 11.00-11.45am. Contact Jane Butcher on 07891879571 or jnbutcher72@gmail.com.
- **Stevington Cinema** has reopened with a full programme of films and live streamings planned. See the Stevington Cinema article for details. To receive updates and performance details, subscribe to the mailing list via stevingtoncinemaclub.uk or keep an eye on the village hall website and posters on the Cross.

Enquiries and Hall Booking

If you are interested in booking the Hall for a private event, you can easily check availability on the calendar at [**stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk**](http://stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk).

Full details of equipment and facilities included in the hire fee are available at [**stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk**](http://stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk).

All enquiries and bookings should now be made by email to [**bookings@stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk**](mailto:bookings@stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk) or via the Hall Hire Enquiry pro forma, available at [**stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk**](http://stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk)

Linda Penney
Stevington Village Hall

STEVINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Environmental Planning for the Future

What do you want your village to be like by 2032? We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas about our local developments, house insulation, energy management, biodiversity, noise, light and other forms of pollution as they affect Stevington and to create our 5 to 10 year vision and policies for the village.



These and many other issues will be discussed in detail at an Extraordinary General Meeting of Stevington Parish Council on Wednesday 8 June, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Court Lane. We hope you will be able to attend and contribute to the discussion.

To help in planning of the meeting we have prepared a very short survey document. We would like you to complete and return the leaflet before the meeting in June to enable us to prioritise those issues which are most important to you. The survey is inserted within this magazine. If needed, additional copies can be obtained from seg@btinternet.com.

No Mow May

May is the month when the grass grows most quickly. It is also the time when we have the greatest urge to cut and manicure our lawns. SEG is supporting Plantlife's annual "No Mow May" campaign (www.plantlife.org.uk/uk) and we would like to encourage everyone to leave some unmown areas in their garden to give wildflowers a chance to grow and provide nectar for bees and other pollinators.

SEG Interest Groups

Over the last two months SEG groups have been focusing on community talks.

Yes Group organised a very interesting talk by Olivia Eadie on her work on conservation of turtles on 3 May at the Church room. Olivia worked in Thailand on a turtle conservation project, raised money for Blue Marine and talked about the importance of ocean health to planet health.

The *Biodiversity Group* is planning talks later this year, for example Susan Young has offered to give an open talk entitled "A banquet for pollinators" and Tim Stanbridge has offered to give a talk on his 5-year environmental plan to encourage birds and pollinators on his farm.

Watch out for notice of these talks on SEG Facebook and other social media in Stevington.

The *Renewables and Energy Group* has continued its series of energy talks. The latest talk by John Chalmers on installing air source heat pumps was held on Saturday 7 May at Yew Tree House Barn. John explained that air-source heat-pumps use more electricity than your current system and can cost a lot to install and run. You must get an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) done first, and you may also need to upgrade your electricity supply cable. As the cost of electricity is currently about three times that of gas, a decision to install this system is about futureproofing yourself against the un-availability of gas and a desire to reduce emissions. This is not a money-saving system as it currently stands. If you want to listen to a recording of the talk, please contact Sally Macdonald.

Trees Planted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Three new trees, an Amelanchier and two wild Cherry trees, have now been planted at the top of the playing field to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A plaque will be placed at the site of the Amelanchier and there will be a ceremonial planting and photographic event at the start of the Jubilee celebrations on 2 June.

SEG Governance News

Due to growth in environmental activities, SEG is now an independent community group. A new constitution document for SEG has been prepared and agreed by its members. This will be posted on the Parish Council website. SEG will retain its link to the Parish Council via an environmental councillor who will liaise between the SEG and the SPC, providing feedback and guidance, as needed, on environmental issues.

Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust News

We are delighted to announce that the Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust (Beds GOVET) has been granted charitable status by the Charity Commission and has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1198830. As a Charitable Incor-



porated Organisation Beds GOVET will promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Great Ouse Valley in Bedfordshire. The trust will work to build greater community engagement in river and land biodiversity monitoring, Citizen Science projects and advance the education of the public in the understanding of the importance of river quality on biodiversity, economic and social activity.

SEG Communications

SEG is your local community group supporting efforts to protect and enhance the Stevington parish landscape and river. Please do join the group, contribute to discussions and support our growing environmental activities. If you would like to get in touch we have several routes for communication. You can email us at seg@btinternet.com. We have a Facebook site called Stevington Environmental Group. We have also set up a SEG WhatsApp group for residents who want to take a more active role in SEG activities.

John Strutt



COMMUNITY SHOP

Have you been to your Community Shop yet? At the moment we are open from 10-12 Mon-Sat. but would love to return to afternoon opening again.

We are looking for ten volunteers who can spare 2 hours an afternoon, once a month.

We must thank our fantastic volunteers who stepped up when we needed them, to keep the shop going during the lockdown, but once again your shop needs you, so we look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

We were very sad to hear that Sandra Sample passed away. Sandra was a lovely friendly person, community spirited and fun to be with. We send our condolences to all her family.

Keep safe everyone.

Jackie Ward

STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB



On Monday 25 April 2022 we held our 31st AGM - it should have been our 33rd, but Covid-19 intervened! 11 members attended with 3 apologies for absence. Our chairman, Bill Harris, opened the proceedings with a warm welcome. Since the 2020 meeting we have lost 3 members for varying reasons but have gained a further 3 - Ray Barker, Jenny Bradford and Jane O'Connor. We now boast 14 members.

We ran at a deficit for the months we closed down mainly because we paid our weekly rent throughout (quite happily) so that we could return whenever restrictions were lifted. Our subscriptions have been slightly changed from 1 May.

- Annual £5 per member (was £10)
- Weekly £2 per member
- Raffle £1 per ticket

The main committee was re-elected and although no competitions were played Ray Barker was voted to be our most improved player. Members also voted to keep the captaincy on a weekly basis i.e. Raffle rota provider to act in that capacity.

We look forward to an uninterrupted year at our happy little club, it's a very decent group we have!

Best wishes to all.

Barbara Collins



STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

Date	Screening	Production	Type
1 June	West Side Story (2021 version)		Film
7 July	Nomadland		Film
21 July	Prima Facia	National Theatre	Live

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

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE – THE FIRST 12 YEARS

I read with great interest the article by Pat Pickup on the History of the Magazine, so I thought I would share with the village the details of how it was put together.

In 1972 I was working as an assistant editor at Reader's Digest and had just moved to (at that time) The Chalet up at West End (later to become The Pyghtle). I had previously moved to The Vicarage in 1957 with my mother who was housekeeper to the Reverend Edward J Bennett, so I knew the village and many of its inhabitants very well. I was married here in 1969 – Donald Macrory and Edward Bennett officiated along with Rev Gilbert Bassett-Pyke, a distant uncle. So my church connections were strong.

The church already circulated a leaflet and my idea was to try and produce something that would encompass the whole parish. I talked to Donald, Avis and Eddie Clayton and Frank Trout – they were all behind the idea, which was then approved by the PCC.

An idea is great by how to expedite! The obvious questions were: How many copies? How to fill with articles? Where to get paper? How to reproduce? How to fund the project? How to distribute? One by one we managed to succeed. By we, I mean Avis and Eddie Clayton (Eddie was Churchwarden at St Mary's) and Betty and Peggy. Other villagers like Albert Markham, Frannie and Paul Hodgkinson were approached at times and gave their advice and funds and time to help the production. I seem to remember only a small amount of advertising in those days – I couldn't find anyone to take on organising this onerous task, but village volunteers helped it to survive until I left the village in 1985.

The first reams of paper were, I seem to remember, given to me by the Editorial Director of Reader's Digest. I went to him to ask permission to use some of the information in Reader's Digest publications. He readily gave permission as long as I only used snippets rather than complete articles. I was working at the time in the Books division of the company and we were publishing a huge variety of subjects so I had plenty of choice.

So now I had a bit of content – gardening tips, countryside themes and nature. I remember Marion Field was quite enthusiastic about the whole project and I often visited her for her wise words and cutting comments! Local articles started to trickle in. Great memories. Gradually we built up a regular input of material.

After trying to do this monthly, the stress became too much, and we realized we were being too ambitious. My memories of early production are now a bit vague, but I do remember purchasing a large Remington typewriter, boxes of Roneo (stencil duplicating paper) and a correcting fluid. The first problems I had to overcome were working out the pagination, folding and stapling.

I do congratulate Ray Wood, Pat and Ian Pickup and Heather and Keith Parkinson for keeping the dream of those early years alive. To me, I can now see the Magazine has now become the beating heart of the village. May it long continue.

Paul Middleton

CAN YOU HELP US?

Gardening

A small team of volunteers meet at 10am every Saturday in the churchyard to spend an hour or two removing ivy and weeds, pruning bushes and cleaning gravestones under the expert guidance and encouragement of Jacky Gooding - occasionally stopping for a chat and a cuppa.

All very sociable and fun for families, young and old. Even just occasional helping out would be great!. Hope to see you there one Saturday!

Cleaning


After many years of excellent service, Jules has decided to cease cleaning the church and Church Room. We are very grateful for all her hard work and wish Jules well.

The volunteer force has taken over the cleaning of the church and Church Room and we would love to hear from anyone with a little time on their hands to join the volunteers and help keep the church and Church Room looking clean and tidy.



If you are at all interested in joining the volunteers for gardening or cleaning please contact Hugo on 01234 824894. Alternatively, just turn up on a Saturday morning at the churchyard - you'll be made most welcome!

Hugo van Kempen


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Weddings , Parties & Corporate Events

GREEN TIPS - TRAVEL

Travel accounts for 20% of global CO₂ emissions so it makes sense to weigh up where we go and how. All the numbers quoted are averages and of course CO₂ emissions for individual journeys will vary depending on the make of vehicle, the load and the weather.

Where?

Use a green booking site such as bookdifferent.com for a vast array of environmentally responsible places to stay or ecobnb.com for organic farmhouses and glamping.

How?

- Almost any rail journey emits less CO₂ than almost any car journey but a car with three people in can be as efficient as taking a train. That is, unless you travel by Eurostar which only emits 6 grams of CO₂ per kilometre. This is because, once in France, the electricity it uses is produced from nuclear and renewable energy.
- We all know that we should fly less especially to parts of Europe and within the UK. The domestic flights are the least efficient emitting 255 grams of CO₂ per kilometre. Their short cruising time makes the extra fuel used for take-off and the descent a larger proportion of the total.
- Long-haul flights of several thousand miles will be more efficient than a car journey of the same length. This is little comfort because the amount of fuel used while cruising is still huge, emitting 150 grams of CO₂ per kilometre, compared with an average 96 grams of CO₂ per kilometre for a petrol car. The difference is that the plane's emissions are shared by several hundred people but no one is going to be driving that far!
- The less you take the less fuel will be used to get there. This will be most noticeable travelling by car or if your journey involves a short flight.



Shopping

- Rather than taking everything buy local while you are there.

- Take reusables: bamboo cutlery, a shopping bag and a water bottle. You can even get a foldable one from Kontiki which filters out bacteria and microorganisms.
- Use a reef-friendly sunscreen. These don't contain oxybenzone or octinoxate which disrupt the DNA of coral and other aquatic life. These and other harmful chemicals in sunscreens are absorbed through our skin too. Look at the Marine Safe website for more details and best of all follow Marine Safe's advice and cover up instead.

Jacky Gooding



BEDFORD SAILING CLUB SUMMER'S COME EARLY!

We are again offering our popular FREE TASTER sessions for paddle board, sculling and canoeing, so book early!

The recent fabulous weather has seen members visiting in numbers with a few camping overnight to enjoy the stars, a campfire and beautiful birdsong.

The otter has been spotted nearby, swans are nesting again, terns have returned, nest boxes are fully occupied, wildflowers are going wild - it's a busy season!

Following recent Covid-19 restrictions there is again full access and we continue to remain vigilant and active for those wishing to enjoy the outdoors.

Members can use a selection of club equipment for canoeing, paddle boarding, rowing and kayaking or use our dinghy with electric outboard motor to explore the river Great Ouse to Pavenham and beyond. Alternatively just relax with a cuppa on our idyllic riverside patio.

We have frozen subscription fees for yet another year. 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 free coaching session can contact Dave on daveabrear@aol.com or Hugo on hugovankempen0@gmail.com.

Happy paddling!

Hugo van Kempen

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



Our speaker in March on Relaxation Techniques was somewhat of a disappointment. He digressed so far from the subject of his talk we felt that other WIs should be aware of his poor performance. We reported this to our Federation and they informed us that they would take action to notify all other WIs. So much for relaxation!

In early April we provided lunch for a group of twenty walkers raising nearly £100 for our funds. It was much appreciated by those attending.

Our April meeting had an Easter craft theme - decorating blown and hard-boiled eggs. A prize (a chocolate Easter egg) was won by Linda with a drawing of a beautiful natural scene including a bee and various flowers and grasses.

Our Annual meeting was held in May. Jackie and all other members of the committee were re-elected. A vote was taken to support the resolution to be put forward at the National Annual conference calling on the government and funding bodies for research into the female presentation of ASD and ADHD. Sally Ball, the County Chairman, attended the meeting and talked about her recent appointment as a WI advisor. Although having 50 years experience in the WI she nevertheless had to work through five modules and a presentation talk before passing with flying colours!

We ended the meeting with two picture quizzes which proved to be a little more difficult than was intended.

We held our Plant and Produce stall again at the Cross on Saturday 21 May. Thank you to all who contributed.

As the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is to be held over four days at the beginning of June we are busy baking cakes to provide refreshments for the opening of Kathy Brown's garden on 4 June. We are also undertaking the decoration of the Cross with bunting and plants.

On Monday 9 May three members attended the Annual Council meeting of the Federation. Dickie Arbiter was one of the speakers. He is a journalist and a television and radio commentator on the British Royal Family. He was Press Spokesman for the Queen from 1988 to 2000. He offered an insight into the history of the Royal Family, scandals, incidents and general interest stories. He proved to be a very engaging speaker.

Helen Nellis, the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, was the other speaker and she gave a very full and interesting account of her role as the Lord Lieutenant. She is Her Majesty's representative within the County and she stressed that she is not a political figure. Within her role she is responsible for arranging and escorting visits by members of the Royal Family, guest lists for garden parties, advising on submissions for honour nominations etc. She gave an entertaining and informed talk.

Our local walks, book club and darts matches are still continuing and we took part in the local litter pick.

Diary dates for the next 3 months:

Thurs 9 June Speaker from the Campaign to Protect Rural England.
Thurs 14 July BBQ
No meeting in August.

Marilyn Billett



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STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB Go On, HAVE A Go!

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

The 100 Club remains an important means of guaranteed revenue for maintaining the Village Hall so your continued support is crucial. A dedicated team of volunteers helps keep the building in good order throughout the year and with your help we can secure the future of the building for the customary programme of concerts, films, theatre, ballet, opera, carpet bowls, table tennis, yoga, Pilates and private functions.

EVERY MONTH 4 lucky winners receive a cash prize.

The 100 Club still has a few numbers available, so try your luck and support your village hall.

To join please contact Hugo at hugovankempen0@gmail.com or on 01234 824894 for membership details.

These are the most recent lucky winners:

Mar	£100	№ 37	Susi Clifton
	£50	№ 49	June Homer
	£25	№ 79	Mick Stalley
	£15	№ 57	Mary Murzyn
Apr	£100	№ 97	Brian Westbrook
	£50	№ 57	Mary Murzyn
	£25	№ 22	Linda Penney
	£15	№ 49	June Homer
May	£100	№ 1	Margaret Pyner
	£50	№ 91	Sarah Spencer
	£25	№ 50	Dave Walker
	£15	№ 47	Fiona Hart-Ives



Hugo van Kempen



The Friends of ST MARY'S CHURCH



Plant Sale

Church Room

Saturday 4 June 1.00 to 4.30pm

*If you can **donate a plant** or two to our plant sale you can drop them off at the Church Room on Friday 3 June or Saturday 4 June in the morning.*

On Saturday 4 June, as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we are working with Stevington Women's Institute, the Community Shop and Kathy Brown to open the recently refreshed Church Room. Between 1.00pm and 4.30pm visitors can enjoy teas, cakes, a visit to the Community Shop and a plant sale.

Over the two years of Covid-19 restrictions the Church Room became less used, the impact of this lack of use sadly gave the room a slightly neglected feel. To combat this, a meeting was held of all the Church Room users where it was agreed to give the room a good freshen up to relaunch it as a valuable meeting place in the village.

We hope that you take the opportunity to visit the Church Room, particularly if you are not familiar with the room and its potential. It is a beautiful public building packed with character, open 6 days a week to drop in for a coffee and a meet up with friends, the home to the fabulous Stevington Community Shop and is available for hire at reasonable rates.

During the opening hours the Church Room has a digital notice board where you can advertise village events.

It is important for the Church Room to be well used to cover the rising costs of running the building. We look forward to seeing you and sharing ideas about how the facility can once again become a village hub.

We are grateful for Kathy Brown's generous offer to donate proceeds from her open garden on the 4 June to FOSM.

John Duffield, Chairman

SEE YOU AT THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH!

SUNDAY 5 JUNE. 12 NOON ONWARDS

VILLAGE HALL



(See page 19)

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The defibrillators are located in:

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



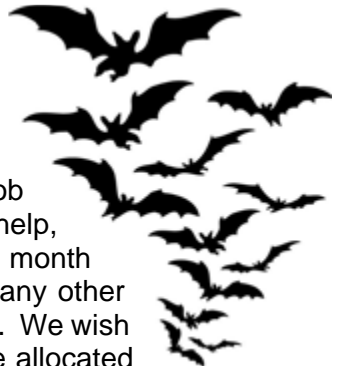


ST MARY'S MATTERS

As a sign that things are gradually getting back to normal, the scaffolding has disappeared from the tower after about 8 months. This has been an enormous undertaking, particularly for our treasurer, John Hirst, who has managed the project, and liaised with the church architect and our stonemason Steve Todd who has demonstrated enormous skill, particularly in his hand carving of detailed stone tracery. This can be seen around the top of the belfry louvres (wood slatted windows).

The total cost, when the final bills come in will work out at around £96,000 including VAT which we can claim back. John's tireless work has managed to achieve grants to offset this to the total of £55,000, a remarkable achievement compared with what some other parishes have managed. Our particular thanks go to him. Prudent care of our accounts by previous PCCs and treasurers has meant that we can afford the balance, rather than having to prune out some recommended repairs.

Services are returning to normal, and there was a great turnout for Easter Day, including five children, and since then we have had one Baptism. The service was followed by the return of our Easter Egg Hunt, where we think some thirty children took part. We are planning various 'green churchyard' children friendly activities over the summer months, including a Bat Prowl on 15 July and a Churchyard Green Event on the 16 July.



Our volunteers continue to do a grand job in the churchyard, and if you would like to help, head down there on the first Saturday of the month between 10 and 12, though if you're free on any other Saturday you will probably find someone there. We wish to keep the churchyard looking neat, but have allocated an area on the north side, away from the entrance, to leave unmown for May. We hope that is a good compromise for No Mow May.

Robert Eadie
Churchwarden
07791 674976 or robert@eadies.org.uk

Our group continues to meet on the last Saturday of the month between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.

Anyone is welcome to join us to learn a bit more about:-

- What your mobile phone can do
- Issues with your laptop
- How to use a tablet
- Sending and receiving emails
- Keeping in touch with friends far and wide
- Accessing online services
- Sharing photos
- Protecting yourself from scams.

Be assured these are not heavy geeky sessions; we look at locked screens, annoying popups, and just about anything else IT related you like to ask. It's an enjoyable hour where you can hopefully develop a bit more confidence or even take your first step to getting online. Don't worry if you haven't got a tablet or smart phone, we have some tablets you can borrow.

Do drop in and see us, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

If you would like to help us run Wavelength you can also drop by. Last Saturday of the month 11.00am at the Church Room.

John Duffield



STEVINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Remember,

the shop is open in the Church Room.

Mon - Sat. 10am - 12 noon

If you have never been to the shop, please visit to see the excellent range available at good prices.

Payments by card or cash.

Volunteers needed for afternoon opening.

STEVINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The ink on the printed page of the March edition was drying out as we settled around the table in the hall for the annual Shrove Tuesday Soup and Pancake lunch. We had just finished the soup when the power went off throughout the village and the hall was plunged



into gloom. As the pancakes were due to be cooked on an electric cooker this caused some consternation. Thanks to the quick action of our Head Chef and Deacon, Jim Russell, the lunch was saved when he dashed home and returned with his camping stove. Despite the interruption, it wasn't long before pancakes were flying. Carol had practised her skills at tossing pancakes and there were a good number of people there to enjoy the event.

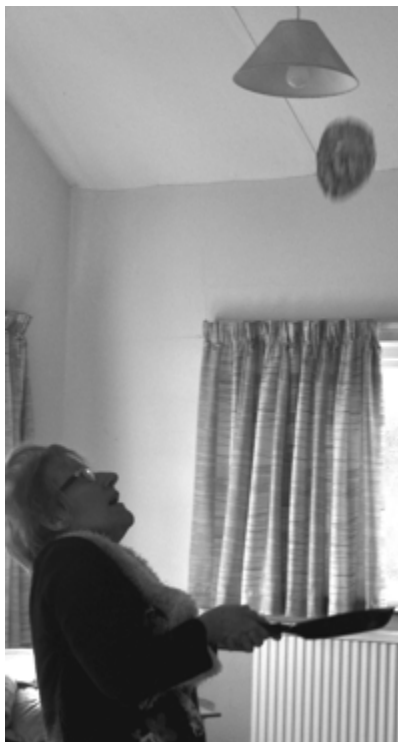
Lent was the signal to begin a series of scripture studies each Wednesday for eight weeks. Working from 'Sharing the Easter Story' by Sally Welch, a group of us met to discuss and reflect on the theme for the week.

On 27 April, the afternoon tea had the largest turnout ever, when several new faces joined the regulars for the afternoon of fun.

Put the date in your diary for the next afternoon tea - Wednesday, 22 June at 3pm. All are welcome and there is always a wonderful array of cakes and savouries on offer as well as the popular and challenging quiz.

We will be joining the villagers for the Jubilee picnic on Sunday, 5 June at 12 noon which means our service on that day will be at 10.45am rather than the normal 10am.

Barbara Courtney



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The Composing Cook

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE KEY LIME PIE

Serves 8-10

This Double Chocolate Key Lime Pie is light, refreshing and comforting all at the same time. I would advise you to make it and lock it away in the fridge because once you've tasted it; you will be coming back for more.

For The Base & Sides:

- 400g dark chocolate digestive biscuits
- 65g unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder

For The Chocolate Sauce:

- 20ml double cream
- 100g bar dark chocolate minus 1 square to be used to decorate

For The Filling:

- 4 Limes to give approximately 175ml lime juice
- a bottle of lime juice to make up the difference
- 397g tin sweetened condensed milk
- 300g double cream

To Decorate

- the zest from the limes
- 1 square of dark chocolate taken from the bar above

A 25cm x 4cm deep fluted tart tin, with a loose base. If yours is a little smaller or bigger, that is absolutely fine.

- To begin with, take your limes and grate the zest and put the zest onto a plate along with one square of chocolate taken from the 100g bar dark chocolate.
- Squeeze as much juice out of the 4 limes and then use the bottle of lime juice to make up the difference. Limes vary so much when it comes to giving up their juice, hence why it's a good idea to have the bottle handy. Put the plate in the fridge.
- In a food processor, add the dark chocolate digestive biscuits, the unsalted butter and the cocoa powder. Blitz until the mixture reaches a damp, binding consistency. Transfer the mixture into the tart tin and press on the base and up the sides. Place in the fridge.
- To make the chocolate sauce, in a small pan heat the double cream very gently. Whilst it is heating, take the rest of the dark

chocolate bar and break it into pieces and then add this to the warmed double cream. Swirl around the pan so all the chocolate is coated with the warm cream, and still with the hob low, and a whisk in hand, start whisking until the chocolate is mixed well with the cream and you end up with a runny chocolate sauce.

- Take the tart tin out of the fridge and pour the chocolate sauce on the base. With the back of a spoon, cover as much of the base as you can. You need to work fast here as the chocolate sauce does set quite quickly. It doesn't have to be perfect as it will be covered over. Put the tart tin back in the fridge.
- To make the filling, pour the sweetened condensed milk and the lime juice into a largish bowl and whisk with either an electric hand whisk or if you have a free standing whisk use that implement instead. Whisk until well combined. Add the cream and carry on whisking until you have a mousse like consistency.
- Take the tart tin out of the fridge and pour the thick mousse mixture into the biscuit base. Use the back of the spoon to get an even coverage. At this stage you need to place it back in the fridge and let it set, ideally overnight, but by all means 4-6 hours should suffice.
- When you are ready to serve, take the pie out of the fridge, grate the one square of chocolate on top and sprinkle with the lime zest. Unmold the pie, but don't even try and remove it from its base. If you do, good luck.
- Cut it into portions and serve daintily or just devour it. I know which option I would go for.



Michael Antoniou

You can watch me make this recipe and many others, by visiting my YouTube Channel, The Composing Cook.

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NEW OUTDOOR GYM COMING TO PRIORY COUNTRY PARK



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A new outdoor gym featuring seven pieces of equipment and a calisthenics centre is being installed in Priory Country Park.

Outdoor gyms have become increasingly popular, and this new gym in Priory Country Park will bring a high quality facility to a popular and well-used, Green Flag award-winning park.

This new gym will be on the site of the current wooden labyrinth at Priory. The labyrinth has been at Priory Country Park since 2007 and has had several new features added during its lifetime with art project frescoes, a marble maze and a centrepiece in partnership with the public and students. Sadly, it has now come to the end of its life and a number of its posts have had to be removed already due to decay and vandalism. All the timbers that are salvageable from the labyrinth will be kept and reused for future projects within the park.

The works to remove the labyrinth and install the new gym were scheduled to start on Monday 16 May and are expected to be complete by mid-June.

This new gym follows an upgrade to the deteriorating path around the lake at Priory Country Path to all-weather tarmac pathway, making the lakeside more accessible for buggies and those in wheelchairs.

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THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

The Huntingdon, Bedford And Peterborough Gazette And Cambridge Independent Press – 27/04/1839

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT – The neighbourhood of Stevington, Beds, has been thrown into gloom by a melancholy accident which occurred to Mr. Boston, farmer, on Monday last. He was returning from Bedford, on horseback and when near Oakley his horse shied at a gypsy's camp, turned round and galloped back towards Bromham with Mr. Boston clinging to its neck. When near the village he was unable to retain his hold, and fell with great violence upon the road, occasioning a severe concussion of the brain. The horse also fell, and in struggling kicked Mr. Boston on the face. The unfortunate man has since died of the injuries, leaving a wife and seven children. He was much respected, and his loss will be greatly lamented in the neighbourhood.

Bedfordshire Mercury – 04/03/1865

EXHUMATION OF THE BODY OF AN INFANT – On the 15th ult., Mary Ann, the infant daughter of John and Rebecca Purser, died and was buried without having the rite of baptism administered to it. About a week previous to its death the child's arm was broken, but how that was done remains a mystery. On the day of its death, Mr. Webb, assistant to Mr. Godfrey, surgeon, of Turvey, saw it, when the fractured arm was much inflamed and swollen, and it died soon after he left. Rumours having gained currency in the village that the deceased had not been properly treated, and it having been stated that the mother had told her neighbours that the child's arm was fractured through Purser knocking her over the cradle, the body of the deceased was exhumed, and submitted to a *post mortem* examination by Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Couchman, of Bedford. An inquest was held at the Red Lion, on the 23rd ult., before Mr. Whyley, deputy coroner for the county, when Mrs. Purser was subjected to a searching examination, but she affirmed that she and her husband had lived on good terms; she "noticed" the child's arm on the 12th, but could not say how it became fractured. The medical evidence went to show that the internal organs of the deceased were in a healthy state; there were no marks of violence about the body other than the fractured arm. Death was the result of natural causes, and was accelerated by the injury to the arm. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

The Bedfordshire Mercury - 08/12/1894

PARISH COUNCIL & DISTRICT COUNCIL - STEVINGTON (7)

Mr Jesse Cowley presided, and the following were elected:

Rev. J.R.H. Duke, vicar	F. Goldsmith, ganger
W. Hulatt, jun, shoemaker	Thos. Huie, farmer
Mark Lilley, labourer	R. Parrott, platelayer
Thos. Poole, publican and butcher.	

Amos Maxey Turney, farmer, was nominated as District Councillor.

Bedfordshire Times and Independent – 14/07/1916

Private Christopher Allen has been invalided home after an operation for appendicitis, and is now in hospital at Sheffield. His brother, William, was killed at the front a few months since. The former was very anxious to see his father, who was dangerously ill, but was unable to do so, although he had to pass through Oakley and near to Stevington on his way north. Mr Allen, senior, died on Monday evening. Great sympathy is felt with the widow and family.

Bedfordshire Times and Independent – 21/07/1916

Mr. Thomas Allen, of Stevington was laid to rest in the churchyard on Friday amid every token of sympathy and respect. He was 55 years of age, and before his death had borne most patiently for some months an illness arising from a chill contracted after influenza. He will be much missed in the village as he was an excellent workman, and could turn his hands to any job, being especially useful in the work of thatching. He was born at Oakley, but had lived at Stevington since his marriage. This has been a stricken home, one son having been killed in France, and the remaining son, Trooper Chris Allen, of the Beds. Yeomanry, is at present in Willersley Hospital, Cromford, near Matlock. The mourners included Mrs. Allen; Mr. J. Lovell, son-in-law; Mrs. Lovell and Mrs. Robbins, daughters; Misses Olive and Phyllis, daughters; Mrs. Wm. Sanders; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Keech; Mr. and Mrs. Glidle; Mr. Sharman; Mrs. A. Cox; Mrs. H. Bowyer; Mrs. Colman; Mrs. Q. Curtis; Mr. G. Ruffhead and Mr. J. Panter. There were many floral tributes.

Bedfordshire Times & Standard – 27/09/1946

STEVINGTON SAWMILL ACCIDENT – Man's Death in Hospital.

An inquest was held at the Bedford County Hospital on Wednesday on Mr. Walter Church, aged 55, sawmill operator who after receiving severe head injuries at the Stevington Mill on 7th September, died at the County Hospital of bronchial pneumonia twelve days later.

Mr. George Woods, of 12 Silver Street, a workmate said they were cutting a large piece of elm with a branch attached. After cutting off the branch Mr. Church slid it away, but it caught in the teeth of the saw and was swung back at them, splitting in two; one part hit Mr. Church on the head.

Dr. M. V. Guilmant, house surgeon of the County Hospital, said death was due to bronchial pneumonia caused by prolonged unconsciousness as a result of head injuries.

The Coroner, Mr. R. G. Rose, recorded a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

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Mark Jackson



Anne Stileman Bursary Fund

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

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For information about how to apply email the Clerk at clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk



MOBILE LIBRARY

Hello Stevington Readers!

The Mobile Library is now back on the road and visiting Stevington. I am delighted to say that customers are now welcome back on the Mobile, and you can pick your own items! When you visit the Library, we request you keep others safe by keeping your distance and making sure you take all the usual standard Covid-19 safety measures. Wear a face covering if you are able and keep those hands as clean as possible when touching all the items.

The usual times for the Stevington stop are as follows:

The Cross - 1.35 to 1.55pm

This is on the following Wednesdays:

June:	1, 15 and 29	July:	13 and 27
August:	10 and 24	September:	7 and 21

For further information on this, and to request your items, you can visit us at www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries.

We know a number of you have been using our digital resources through lockdown. We have a fantastic range of online material available via the Virtual Library. Using either your Mobile Library or static branch card, you can register for thousands of free audio books, eBooks, digital magazines and daily newspapers, from our suppliers at Libby, Borrowbox and Press Reader. For further information on these, visit www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries and browse the eResources section of the virtual library.

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

The Kempston Mobile Library team

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
June	14, 28	8, 21	8, 21
July	12, 26	5, 19	5, 19
August	9, 23	2, 16, 30	2, 16, 30
September	6, 20	13, 27	13, 27



GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

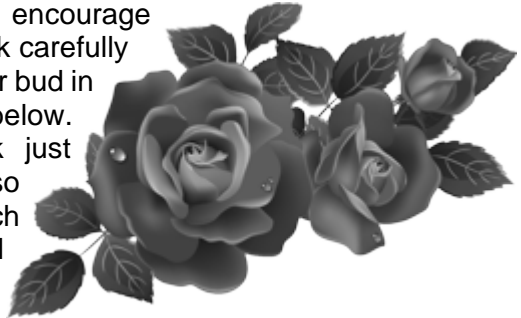
As it's been such a dry spring, we need to regularly water the plants we want to survive the summer months. As some of you have requested, here we are with what might be considered a 'To Do List' for your gardens.

JUNE

- Ideally mid May but certainly by now, put pheromone traps to trap apple and plum codling moths in your fruit trees. These look like little green tents and attract the male moths which get trapped onto a sticky pad inside. Complete any pruning of spring flowering shrubs and Clematis montana, that way you should maximise their flowering potential for next year. Plant out hardened off modules of vegetable plants and keep well watered. Provide fresh water for birds to drink and bathe.
- Position hanging baskets. Feed, water and deadhead weekly.
- Hoe regularly to keep on top of weeds. Then water the area and mulch thickly with homemade compost or fresh lawn clippings to add nitrogen.
- Put in new plants with some granular fertiliser, irrigate and then mulch with home-made compost to provide micronutrients, keep in the moisture and suppress weeds. If you have plenty of compost spread it over the borders to help retain moisture in hot or dry weather.
- Finish planting containers and irrigate regularly with a little liquid feed in a full can of water.
- Plant dahlias and cannas in containers as they need winter protection.
- Cut the lawn once a week and if the grass is weak or patchy apply a summer fertiliser just before rain is forecast, otherwise water it in. Clip the edges to add the finishing touch. Leave wide strips of grass unmown for butterfly and moth larvae habitat and as a wildlife corridor through the garden. Or mow just a path through the grass leaving the rest for wildflowers to grow.
- Prune a deciduous magnolia once it is in full leaf. Members of the prunus family such as plums and gauges must be pruned when

they are in leaf, otherwise there is a chance that they could suffer from silver leaf disease which is fatal.

- Deadhead faded roses to encourage further blooms. If you look carefully you will see the next flower bud in the leaf axil two leaves below. Cut off the flower stalk just above that leaf, which also removes the top leaf which fed the faded flower. Feed and water roses regularly for continued blooms.



- Thin out vegetable seedlings which have been sown in the ground.
- Delay trimming hedges where birds are nesting until August when the broods should have fledged.

JULY

- Early in the month try cutting back hardy geraniums for a second flush of leaves and flowers later in the summer.
- If you want large potatoes remember to water the plants. To improve the keeping quality of onions stop watering them after mid-summer and bend the tops over in hot weather before they start to bolt.
- Reduce the length of finished flowered stems of shrubs such as philadelphus, deutzia, kolkwitsia and weigela.
- Thoroughly irrigate your containers in dry weather before the compost dries out completely.
- You can stop feeding roses after the end of July.
- Take cuttings of penstemon, fuchsias and other softwood and semi-ripe plants now and they should produce sufficient roots to pot up and harden off before winter.
- Add thin layers of lawn cuttings alternated with prunings and vegetable waste to the compost heap, cover and water if it looks dry. Try not to disturb wildlife such as grass snakes or bank voles, which may be living or breeding in the warmth and safety of the heap.
- Enjoy the butterflies if you have planted enough of their favourite feeding plants to attract them into your garden.



AUGUST

- Trim deciduous hedges after the birds have finished nesting.
- Trim conifer hedges leaving a few centimetres of green leaf. If you cut back to brown stems the hedge is unlikely to recover.
- Prune wisteria's new long shoots back to 5 buds. Prune outdoor grape vines back to 2 mature leaves in front of the developing grapes. These provide the energy to swell the grapes.
- If weather is hot, irrigate to keep plants alive, even hedges and especially vegetables and any young trees. Feeding now is a waste of money unless you want to keep the summer planted containers and hanging baskets looking good until autumn.
- Clip over lavender bushes taking off the dead flowers complete with stems and the top few leaves leaving at least 5 cms of green growth to harden before winter.
- Mid to late August brings the start of autumn, so later in the month scarify the lawn to remove dead grass roots and moss, aerate it with your garden fork and brush some horticultural lawn sand into the holes to assist with drainage.
- Check the packet instructions for sowing winter vegetables now, this will give them a couple of months to establish before cold and short days.
- Retrain climbing roses now that the new stems from the base are flexible and to allow room for further growth until October. The stems will harden in cold weather.

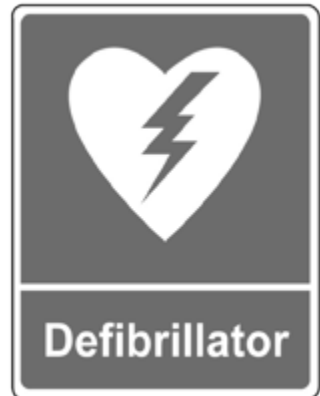
Susan Young

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