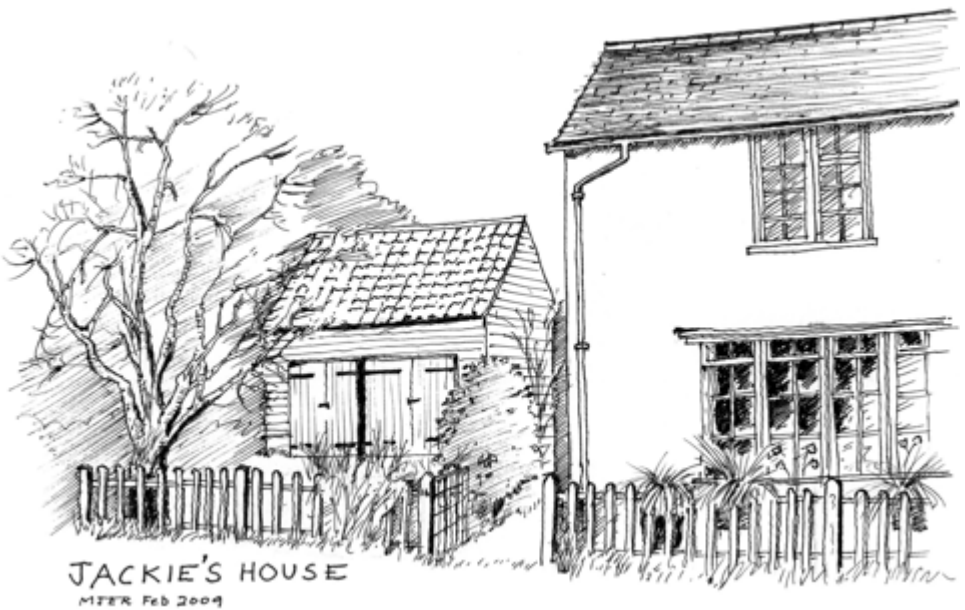


# STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



**SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**Number 202**

## VILLAGE DIARY

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am -12.00noon.
- 8 Live Theatre Broadcast. Much Ado About Nothing. Village Hall
- 8 Wl. Amazing Bedfordians. Church Room. 7.30pm (see p40)
- 10 Sponsored Bike 'n 'Hike. (see p33)
- 10 Bulky Waste Collection. Village Hall. 1.00–3.00pm. (see p16)
- 11 Patronal Day. St Mary's. 4.00pm
- 12 First EPWG Meeting. Yew Tree House Barn. 7.00pm (see p25)
- 18 Big Family Breakfast. Village Hall. 9.00am-12.00noon. (see p35)
- 18 Tea & Cake Fundraiser. Church Room. 12.00–2.00pm. (see p23)
- 24 Wavelength restarts. Church Room. 11.00am (see p37)
- 25 Harvest Celebration. St Mary's. 4.00pm
- 27 Live Opera Broadcast. Madam Butterfly. Village Hall
- 28 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm. (see p32)

### OCTOBER

- 1 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am -12.00noon.
- 5 Live Ballet Broadcast. Mayerling. Village Hall.
- 6 Live Theatre Broadcast. Jack Absolute Flies Again. Village Hall
- 6 Wl. Harvest Supper. Church Room (see p40)
- 12 Wl. Darts league Final.
- 12 Live Opera Broadcast. Aida. Village Hall
- 15 SEG. Battery Storage. Yew Tree House Barn. 3.00pm. (see p26)
- 20 Live Opera Broadcast. La Boheme. Village Hall
- 26 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm.
- 29 Poppy Appeal. The Cross. 10.00am–2.00pm.

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Live Theatre Broadcast. The Seagull. Village Hall
- 5 Poppy Appeal. The Cross. 10.00am–2.00pm.
- 5 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am -12.00noon.
- 5 Stevington Fireworks. Village Hall. 5.30 for 7.00pm.
- 10 Wl. Craft Evening. Church Room. 7.30pm (see p40)
- 12 Poppy Appeal. The Cross. 10.00am–2.00pm.
- 13 Remembrance Sunday
- 13 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 15 SEG. Land Management for Pollinators. Yew Tree House Barn. 7.00pm.
- 16 Live Ballet Broadcast. A Diamond Celebration. Village Hall.
- 19 Stevington Guitar Concert. (see p27)
- 23 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm.

### DECEMBER

- 3 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am -12.00noon.
- 8 Live Ballet Broadcast. Nutcracker. Village Hall.
- 17 Christmas Tree Festival. Baptist Chapel. 10.00am-3.00pm.

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Photographs as credited. Cover drawing by Mike Robinson

**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 Dine With Us Community Larder Bedford. See page 17 for further information.

Stevington Cinema Club is back to a full diary of live broadcasts. See page 51 for details of what is on in the coming months. If you haven't tried it yet why not give it a go? It's a great opportunity to see something that you wouldn't have even considered attending in London with the travel and costs involved.

There are several new groups starting up in the village so why not get involved – Parent & Toddlers (page 34), Traffic Action (page 20) and Environmental Planning Working Group (page 25)

Don't forget that 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 37.

I'm sure like us you are looking forward to a proper Stevington Firework Night on 5 November and also the usual village Christmas events. The next Magazine will be delivered the last weekend of November so make sure you let us have details of any Christmas events you are involved with.

Heather and Keith

**NEXT MAGAZINE**

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 26-27 November 2022. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 13 November 2022. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email [stevington.magazine@googlemail.com](mailto:stevington.magazine@googlemail.com)) on or before that day.

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Opinions expressed in the Stevington Magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the Editor. Some features may be kept for future issues.



## **JUNE HOMER 90TH BIRTHDAY**

Many thanks to all my friends and neighbours for the wonderful cards, presents, flowers and messages to mark my 90th birthday on 18 June.

Lots of you called in to my open house celebrations on the day. The arrangements were a complete surprise to me and made the day extra special. It was fabulous to see so many of you. Many fond memories have been made. Thank you all for your help to mark this special occasion.

I am looking forward to celebrating further milestones with you in the future. Please drop in to see me when you get a chance. Everyone is always welcome.

June Homer

## **MANY THANKS**

. . .for all the get well cards, encouraging messages, and offers of help to myself and Heather. All the community support is much appreciated.

I'm pleased to say that I am already well on the road to recovery and am already walking to the windmill and back.

Robert & Heather Eadie and family

## **THANK YOU TO THE ROYAL GEORGE**

We would like to send a big thank you to Gareth, Jane and the staff at the Royal George for providing a great venue and buffet for a surprise family party.

We can't thank them enough and highly recommend the George as a great venue that went out of its way to help us.

Gina and John Duffield

## **ANN DOWLING**

We would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and messages following the passing of Ryan's mum peacefully in her sleep on 9 May. Ann had been a resident in the village for five years and had thoroughly enjoyed being a part of village life, having lived most of her life in Kempston. Ann will be missed by all those who knew her. Thank you once again for your kindness as this most difficult time.

Ryan & Helen Dowling and family

## POPPY APPEAL

There will be a stall at the Cross (as last year)  
on three Saturdays between 10am and 2pm:

October 29th

November 5th

November 12th

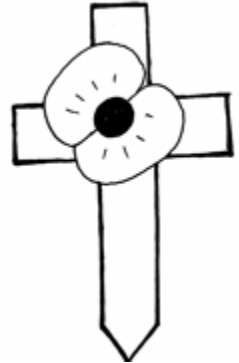
Remembrance Sunday is November 13th.

Please make a note of these dates on your  
calendar.

We do not have card facilities so if you wish to donate, please  
make sure you have cash.

There will also be boxes in the pubs and the community shop.

Joan Hart



## OPEN GARDEN - THANK YOU

Richard and Helen Dunster would like to thank everyone who supported their open garden and cream teas held in June in aid of the Red Cross Ukraine appeal, also those who were unable to attend but generously contributed to the cause making a total donation amounting to £644.



The weather was kind and it was lovely to see so many friends and  
villagers enjoying themselves.

Thank you.

Richard & Helen Dunster



**JOY LESLEY COMB (NEE WILDMAN)  
1953 - 2022**

Joy passed away on Thursday 9 June at the family home in Court Lane, surrounded by her loving family after a three-year battle with Ovarian Cancer.

Joy was a Stevington girl and was the eldest of four children to Barbara and Sam Wildman. Her mum Barbara was part of the Cowley family whose family ancestry stretches back many generations in Stevington.

From birth Joy lived with her parents above the Royal George PH before moving to 43, Park Road. She attended Stevington Village School passing the 11 Plus and going on to Dame Alice Girls High School in Bedford. On leaving school she joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Thurleigh as a Scientific Officer. When 18 years of age Joy became Miss Bedford for the day with a 'hot' picture appearing in the local press.

Joy was married in Stevington Church on 4 December 1976 to Geoff Comb with the reception in the Village Hall. They went on to have four children Julia, Jennifer, James and Robert. Having lived in Harrold, Milton Ernest and Oakley during their early married life the family returned to Stevington in March 1988 to Court Lane where they've remained ever since. Her grandparents, May and Jim Cowley, had lived in the next-door house which Joy frequently visited as a child.

As a child Joy spent many happy hours watching her dad Sam play cricket and football for Stevington and on return to the village she continued as a keen supporter watching Geoff and then her sons turn out for the village side. She could often be found sitting alongside Sylvia Beesley the scorer or making the cricket teas with Jill King.

Joy took up tap dancing, attending classes at the Church Room for many years, even giving performances at the Village Hall on occasion.

Once the children had all started school, Joy set out on a second career as a Community Carer working on the Home from Hospital team for the NHS. A role she undertook for 28 years before her retirement in March 2019.

Joy is survived by Geoff, her husband, her four children and ten grandchildren who she was devoted to.

One of Joy's final wishes was to have a memorial bench placed at the top of the playing field with views over of the village and Windmill for the benefit of all parishioners. I am grateful for the endorsement of both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee who have approved this initiative. The bench has been ordered and hopefully will be in position by the end of September for everyone to enjoy. The family are meeting all costs in memory of Joy who loved Stevington and was a true 'Spike Islander.'

The family would like to thank all those villagers who have sent cards, messages of condolence and those who attended Joy's funeral, they are extremely grateful for the support they have received.

Geoff Comb QPM

### **STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB BILL HARRIS**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death on 4 August of our chairman Bill Harris.

Bill was the last of our 'original' members, he was at the inaugural meeting on 9 April 1990 and has been a wonderful member ever since - his last visit was on 30 May 2022. We had felt that he had been below par for some weeks although he always claimed to be 'OK'.

Bill became club chairman in 2011 after the sad loss of Mick Haggerwood. Like Mick, he had won every competition multiple times, was a very good bowler and also a fine instructor. He could always be relied on to turn out for competitions and had played for the county.

We will, of course, need to appoint a new chairman. Who will be able to step into those shoes?

At the time of writing we do not know the date of his funeral but as many of us as possible will be attending.

Goodbye old friend - we will truly miss you.

Barbara Collins



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**10 Bedford Road, Stagsden**

## **STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Councillors:**

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



Clerk to the Parish Council: Kevin Papworth

A reminder: Have you signed up to receive the weekly newsletter about the work of the Parish Council which is sent out on Wednesday mornings? Go to <https://stevington-pc.gov.uk/> where you can find out more about what we do and you can see minutes of meetings and other significant documents.

### **New Councillor**

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Mo Botha, a resident of Court Lane, to the Parish Council. He has a young family and is interested in how the Parish Council communicates with and involves villagers in its work. He is ensuring the weekly playground checks are carried out.

### **New Clerk**

Welcome to Kevin Papworth, a resident of Church Road, who has been appointed as the new clerk to the Parish Council. He is currently working alongside Tricia Lennie, our outgoing clerk to ensure he is fully briefed about the work and remit of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tricia for all her work over the past 6 years and wish her well. She has done an excellent job in supporting councillors in carrying out their work with due care and diligence.

### **Planning**

All planning applications continue to be considered on their merit and a response is provided on behalf of the village by the Parish Council, usually three working days prior to the end of the advertised consultation period. Although Stevington Parish Council is only an advisory participant in the process, if you have comments you would like considered for

inclusion in any response then please do let us know by contacting the parish clerk at [clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk).

### Dane Hill Farm/Stevington Riding Club Appeal

(APP/K0235/W/21/3268247)

The Planning Inspectorate has scheduled the next phase of the appeal for 23 November 2022. Bedford Borough Council has confirmed the hearing is currently planned to be held in the Council Chambers at Bedford Borough Hall, Cauldwell St, Bedford MK42 9AP with the times to be confirmed. Bedford Borough Council will contact interested parties approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the meeting with additional information. Further response to the appeal will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting (28 September) and residents will be kept up to date with any developments. Please also check the Parish Council website (<https://stevington-pc.gov.uk/>) for links and further details.

### **Stevington Windmill**

Bedford Borough Council's annual maintenance plan for the mill has been implemented and discussions with the Friends Group to formalise an inspection rota are ongoing. Minor damage to the upper double doors has been repaired; access, unfortunately remains restricted. Stevington Parish Council continues to work closely with Bedford Borough Council to find a suitable solution to restore public access to the mill once again.

### **Highways and Footpaths**

The long-awaited 20mph speed limit and 7.5 tonne weight limit, the latter for part of Silver Street, have been recently installed by Bedford Borough Council. After waiting many years for these schemes, the Parish Council welcomes their introduction as they are intended to further improve local road safety.

Residents ought to be aware, however, the schemes do not at present fully align with the Parish Council's preferred options which were formally conveyed to the Borough Council but we have secured a commitment that after a 12-month period from installation, the schemes will be assessed for effectiveness with a subsequent opportunity for further improvement.

In addition to these schemes, the 30mph and 40mph speed limits are to be extended at West End and the Parish Council is also taking delivery of a mobile speed indicator device that will be pole-mounted at various sites around the village, displaying LED vehicle speed to drivers as well as gathering broader speed related data. It is hoped that

gathering this data will help to inform any further plans for managing road safety.

There is also keen interest by a number of residents in forming a Safe Roads Group for the village that could potentially engage in activities such as community speed watch, in partnership with Bedfordshire Police. If you would be interested in being part of this group please contact the clerk. Please send to the clerk brief details of any road safety incidents for inclusion in the Council's incident log. (See page 20 also).

Recently there have been a number of road closures and diversions around us. The Parish Council is usually given notice of these and responds as quickly as possible if it is thought the proposed diversion will have a negative impact on the village and should be changed.

### **Village Hall and Playground**

Repairs have recently been completed to the playground. Further work is needed on the boarding surrounding the multi play frame but the Parish Council is aware that we will need to start planning to replace the equipment in the long term.

### **Memorial Bench**

The Parish Council would like to thank Geoff Comb for his proposal to install a bench at the top of the playing field in memory of his wife Joy. It was her idea to have a bench to sit and enjoy the view and will be a fitting tribute to a lifelong village resident.

### **Stevington Environmental Group**

At the Extraordinary Parish Meeting on 8 June, following a residents survey councillors agreed to support a formally constituted environment planning working group. The main objective of the working group is to produce an environmental manifesto and advise the Council on future environmental policy given the changing climate and its potential impact on us all. There is more information about the work of Stevington Environmental Group on page 24 of the magazine.

### **Consultations**

The Parish Council has been consulted on a number of topics in the last quarter and has provided feedback on the following:

- Ravensden Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040
- Bedford Borough Council extra powers to enforce moving traffic consultation (support)

- East/West Rail local authorities consultation group (ongoing membership, updates are provided at Parish Council meetings and minutes)

### Defibrillator Training

We were disappointed that the defibrillator awareness session on 6 August was cancelled. We were informed that unfortunately the trainer had an unexpected family emergency, and a replacement could not be found in time. We know how important it is for people to feel confident in accessing and using our three defibrillators in an emergency, so we are currently arranging another session in September or October. Once a date has been confirmed we will publicise it throughout the village.



*Children at cross photo courtesy of Roger Day  
Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly*

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thanks to everyone who was involved in organising and came along to the Jubilee events. As we hoped it was an opportunity for village residents to get together including the new residents who have moved here during the pandemic.

There is a record of photos taken at the different events over the weekend at <https://stevington.org.uk/>

Janet Day

Stevington Parish Council.

Email: [clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.stevington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stevington-pc.gov.uk)

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

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

The defibrillators are located in:

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



## **BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS**

### **Traffic Management**

I am delighted that the initial stages of improving the traffic management in Stevington has started. You will have seen the creation of the 7.5 tonne limit for lorries in Silver Street is now in place. The SatNav world will be implementing this at their next update. The second stage was to implement a 20mph area around the Cross on part of Park Road and Court Lane, and along the built-up areas of Silver Street and Church Road.

The next will be the extension to the 30mph and 40mph at the far end of West End. It is very positive that so many of you have made representation to me, the Borough and the Parish Council about your interest in making further areas into 20mph area, implementing speed warning cameras and ultimately speed cameras. We will be putting in speed warning cameras this autumn.

The next stage is to monitor the effect of these new measures and collect evidence of speeds and other traffic issues before reviewing and then implementing further stages. I understand a Speed Watch Initiative Group is being started in the village with the approval of the Parish Council. Please continue to support the evidence collecting and the reviews as they come along so that we can continue to put in further measures to helping to improve the traffic measures in Stevington.

### **Bedford Borough Parks Retain Prestigious Green Flag Awards**

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Addison Howard Park, Bedford Park, Harrold-Odell Country Park and Priory Country Park have all yet again been included in this year's winners list. This is alongside the retention of the Green Flag Community Awards for Hill Rise Local Nature Reserve, Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood, all managed through our wonderful volunteer groups, the Friends of Hill Rise and the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort respectively.

For Harrold Odell Country Park, this is the fifteenth year in a row that it has received the award, whilst Priory Country Park is celebrating its twenty-first award by receiving its highest score to date which is a testament to the quality of the park and those responsible for maintaining it.

Over the last year, both Priory Country Park and Bedford Park have benefitted from significant improvement projects. For Priory Country Park this has been through the introduction of new all-weather footpaths around the lake, and the installation of a new outdoor gym area. Whilst the large playground at the east of Bedford Park is currently having a sprinkling of fairy dust with its fairy-tale themed refurbishment.

If you would be interested in volunteering in one of the Council's parks and green spaces, please visit [www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering) or sign up to the Community Volunteering email bulletin at [www.bedford.gov.uk/stayconnected](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/stayconnected).

### **Northern Gateway Scheme**

The scheme is now complete and appears to be making a positive impact on traffic flows, with the right-hand filter into Sainsburys from Paula Radcliffe Way significantly reducing queues around the Manton Lane roundabout. The traffic lights are currently switched on permanently. Their effect on traffic flows is being monitored to see the impact this causes. This data will be reviewed after six months of operation and a decision on switching to part time operation will be taken.

The lane markings on the approach roads are also being monitored to see if modification may be required.

### **Disruption to Bus Services**

The Borough is aware of the significant recent disruption to the No. 25 service when road closures were put in place between Oakley and Stevington. They do liaise with the bus operator and the organisation who has requested the closure to try and provide an alternative provision. Unfortunately the recent emergency full closures did not allow time to try and provide a substitution or diverted service.

Where upcoming works are planned, the Borough transport team do try and provide an alternative means of public transport.

### **Are you registered to vote?**

The Annual Canvass of households to update the electoral register is now live. Each year the Borough Council have to, by law, find out who is eligible to register to vote.

Communications (via email, letter or form) were sent, in stages, to all residential properties in Bedford Borough from 21 July 2022. You can respond by internet or by phone. If these options are not accessible to you the response can be posted back. If you have received a form

please do not return it if you have responded using one of the digital methods as we only need one response.

As required by the Government, if you do not respond they will be required to send you another communication to remind you that you need to respond and this may also involve a personal visit to your property to obtain a response.

If you have recently moved address, it is important you look out for your communication and check whether you are registered at your new address.

Every year the Council check the electoral register to make sure that any resident who is eligible to vote can do so. Follow the steps you've been sent so you can have your say in future elections.

Councillor Jon Abbott

Telephone 07784 549180

Email [jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com](mailto:jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com)

**BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE  
STEVINGTON**

**SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Please Take Your Domestic Waste to the Following Location:

**PLAYING FIELDS 1.00PM UNTIL 3.00PM**

Times Are Approximate to Allow for Travel between Sites

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



# 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 if cash or cheque (made payable to Stevington Magazine) and pop it through our door before 13 November. **Donation by bank transfer preferred**, to Sort Code: 40-26-32, Account: 21309749, Acc Name: Stevington Magazine, and please put your name as the reference (banking cheques now costs us money). All donations go to charity - we support a different one each year. This year's donation will be made to **Dine With Us Community Larder Bedford**.

The charity started in October 2015 feeding the homeless, rootless and hard up. They collect food from supermarkets and other places which would otherwise go to landfill and use the food and their funds to help provide cheap and often free food for those in need in Bedford. Every Saturday afternoon they provide a homecooked meal to those who need it – a hot hearty meal, with veggie option and a pud. They also provide hot drinks, cakes, crisps, baguettes, fruit and veg and when donated clothes, tents, duvets, sleeping bags and toiletries. The Social Supermarket on Tuesdays and Thursdays sells very cheap food or gives it away. Funds will be used to help this work continue by covering some of the outgoings such as rent, water and electricity.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Message (include any name to appear in greeting): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Or same message as last year

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## **TRAFFIC ACTION: GET INVOLVED!!!**

Traffic management in Stevington has been a long-standing problem. Various Parish Councillors and individual residents have long advocated speed reductions at various points in the village and have been frustrated with slow progress over the years.

Accidents, near misses, damaged vehicles and interpersonal conflicts are all part of the history. This year, a village-wide traffic action group has been set up to work closely and collaboratively with Stevington Parish Council, local Councillors, and various organisations. The objective is to make Stevington a safer village.

So far, the response has been encouraging, with the vast majority of residents contacted already in favour of such a group, and only a handful of people opposed.

A number of initiatives have already started: evidence reporting has tightened up; a Speed Watch Initiative is under discussion with Bedfordshire Police, and liaison meetings have been held with our local Councillor, Jon Abbott. In the next few weeks, a public meeting will be held to agree terms of reference, formalise steering group membership, and to establish a strategy around agreed objectives and the clarification of important issues for residents.

The five areas of West End, Silver Street, Church Road, Central Stevington, and Park End are all intended to be represented. A number of interest groups have already emerged; walkers and pedestrians, runners and joggers, cyclists, equestrian riders, families with children, and motorised users.

The focus is to concentrate upon engagement, education, enforcement, and engineering aspects (signage, pavements, kerb ways and resurfacing).

Strategically, issues would fall into four main time frames: immediate (now), short-term (0-6 months), medium term (6-24 months), and long term (over 24 months).

From some initial informal discussions with residents it is apparent that many are concerned that existing speed limits are being flouted, and that many parents fear for the safety of their children in village streets which are essentially residential in nature.

The problem of speeding vehicles in villages has been of concern in the UK for over 30 years and Stevington has been no exception. How

we address this problem should be tackled strategically with the interests of residents foremost in our consideration. Although it is government policy that a 30mph speed limit should be the norm in villages, the Department for Transport suggest it might be appropriate to consider 20mph limits in village streets under certain circumstances. Stevington has its 'hot-spots' with narrow streets, and the absence of pavements contributing to higher risks.

Residents are now more aware of the importance of reporting the history of collisions and near misses, and the occurrence of inappropriate speeds or behaviour.

Speed limit changes cannot fully address the issues on their own. Awareness, liaison, and a focussed community campaign can go some way to making Stevington a little safer. However, where pedestrian and cyclist movements are high, there is an acknowledged argument for reducing down speed limits below the government norm. Fear of traffic has a detrimental effect on people's quality of life in villages, and concerns should be taken into account if local Borough consultations are to be meaningful. Local knowledge and views of the community are essential.

We intend to examine best practice and will consider a wide body of evidence where vehicles and vulnerable users mix. There is increased evidence to show that the impact of slower speeds is effective in reducing accidents, injuries, environmental effects and health inequalities. The harsh reality is that people are seven times more likely to die if hit by a vehicle at 30mph than at 20mph. Should we really take that risk for the sake of saving a few minutes driving time or for implementing an outmoded policy? Road injuries are foreseeable and preventable, but we need strategic planning to complement residents' concerns and views of their communities.

There is a groundswell of motivations which are demanding slower speed limits, not just in this country, but in many European cities, towns and villages. A combination of transport-related factors such as casualty reduction, reducing rat-runs, and community concerns about speed, safety and the quality of the environment, have all created a wide range of policy areas which are comparatively low cost and high reward. The United Nation's "Stockholm Declaration" (2020) has demanded a 20mph limit where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix, for safety, air quality and environmental action. Many UK cities and towns have also recognised that lowering default speeds not only reduces accidents and saves

lives, but helps to improve the quality of life, making streets and communities a safer and more welcoming place for pedestrians, runners, cyclists and horse-riders.

It is important to embed road safety into our community. Larger delivery vehicles are coming into Stevington more than ever before. Some have difficulty passing each other at certain pinch-points in the village. Vehicle are getting quieter and often catch other users unawares.

Residents shouldn't feel anxious on the streets of our village or be worried about vulnerable people.

Get involved and join our campaign for a "safe Stevington."

You can be an interested member-supporter, or you can be an active steering group representative for your part of the village. Either way, you will be most welcome.

Join up by emailing your full contact details to: [geofflawday95@gmail.com](mailto:geofflawday95@gmail.com)

Until the action group is up and running please report any incidents to me and/or the Parish Council via Richard Taylor or the Clerk.

Geoff Lawday

## **STEVINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP**

**Remember,**  
the shop is open in the Church Room.

Mon - Fri. 10am - 12noon, 3pm - 5pm

Sat. 10am - 12noon

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

Payments by card or cash.





*Sarah Spencer (Rock) invites you  
to come for a cuppa and some  
cake!*

*Sunday 18th September  
12-2pm  
Stevington Community Shop*

# Stevington Tea and Cake Fundraiser

I will be running the London  
Marathon on Sunday 2nd  
October.

Please come along and  
support a great cause.



All proceeds to JDRF - a charity focussed on  
preventing, curing and treating Type One  
Diabetes.

# STEVINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

## Future of Stevington Environment

### Feedback From Residents Survey

Thank you to those of you who responded to our recent environmental survey. The highest levels of concern were related to the river, biodiversity and land use. After our recent very hot weather, perhaps the results would have been different for extreme weather events?



Environmental Topic	Increasing level of Concern from 1 to 4					
	1	2	3	4	Ave	Rank
	number of replies					
<b>River:</b> water quality, access, wildlife	2	3	7	17	3.3	1
<b>Increasing biodiversity:</b> managing hedges, trees, green spaces, footpaths, gardens	1	6	5	17	3.3	2
<b>Land management for nature:</b> mowing, pollination, wildlife corridors	2	2	10	15	3.3	2
<b>Reducing energy use:</b> heating, insulation, home electrification, EV charging	1	4	12	11	3.2	3
<b>Reducing carbon footprint:</b> local food, less meat, renewable energy, petrol to EV	1	6	9	13	3.2	4
<b>Preparing for extreme weather events:</b> drought, cloudburst, heat & humidity, storms	5	3	10	11	2.9	5
<b>Reducing pollution:</b> Air quality, noise, light	5	8	7	9	2.7	6

These results were discussed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Parish Council on 8 June and the discussion led to many practical suggestions from residents. SPC councillors proposed and agreed to set up an a formally constituted Environment Planning Working Group (EPWG) of the Parish Council. The overall objective of the EPWG is to draft an ‘environmental manifesto’ to provide high level guidance as well as inform future Parish Council policy making on environmental issues considered important to the community. Topics are likely to include farming and land management, energy reduction, flora and fauna, pollution, climate refuge creation, heat and drought resilience, flood resilience, carbon reduction etc. The final manifesto content will be agreed by the EPWG committee and published on the Parish Council web site prior to being taken to the Parish Council for discussion and agreement.



## New Environment Planning Working Group

The EPWG will take the form of a small focus group of around 6 to 10 invited members who will draft the environment manifesto. Membership of the working group will be open to any resident of the village or persons not resident in the village who farm or own land in the parish. Young people will also be very welcome and invited to provide input. If you would like to join the working group please email me at seg@btinternet.com. We will hold the first meeting of the EPWG at Yew Tree House Barn at 7pm on 12 September.

## **Recent SEG Activities**

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Three trees and a commemoration plaque were dedicated on 2 June as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting event. Our thanks go to Jacky Gooding who posed for the ceremonial planting and to Roger Day for taking the photos.



### Green Canopy Nature Walk

On 4 June, SEG in conjunction with Friends of St Mary's, organised a nature walk with Pat Knight for village children. This was very well received by the children and parents who took part. Our thanks go to John Duffield who arranged the event and to Pat who led the walk.

### Stevington Goes Wild

On 15 and 16 July we had a fantastic weekend full of activity focusing on our ecology and environment (see Stevington Goes Wild article). Big thanks to Jane O'Connor for organising the event, to Will O'Connor for a great talk and excellent demonstration and to all those who helped to make it such a good event.

## **SEG Talks**

The latest talk was given by John Chalmers on "Installing air source heat pumps" in Yew Tree Barn. This gave us interesting insights into how house conditions can affect the effectiveness of heat pumps as well as how communities can come together to create communal heat pumping systems.

## **Future SEG Open Talks**

SEG is continuing to hold talks from specialists in different fields related to energy or ecology.

### Saturday October 15 at 3pm

Norman Crighton, Chairman of Harmony Energy Investment Trust, will come to talk about 'Battery storage for renewable energy'.

### Tuesday 15 November at 7pm

Tim Stanbridge will talk about his environmental plans for habitat creation and management for pollinators on his land in Stevington.

Both talks will be held in Yew Tree House Barn (opposite the Red Lion) and we plan to offer Zoom links for those unable to attend in person, please contact [seg@btinternet.com](mailto:seg@btinternet.com) for more details.

All are welcome so please hold these dates in your diary and come along to listen and ask questions.

John Strutt

## **WARNING OVER BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS**



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough Council has issued a warning to residents and visitors over growing concerns about blue-green algae blooms that are appearing on areas of the Borough's lakes and watercourses.

Blue-green algae naturally occur on inland waters and in the sea. It plays an important role in freshwater and marine biodiversity but excessive amounts can result in the forming of blooms. The blooms produces toxins, which can kill wild animals, farm livestock and domestic pets, alongside the potential to cause skin rashes and illness if swallowed by humans. Blooms can also have a negative effect on the appearance, quality and use of the water, as well as producing an unpleasant odour.

Be sure to avoid any blue-green algae that you come across and ensure any children and pets are supervised at all times while near any lakes or rivers in the Borough.

If you notice a build-up of blue-green algae blooms on the surface of the water, you should report it to the Environment Agency's incidents hotline by calling 0800 80 70 60.

# Stevington Guitar Concerts

**NEXT GIG**

## **Tim Edey**

plus support

**Saturday 19 November**



### **Proceeds to Pancreatic Cancer Research**

We are delighted to welcome Tim back to Stevington for an evening of high-octane music. You never know what's coming next when Tim plays but it will be an evening you will never forget.

Tim has won the BBC Folk Musician of the year twice, firstly as best soloist and in 2020 as part of the best duo. His live shows are a stunning mix of world music and inspired instrumental virtuosity.

Tickets will go on sale at 8.00am on Thursday 1 September.

**John Duffield**

*Photo Rob MacDougall*



## **STEVEINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

*stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk*

It is encouraging to see an increase in the use of the hall and playing field, the latter helped by the exceptional summer weather. As everywhere else, the grass is suffering from lack of water and cracks in the ground have limited sports use. We are saddened that Stevington Football Club is no longer viable due to significant increases in officials' costs (see Shane King's article in the June 2022 Magazine). We are, however, very grateful to Gareth, Shane and Daz for continuing to maintain and mark the pitch for other local teams which hire the facilities.

Maintenance of the hall is a never-ending task. Many thanks to the band of volunteers who give their time for free: the leaking guttering has been replaced with more substantial guttering, a new noticeboard has been mounted outside the hall entrance and other general upkeep has been completed. The big news for those who come to cinema performances or guitar concerts is that new chairs have been ordered, with delivery scheduled later this month. With a full programme of live streamings and films planned after the summer, we hope you will enjoy these in much greater comfort.



The hall is increasingly busy with private hires; we are appreciative of the effort and organisation of our Booking Manager in coordinating these. If you wish to book the hall, please see information below.

The Big Lunch held at the hall as part of the Jubilee weekend celebrations was a great success, despite the weather. The hall was packed with villagers, families and

*Photo courtesy of Heather Eadie*

friends enjoying their indoor picnic, refreshments from the bar, hot drinks and snacks and our delicious ice cream.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES** - put the dates in your diary!

### **Big Family Breakfast**

Sunday 18 September, from 9.00am.

- Come along and enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast, tea, coffee, orange juice etc., in the company of friends, neighbours and family. There will be activities for children.
- £7.50 per head, families £20.00
- Tickets available at [stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk) or from Barbara Collins, 15 Court Lane, or call 01234 822296.

### **Fireworks Night**

Saturday, 5 November, gates open 5.30pm, fireworks at 7.00pm.

**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](mailto:jnbutcher72@gmail.com).
- **Stevington Cinema** has 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](http://stevingtoncinemaclub.uk) or keep an eye on the village hall website and posters on the Cross.

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](mailto: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.

Linda Penney  
Stevington Village Hall

## 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)



## THE ROYAL GEORGE

It's a few months since we took over the day to day running of The Royal George. It's been lovely to see so many friends both new and old visiting the pub. The pub has been subject to a makeover and we can now offer a quiet private meeting room / dining room area.

The Royal George will be offering a traditional food menu every Thursday 12noon to 2.30pm and Friday 5pm to 8.30pm. The full menu will be published weekly on our Facebook page and notice boards. We are pleased to announce new brands of both real ales and lagers.

Congratulations to The Royal George darts team for winning back-to-back league championships.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the works carried out at the pub especially Rogan Geary, Dave Walker, Richard Blaney and our staff Tegan Surtess, Owen Crook, Lottie Jackson and Amy Bentham and all the family and friends for their hard work over the last few months.

We intend to recommence the live music events and quiz nights which will be advertised in the near future.

Many thanks for your on-going support.

Gareth and Jane King  
07810 868738  
[garethking542@aol.com](mailto:garethking542@aol.com)

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**W&H PEACOCK**  
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

## The Cafe at W&H Peacock is **OPEN**

View the salerooms for our upcoming auctions and then relax with a coffee and a slice of cake.

Our unique cafe in Bedford Auction Centre with free wi-fi comfortably seats over 100 customers. We serve cooked breakfasts, paninis and sandwiches, light lunches and snacks plus a range of hot and cold drinks.



# Stevington Baptist Church



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

Every Sunday at 10am - **Morning Worship**

## Wednesdays – **Afternoon Teas**

Join us for our afternoon tea on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The next one is on Wednesday 28 September at 3pm. Come along and make new friends and try the quiz.

## **Baptist Church Hall, MK43 7QU**

An ideal venue for meetings or family parties. £30 a day, or hourly rates. Special rates for community events.

For details, call Carol Wareing: 825661

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





# Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

- **This Year's Bike 'N Hike Will Be on Saturday 10 September from 9am to 5pm**
- St Mary's Church will be open throughout this period and refreshments will be available.
- A register of visitors will be kept, toilets will be available
- Helpers will man the church and sponsor forms will be available for their use.

## Entry Forms

- **Sponsorship forms for those taking an active part are available as a pack from Bob Hart at email [roberthart234@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthart234@btinternet.com) or 01234 823769.**
- The purpose of the event is to raise income (50%) for direct banking to St Mary's PCC - the remainder being used by the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust for maintenance of member churches within the two counties of Beds and Herts.

**Sponsored**  
***Bike 'n Hike***



## PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Following an absence of several decades, a Parent and Toddler group has been re-established at the Community Hub (the Church Room).

With the recent arrival of several young families in the village the need for parents to meet and toddlers to play needed addressing.

Parents and toddlers meet on alternate Tuesdays and Fridays from 09.30 to 11.30am.

No need to book, just turn up , have a cuppa, chat and play!

It has run successfully for the past month and villagers have kindly donated toys and furniture for the group. Early feedback has been excellent and we urge parents and toddlers to meet and play in a relaxed atmosphere at the Community Hub.

Anastasia Gunasekara has created a parent and toddler WhatsApp group to keep you posted.

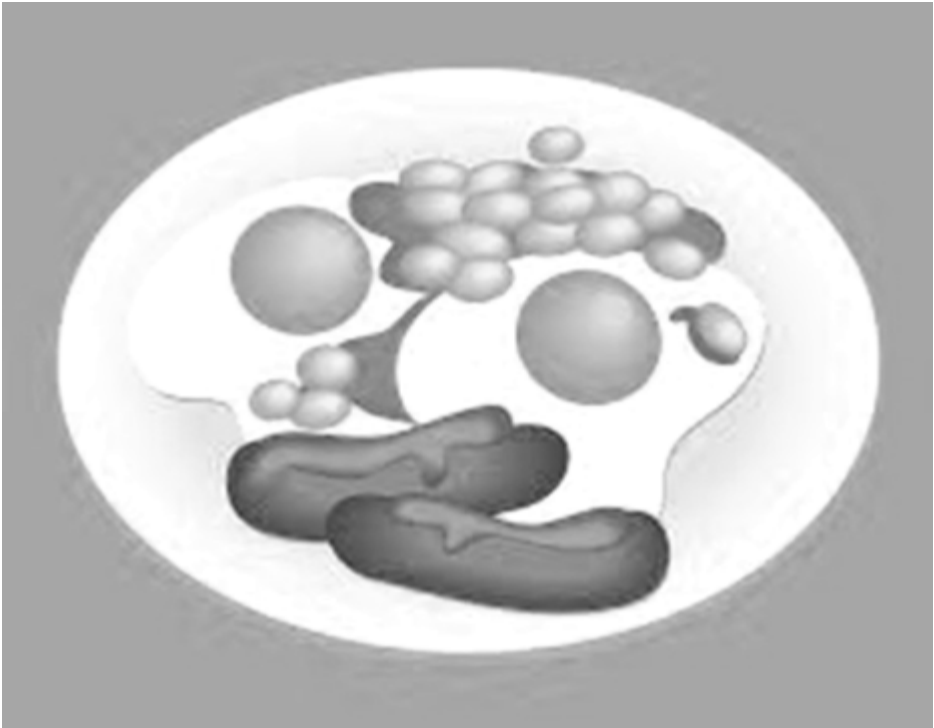
Please contact Anastasia on [anagunasekara@gmail.com](mailto:anagunasekara@gmail.com) for more information.

The shop remains open for business as usual!

### DATES

<b>Month</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
September	9, 23	13, 27
October	7, 21	11, 25
November	4, 18	8, 22





# **Stevington Big Breakfast**

**Sunday, 18th September  
Village Hall, 9.00-12.00**

**Tickets: £7.50 or £20 per family.**

**Tickets in advance available at  
[stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk) or from Barbara  
Collins, 15 Court Lane, tel:01234 822296**



## BEDFORD SAILING CLUB SCORCHER!

The recent hot weather has seen members (and guests) out in great numbers, happily sharing club equipment and generally having a great time! The paddle boards are proving to be so popular that the club is considering investing in more. The hot conditions also meant that many went swimming.

Established as a sailing club in Stevington since 1954, sailing activity has declined since its heyday in the 80's and 90's as sailors moved to more suitable open waters such as Stewartby which became available nearby. Also, the growth of trees along the riverbank had made sailing conditions in Stevington less than ideal.

In an effort to rekindle sailing we have just acquired a new 'PACER' sailing boat more suited to our local conditions and we would invite members to come and give sailing a go! Please contact us for a free taster session. We are much indebted to Richard and Gill Flint for their efforts to find and secure the boat.

The club has had to impose a permanent ban on disposable BBQs for environmental and safety reasons and during extreme hot weather the club's large BBQ and campfire are not in use to prevent potential fire damage to nearby crops and woods.



There is a selection of club equipment for sailing, canoeing, paddle boarding, rowing and kayaking or use our dinghy with electric outboard motor to explore the river Great Ouse. We are again offering our popular FREE TASTER sessions for all of these craft.



Alternatively, just relax with a cuppa by our idyllic riverside facilities.

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](mailto:daveabrear@aol.com) or Hugo on [hugovankempen0@gmail.com](mailto:hugovankempen0@gmail.com).

Happy paddling!

Hugo van Kempen

*Photos courtesy of Sailing Club*



WaveLength

**Stevington**

Stevington Wavelength explores all things connected with online communication, accessing services and keeping in touch.

Our monthly meetings on the last Saturday of the month are relaxed, welcoming and informal.

If you are thinking about using the internet for the first time or are experiencing difficulties using your smartphone, tablet or PC we will try to help.

Wavelength will restart after our summer break on Saturday 24 September at 11.00am at the Church Room.

John Duffield

## STEVINGTON GOES WILD!

The weekend of 15 and 16 July proved the point that we can be a really wild bunch in Stevington! It was a weekend full of activity focusing on our environment and its importance to ourselves as individuals and to our community.



The weekend kicked off with a Bat Prowl led by Will O'Connor (batman and ecologist) talking about bats with a great audience of adults and youngsters who were particularly impressive with their articulate and knowledgeable responses. The hot dogs weren't bad either!

At dusk we were able to walk down to the church to investigate the bats' activities with ultrasonic bat detectors and infrared cameras. Will was able to help us identify different bats by their different sound patterns and the younger children were particularly pleased with the chance to investigate the

darkened church with torches and detectors and look at the bats through the cameras.

A moth box was set up overnight in the churchyard and even though it was an early Saturday morning start, intrepid ecologists of all ages who came were amazed at the range and number of moths found. It was good fun trying to identify the moths which were then released.

It was sunshine all the way for a leisurely Saturday afternoon and it was so cheering to see the number of families and people of all ages



relaxing in the churchyard, enjoying the social occasion of afternoon tea and ice creams while being able to get up close to a wonderful display of owls, talk with specialists from the Wildlife Trust, SEG and GOVET, plant seeds, do art activities and make bug hotels. It was delightful to see children, parents and grandparents sitting under the shade of the yew trees while listening to a wonderful story.



The weekend would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers who gave their time in helping on the day and making cakes - in true Stevington spirit. Thanks too to St Mary's, SEG and YES for all their support. The weekend would not have been possible without the support of Bats in Churches and Natural England. Thanks too to all who came and supported the events. Overall an excellent weekend!

Don't forget to look out for forthcoming events.

Jane O'Connor

*Photos courtesy of Jane O'Connor*

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



During the days celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June our members took part in the various arranged activities. We decorated the Cross with plants and bunting and attended the lighting of the Beacon on Thursday evening. On Saturday 4 June we, along with Friends of St. Mary's, served refreshments in the Church Room for those visiting Kathy Brown's garden. Donations from this were for the renovation of the Church Room. On Sunday members took their picnic lunches to the playing field but due to inclement weather this had to be held in the Village Hall. A thoroughly enjoyable four days of celebration.

Our speaker due in June unfortunately badly sprained her arm and was unable to come. Ian Stimson stepped in at the last minute and provided an interesting talk on how he, and his friends, had founded an orphanage and special needs school in Kenya. A donation was given.

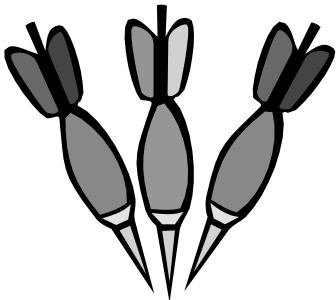
Once again in July we held our annual BBQ in my garden and the weather was good although a little cool as the evening progressed. Learning from experience we were well prepared with sweaters, fleeces etc. It was a very pleasant evening - 17 members were present.

As usual we took a break in August but return in September, meeting at the Church Room.

We provided lunches to two walking groups in June and August.

Our local walks still continue (although not quite as often in that very hot weather).

Membership of our book club has increased to eight and as we meet in our homes this seems acceptable for the time being.



Darts - We now have only two more matches to play this season. As the number of teams taking part have fallen somewhat we are all invited to the final at Stewartby on 12 October. We must thank Gareth at The Royal George for providing the refreshments at our home matches for the away teams and ourselves. They have been greatly appreciated.

Diary dates for the next 3 months:

Thurs 8 Sept	Amazing Bedfordians	Paul Nicholson
Thurs 6 Oct	Harvest Supper	<b>(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)</b>
Weds 12 Oct	Final of darts league	
Thurs 10 Nov	Craft evening.	

We welcome visitors to our meeting which commences at 7.30pm.

Marilyn Billett

*PS The members would like to thank Marilyn for hosting our annual BBQ in her beautiful garden and to thank Geoff for cooking the BBQ for us! We all had a wonderful evening.*



## GREEN TIPS

### New Tree

Could you fit in another bush or tree in your garden? They provide important habitat and food for birds and insects, as well as helping to soak up carbon. Choosing one with flowers for insects and berries for birds will be best of all. If you buy a bush or tree in a pot ask if it is in peat-free compost to help push garden centres towards less destructive alternatives.

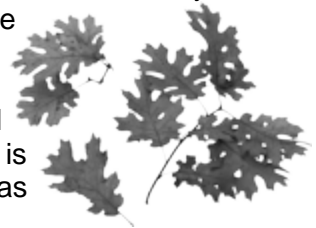


### Garden Tools

Hand tools win over power tools for lower CO2 emissions, less noise for neighbours, and increased fitness for the user. Petrol driven garden tools were described by Gardeners' World as being as bad for your health as standing behind an idling car.

### Autumn Leaves

Leaves will be falling before our December magazine arrives. They are the new black gold: free, easy to find and the very best soil improver. Use a rake, not a leaf blower, to collect them - leaf blowers have the problems of other power tools, and kill insects living in the leaves. Collect leaves not just from your garden but from nearby paths where they are not wanted. A dustbin bag with a few holes in will contain them as they rot down. Otherwise just pile them in a shady corner till they turn into dark crumbly leaf mould. This is ideal for seedlings or potting compost or use it as a mulch.



### Wider Influence

Personal action by us all is essential to help restore our environment and wildlife - but larger scale action by government and companies is also needed. Get informed through the campaigns pages of the RSPB, Wildlife Trust or similar charity websites, and find out what you can do to help influence change.

Jacky Gooding  
Stevington Environment Group

  
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THE  
**RED LION**  
STEVINGTON



## **STYLISH EVENT SPACE**

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EVERY MONTH four 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](mailto:hugovankempen0@gmail.com) or on 01234 824894 for membership details.

These are the most recent lucky winners:

**Jun** £100 № 97 Anne Westbrook  
£50 № 19 William Spencer  
£25 № 76 Terry Indge  
£15 № 85 Anna Hart

**Jul** £100 № 17 Ged Puckett  
£50 № 21 Hillary O'Dell  
£25 № 50 Dave Walker  
£15 № 100 Sally Cox

**Aug** £100 № 98 Roger Pheasant  
£50 № 32 Dickie Sear  
£25 № 86 Steve Cowley  
£15 № 74 Rosie Stanbridge



Hugo van Kempen



# *The Friends of* ST MARY'S CHURCH

So much going on!

Over the two years of Covid-19 restrictions the Church Room became less used and 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.

On 4 June FOSM, Stevington Community Shop and Stevington WI worked together to hold an open day at the Church Room as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Collectively we wanted to relaunch the Church Room as a Community Hub that is open at least 6 days a week providing services and a social meeting place for all members of our community.

Before the event the Church Room was a hive of industry, minor repairs were carried out, painting was touched up and a big clean up took place. The open day was a great success, Stevington WI served teas and homemade cakes to the large number of people who supported the event. Our plant sale had lots of customers inspired by Kathy's fantastic gardens and Stevington Community Shop welcomed lots of new customers. Kathy Brown generously donated the proceeds from her open garden event which raised £571. This, combined with other fundraising efforts on the day, totalled a very pleasing £1,262.46.

Moving forward we are in the process of welcoming as many people as possible to the Church Room and establishing events that provide something for everyone who live in the village.

**The Community Shop** is soon to be open again in the afternoons, ensuring afternoon shopping is available again in the village, particularly to our school age residents.

**Parents and Toddlers.** A parent and toddlers' group has been re-established during the summer. (See page 34).

**Stevington Wavelength.** Our group that offers IT help continues to be held on the last Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome. 11.00 to 12.00.

**Coffee and Croissants.** A coffee morning, serving fresh ground coffee and croissants will be held on the first Saturday of each month starting in September. 10.00 to 12.00. £3.00 pp.

**Coffee with a Cop.** Our community police officer is going to drop in to the coffee mornings to meet members of the community and chat about what is going on in and around the village.

If you wish to suggest an activity that could be run at the Church Room, would like to run an activity yourself or hire the Church Room please let us know, FOSM will be pleased to help you make your idea a reality. We are particularly looking for activities and events that will have a beneficial impact for Stevington residents .

You can contact us and leave feedback by visiting our website [www.fosmstevington.uk](http://www.fosmstevington.uk).

Behind the scenes, having gained planning permission, we are extremely busy trying to secure grants to create a link between the Church Room and the toilets and making the Church Room more energy efficient.

To reflect the diversity of activities being run and developed at the Church Room we are labelling it as a Community Hub and introducing a new logo. You can leave your comments and ideas about our proposed logo by contacting us at our website.

John Duffield, Chairman

## **SAALA** ALLOTMENTS



## **HEALTHY HOME GROWN FOOD. CHEAPER THAN A GYM MEMBER- SHIP.**

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## SWIFT AWARENESS



At the time of writing, we are coming to the end of Swift Awareness Week 2022, which this year ran from Saturday 2 July and continued on until Sunday 10 July. Unfortunately, the Swifts (*Apus apus*), the summer migrants which scream through our skies like little scythes, are now on the UK conservation red list. This has much to do with the massive declines in breeding populations here in the UK, and urgent action is now required to help this species survive.

If you notice that swifts are nesting on your property, allow them that space and they are highly likely to return next summer. If your home is at least five metres in height (they need this height because of the way in which they fly), you can install a nest box especially designed for swifts under the eaves, or if you are having some outdoor renovations done you can always use swift bricks. And, of course, insect friendly gardening is hugely positive. To encourage these birds to visit any space you have for them, play their calls to the skies, and they are more likely to come and investigate.

This year, they will be making their return journey to Africa soon. But next year they could return in May and find welcoming spaces for raising their young. These birds are fascinating. They spend most of their lives in flight, an individual bird could fit easily in a human hand, but they undertake journeys full of perils. Constant life and death. But, because more old buildings are being renovated and gaps are being closed off, on arrival, they are finding that crucial spaces they have used for nesting are lost.

Part of what makes our countryside villages beautiful is the vibrancy of nature and wildlife that can be found here, and these birds are synonymous with summertime British skies. I hope we can see and hear these birds in our skies for many summers yet to come.

Philip Simons





## 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](mailto:chellingtonteam@gmail.com). 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](mailto:teamoffice@gmail.com).

I am sure you are all aware that Robert Eadie, our Churchwarden, has had major surgery recently but you will be pleased to know that he is recovering very well. We wish him a good and steady recovery. In the meantime, you will have to put up with me! If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

So many of us enjoy the village walk down to St Mary's and maybe drop in to the church which is open daily or wander round the churchyard. You may have lit a candle on the altar to remember the people of Ukraine for whom prayers are regularly said. The candles are still there so please feel free to pop in and light one.

The church is looking particularly lovely after its splendid makeover and tower restoration. Thanks must be given to John Hirst, our Treasurer, whose perseverance and hard work over the last couple of years obtained the grants which funded the majority of the restoration. Despite the heat and drought, the churchyard has looked spruce too thanks to the hard work of volunteers and regular garden maintenance. If anyone would like to join the small team of volunteers who maintain the churchyard and clean the church, you are more than welcome.

Eight Spires Way in June this year was a great day! And quite a walk! It brought so many people together from across and beyond the Chellington Team, walking from parish to parish and enjoying the June sunshine and hospitality of each church along the way. St Mary's was the penultimate resting place before the final push to Odell and it was amazing to see so many walkers of all ages crowding into the church and still smiling!

Stevington Goes Wild is mentioned elsewhere in the magazine but suffice to say it was a wonderful family occasion and highlighted St Mary's becoming a church focused on the environment and ways to



protect and promote the natural wonders of our world. St Mary's has been supported by the Bats in Churches Project and Natural England in organising this event together with our own SEG.

The occasion of a wedding is always something to look forward to and so we would like to congratulate Ann and Ian Steward who were married recently at St Mary's. As keen bell ringers, the bells rang out on that day! Two further family highlights were celebrated for Alfie Miles, son of Lewis and Megan on 24 April and for Stevie Farmer, daughter of Katie and Wayne on 26 June.

We are lucky enough to continue with regular services alongside the neighbouring churches in our Chellington Team but welcome new ideas and fresh faces to our services. Please join us to celebrate the Patronal Day on Sunday 11 September at 4pm and Harvest Celebration on Sunday 25 September at 4pm. Details will be posted nearer the time.

Jane O'Connor  
Acting Churchwarden

## **CLEANER WANTED FOR CHURCH ROOM**



### **PLEASE APPLY TO:**

FRANCES HIRST at [frances@hirst1.plus.com](mailto:frances@hirst1.plus.com)

**OR**

JANE O'CONNOR at [jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## **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](http://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 BAPTIST CHURCH

Our church hall at West End will again be open to support the Beds and Herts Historic Bike 'n' Hike which takes place on Saturday 10 September between 9am and 5pm. The sponsored Bike 'n' Hike is an annual fundraising event organised by the Beds and



Herts Historic Churches Trust. Half of every cyclist's and walker's sponsor money goes to the Trust and half goes to the church of their choice. Anyone can take part, and you don't have to be a church goer. Other transport such as mobility scooter, car or horse is welcome! For further details email: [bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk](mailto:bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk) or telephone 01767 312966 or contact Bob Hart (see page 33).

Last year was a huge success, raising more than £104,000 thanks to bikers, hikers, supporters and organisers.

Attendees of the Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea in June were honoured by a special guest when HRH Queen Elizabeth was in attendance to oversee the proceedings. Her majesty didn't make a speech or mingle with the guests but her presence was appreciated by all.



Please put the date in your diary for the next afternoon tea - Wednesday, September 28 at 3pm. All are welcome and there is always a wonderful array of cakes and savouries on offer as well as a quiz. As

the temperature climbed in July and August so did the numbers coming along, despite it being the holiday season.

We're giving plenty of notice for the welcome return of our Christmas Tree Festival. Set up will take place during Friday, 16 December, with viewing of the trees taking place between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 17 December. Christmas trees are supplied free of charge and application forms for new entrants are available by emailing Jim Russell on jim.russell27@btinternet.com (previous entrants will be contacted by the church).

This might also be an opportunity to invite anyone who wants to have another go at the Father Christmas Parade. It's purely for fun - no prizes - and we suggest any red-coated figures appear sometime after 17 December.

Barbara Courtney

*Photos Heather Parkinson*



## STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Screening</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Type</b>
8 Sept	Much Ado About Nothing	National Theatre	Live
27 Sept	Madam Butterfly	Royal Opera House	Live
5 Oct	Mayerling	Royal Ballet	Live
6 Oct	Jack Absolute Flies Again	National Theatre	Live
12 Oct	Aida	Royal Opera House	Live
20 Oct	La Boheme	Royal Opera House	Live
3 Nov	The Seagull	Jamie Lloyd Company	Live
16 Nov	A Diamond Celebration	Royal Ballet	Live
8 Dec	The Nutcraker	Royal Ballet	Live
19 Jan	Like Water For Chocolate	Royal Ballet	Live
26 Jan	The Crucible	National Theatre	Live

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

## THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING CLUB

Few small villages can boast its own sailing club. Bedford Sailing Club was refounded in 1954 and the first Commodore was Major David Wells of the Bedford brewing family. It appears that sailing in the Town had become difficult because of an increase in rowing activity and the Ouse at Stevington provided two long stretches of about a mile each with sufficient depth. The Club leased a small area for a compound in the Park on the riverbank next to the Belt.

Competitive sailing flourished for about 25 years. Heron and Enterprise classes predominated with regular racing on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. However, as more open waters became available at Emberton, Stewartby and Grafham Water, competitive sailors moved elsewhere, and by the early 1980s the Club had fallen on hard times.

However, in the mid-1980s the Committee decided to concentrate on training young sailors, particularly novices. For a number of years the Club provided foundation and intermediate courses supervised by Royal Yachting Association qualified instructors. Many Stevington girls and boys had their introduction to sailing through these courses and for a few years the Club was able to send a team to the Eastern Region championships at Grafham Water.



The Club developed links locally with other sailing clubs and was able to offer youngsters a taste of different waters when it acquired in 1990 a fleet of six Toppers on a trailer with a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. Three training Optimists were acquired later. The

Club also offered cadets an opportunity to sail at sea with the Ocean Youth Club and with the RYA Young Skippers scheme. A number later sailed in the Tall Ships transatlantic races.

The facilities at the compound were greatly improved with the erection in 1996 of a new, more commodious clubhouse, financed again by the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. In the 1990s and early 2000s the Club hosted a number of large summer barbecues. In one year 130 attended and were entertained by a section of Terry Hext's Bedford Brass. In wet summers, which were all too frequent, guests were ferried to the compound in Brian Pell's pig trailer suitably fitted out with straw bales.

For many years the Site Officer was Christopher Boniface who sadly died in 2020. Recent commodores include Ken Parker, Peter Hart, Fiona Frossell, Lynn Christison (née Pickup), Elizabeth Stammers and Dave Brear.

Latterly, organised sailing has ceased but the Club has taken on a new lease of life with the organisation of rowing, sculling and paddling as a result of which the membership has increased and in consequence the Club's finances are healthy.

Paul Middleton

*Photo copyright Stevington Historical Society*

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## THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

### **The Huntingdon, Bedford And Peterborough Gazette And Cambridge Independent Press – 10/06/1837**

**BREACH OF CONTRACT -** At the Beds Petty Sessions, on Saturday, two men named J. White

and T. Summerlin were summoned before G. Livins and T. Dawson, Esqs, under the following circumstances:- Mr. Poole, of Stevington, stated that he engaged the defendants, about the month of February last, to set peas and beans at the distance of ten inches apart. He agreed with the men both together. There were between four and five acres in the parish of Stevington, at 7s. per acre, or 8s. 6d. for each man. They were to do the work when they pleased, and as the weather permitted. No witness was present when the men were engaged. Now the peas and beans were up, they are from 12 to 13 inches apart, and some as much as 16 or 17, but none the right width. The ground has been measured with a chain. The men began their work well, but the peas are thin in the rows. Witness paid them 7s. per acre, but sustained great injury; knows what each man did; allowed four bushels to the acre. White said, Mr. Poole was to have paid them 8s. per acre, and only paid them 7s. Mr. Poole denied this, and said he made no deduction from the price agreed upon. Mr. Anderson of Oakley, bailiff to the Marquis of Tavistock, viewed the work and saw a difference in what each man did. Some were well set, but wider in the rows, about 13 inches apart. Summerlin's were best in the rows, but too wide. Witness had made an estimate of the probable deficiency in harvest, from not setting the peas and beans at the distance agreed upon with Mr. Poole; and he considered that the loss caused by White would amount to 47s. and by Summerlin 17s. Summerlin said he had never set peas before, and Mr. Poole had allowed them to take an inch in each row; and the bargain was 8s. for peas and 7s. for beans; they received 7s. only, and if the peas had come up well they were to receive an additional shilling. The Chairman told Mr. Poole that according to the Act of Parliament, this case did not come within the jurisdiction of the magistrates. If the men had been hired servants and had misbehaved themselves, the magistrates could have interfered. There was, however, in this instance, no contract for service, but merely a contract for the job. There was no doubt the men had violated that contract, and the only remedy Mr. Poole had, was to bring an action at law, for the magistrates could do nothing in it. The case was then dismissed.

### **The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 19/05/1888**

ARREARS FOR MAINTENANCE - Mr. Sharman, Clerk to the Bedford Guardians, applied to the Bench for an order directing Mark Lilley, labourer of Stevington, to pay the sum of £1 13s., an order for which was made in 1886 last for the maintenance of his mother. The defendant admitted that he owed the money "according to the papers," but he was unable to pay. Mr. Sharman said an order had been made and the defendant admitted that he received 14s. per week, but out of that he was unable to pay anything. The Bench made an order for commitment if £1 17s. was not paid in a month, the warrant to stand over for a fortnight.

### **The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 25/07/1891**

FAMILY QUARREL - Edward Parrott, labourer, Stevington, was summoned for assaulting his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. Sanders, the former on the 9th, and the other on the 10th inst. It appeared that a warrant was obtained against the defendant by his wife, but the two had since come to a proper understanding, and the latter agreed not to press the charge. The mother-in-law had adopted the same course, and therefore did not appear.

### **The Bedfordshire Times And Independent - 19/09/1891**

FIRE AT STEVINGTON - While the Fire Brigade was busily engaged subduing the outbreak on the Clapham-road news arrived of an extensive outbreak at Stevington, five miles away. The majority of the firemen with the steamer, under Foreman Baker soon started for their new scene of action, and discovered that the fire was in a paddock contiguous to the Red Lion Inn, wherein is held the fair, and which is leased by the landlady of the hostelry, Mrs. Martha Field. A wheat stack containing the produce of eight or nine acres, and which had been carried on Friday and Saturday last, was burning furiously, although the fire had been somewhat held in check by the aid of willing helpers. Through the scarcity of water and the distance of the river (some third of a mile away) the "steamer" was rendered impotent and the flames had to be combated with buckets. After great exertions on the part of the Brigade the fire was got under, the rick pulled down, and the fiery element completely drenched out. The men returned to Bedford at about 2.30am, having arrived at 10.30. The produce was uninsured, as it was intended to thrash it this week; but by the exertions of the villagers before the arrival of help about a quarter of it had been severed from the burning stack, and thus saved. There were other ricks in a neighbouring field, but not much apprehension was entertained as to their safety, concern only being felt for some cottages within a distance of fifty yards of the



burning stack and towards which the light wind prevailing blew the sparks and flames. Fortunately the fire was confined to the one stack although a heavy wind would probably have led to a big conflagration. As at Milton the origin of the fire is unknown, but as the field in which it occurred is utilised as a public playground for the children of the village these latter might have caused the mischief with a match.

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Mark Jackson





## Anne Stileman Bursary Fund

Are you a resident of Stevington,  
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## 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 at the cross are 1.30 to 1.50pm on the Wednesdays:

September	7 and 21	October	5 and 19
November	2, 16 and 30	December	14

For further information on this, and to request your items, you can visit us at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://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](http://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
September	6, 20	13, 27	13, 27
October	4, 18	11, 25	11, 25
November	1, 15, 29	8, 22	8, 22
December	13, tba	6, 20	None



## GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

We had a dry summer in 2020 but nothing like the temperatures experienced these past weeks. It's a warning that we need to prepare ourselves and our gardens for real drought conditions. Firstly, use grey water to water the garden soil around treasured plants whenever possible. Help the soil to retain water by thickly mulching it with home-made garden compost around plants to protect and feed their roots. Plant densely using ground cover choices which are reasonably shallow rooted and drought resistant.

If you don't have a water butt already installed now is the time to get at least 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 nature's choice of timing 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.

Our lawns should recover but may need a helping hand. 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 with some lawn food we hope to 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**

Bees and butterflies are desperate for nectar in 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 potted 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, lambs 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 root 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 friends' 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](mailto:info@susanyoungdesign.co.uk) or contact the editors.

Susan Young

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