

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2022
Number 203

VILLAGE DIARY

DECEMBER

- 3 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am-12.00noon.
- 8 Live Ballet Broadcast. Nutcracker. Village Hall.
- 8 Wl. Christmas Party. Church Room. 7.30pm (p37)
- 10 Christmas Tree Festival. Baptist Chapel. 10.00am-2.00pm (p30)
- 11 Children's Christmas Party. Village Hall. (p26)
- 11 Christmas Carol Service. Baptist Chapel. 4.00pm. (p30)
- 17 Christmas Tree Festival. Baptist Chapel. 10.00am-2.00pm (p30)
- 18 Christmas Carol Service. St. Mary's. 4.00pm. (p42)
- 24 Christmas Eve Eucharist. St. Mary's. 9.30pm. (p42)

JANUARY

- 5 Environmental Manifesto Comments Deadline
- 6 Good Neighbour Scheme Survey Deadline. (p14)
- 9 Bowls Club Restarts. Village Hall. 7.00pm. (p38)
- 12 Wl. A Banquet for Pollinators. Church Room. 7.30pm (p37)
- 19 Live Ballet Broadcast. Like Water For Chocolate. Village Hall.
- 25 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm.
- 26 Live Theatre Broadcast. The Crucible. Village Hall
- 28 Wavelength Meeting. Church Room (p25)

FEBRUARY

- 4 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am-12.00noon.
- 4 Six Nations Rugby Forecast 2023 Deadline (2:15pm)
- 10 Wl. Games Evening. Church Room. 7.30pm (p37)
- 15 Live Opera Broadcast. The Barber of Seville. Village Hall.
- 19 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 22 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm.
- 23 Live Theatre Broadcast. Othello. Village Hall
- 25 Wavelength Meeting. Church Room (p25)
- 25 Guitar Concert. (p23)

MARCH

- 4 Coffee and Croissants. Church Room. 10.00am -12.00noon.
- 22 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Chapel. 3.00-4.30pm.
- 22 Cinema Club. Live Opera Broadcast. Turandot. Village Hall.
- 24 Quiz Evening. Church Room. (p33)



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.

Photographs as credited. Cover drawing by Mike Robinson

HELLO STEVINGTON!

In this edition we have the usual Season's Greetings in the centre pages and this year we are supporting Come Dine With Me – a local charity in Bedford which collects waste food and puts it to good use locally providing free hot meals and a Social Supermarket selling very cheap food or giving it away. Thanks to your generosity we have raised over £875 this year – the charity is still in its infancy and it has not yet organised itself for the Gift Aid scheme. The final total will be published in the next issue as we are waiting for a couple of donations. Don't forget that it is a pull-out Christmas card that can be displayed with all the other cards you receive.

This is the end of our eleventh year producing the Magazine—difficult to believe as time goes by so quickly. We would like to thank everyone who has helped the magazine effort this year - Anna Hart and her team for reliably delivering the Magazine, Barbara Pheasant for proofreading the longer articles and all of those who have contributed articles. You are all a valuable part of the team and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you to all of the advertisers who have supported us in 2022. Your financial support is vital.

In November the Village Hall committee gave us a great Bonfire Night firework display and Stevington Guitar Concerts arranged a wonderful evening of live music. In addition, the Stevington Cinema Club has planned a full and varied programme of live broadcasts – theatre, ballet and opera (p35).

Its great to see the Community Hub (aka Church Room) being used for new events that benefit the village – Toddlers Group (p35), Winter Warmer Lunches (p8) and Saturday morning Coffee & Croissant (p32).

Finally, we wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

Heather and Keith

NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 4-5 March 2023. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 19 February 2023. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email stevington.magazine@googlemail.com) on or before that day.



THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all those who came and supported my charity cake sale and helped raise over £2,000 for JDRF. A big thank you also to The Royal George and The Red Lion for your generous raffle prizes.

Sarah Spencer

GOOD BYE STEVINGTON

I am very sorry to be leaving Stevington after 54 years. I have enjoyed every minute of my time here. But now the time has come to move nearer to my family in Chesterfield.

I would like to say thanks to Dita and Tony Hollins, who have been our neighbours all this time and also to all those who helped me when Ken was ill.

With best wishes to you all.

Ann Allcroft

DR. SIDNEY PENDLINGTON 31 MAY 1931 – 2 OCTOBER 2022

I would like to thank everybody in Stevington for all their cards, condolences and wonderful support after the passing of my husband Sid on 2 October.

It meant so much to me to see so many of you at his funeral. Sid would not have believed it.

Thank you so much.

Doreen and Family

STEVINGTON POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to all my Poppy Collectors and to the generous people of Stevington. We raised a wonderful total of £1,030.59 this year.

Joan Hart



LIFE OF BRIAN

On 19 August 2022 my beloved husband Brian passed away. We had many happy years together and lived life to the full. We would have been celebrating our Golden Wedding on 15 December.

Brian had a very successful career with British Gas, in fact that is where we met. He was my boss - a role he was very reluctant to relinquish.

On taking early retirement we thought running a pub could be fun. Our first venture into the licensed trade was a very ancient pub in Totternhoe called The Cross Keys. This was an unbelievably pretty hostelry that claimed its oak beams were salvaged from the Spanish Armada (who are we to argue). We threw ourselves whole heartedly into our new career and loved it. We said it was like having a party every night where people paid to come.

When it was time to move on we came to Stevington to run The Red Lion.

We have both been very active in the village. We were on the Social Centre committee, me as chairman and Brian as treasurer and odd job man. He was elected to the Parish Council under the leadership of Doreen Pendlington, a very formidable Chairman. He also did voluntary work for Victim Support.

I think he was in every village production from the time we arrived - his first role was as one of the Andrews Sisters and his last was his unforgettable performance at the last Christmas Concert where he sang note and word perfect Aint Misbhavin' with David and John.

Dare I mention his footballing days. YES let's hear it one last time. COME ON YOU DONS!

I want to take this opportunity to thank my friends old and new for the fantastic support I have received in the agonising months that my darling husband was hospitalised prior to his death. They organised a visiting rota so I could have a week's respite. Then following yet another injury to Brian they created another rota to take turns to drive me to visit him at Luton and Dunstable hospital.

Thank you all so much.

Anne Westbrook

PS: Thank you so much to Brian's dear friends who donated to his Just Giving page in aid of Tibbs - a very worthy charity for sufferers of Dementia.

MARGARET PRYN

Neighbours and friends of Margaret Pryn, who lived in Hospice Cottage, Church Road for many years, were sad to learn of her recent death.

She and Roy moved here in the late eighties when Roy retired from British Aerospace after his service as a Major in the Royal Artillery. Both took part in village life, Margaret at the Baptist Chapel and Roy at St Mary's and he was a founder member of the village shop.

Margaret and Roy were proud grandparents and we send our condolences to Caroline and Richard's families.

Helen Dunster

DEFIBRILLATOR AND CPR AWARENESS SESSION

On Saturday 24 September 2022, a defibrillator and CPR awareness session arranged by the Parish Council, was held at the Village Hall. There were 34 attendees and judging by their response everyone found it interesting and informative.

We are lucky to have three defibrillators in Stevington, located in the phone box at the Cross, outside the Village Hall and on the front of the Baptist Church Hall. In an emergency, to access any of these the code can be obtained by dialling 999 and asking for the ambulance service.

If you have reason to remove a defibrillator from its cabinet, please inform me, even if you replace it unused. When the ambulance service know that a defibrillator has been removed from the cabinet, it will be taken off their system until I request that it be reinstated. If on passing you have concerns about any of the defibrillators please contact me. I check all three weekly and take responsibility for trying to ensure that they are in working order at all times. My contact numbers are written here and also on the inside of the defibrillator cabinets.

Stephanie Wingrove
07725 216568 or 01234 825022



REFLECTIONS OF JOYCE ASPLEY

With the death of Joyce Aspley in September, the Baptist Chapel lost its longest-serving member. Joyce was born on 16 March 1926 and had lived in Stevington all her life and indeed in the same house since she was two.

During the war, she worked at W H Allen as a capstan lathe turner and afterwards found employment at Braggins in Bedford as a sales assistant.

As a little girl, she attended the Baptist Chapel, became a Sunday School teacher and then a church member in her early twenties. She later became the Sunday School Superintendent and sang in the chapel choir for years and represented the chapel on the village hall committee.

Joyce's life in the chapel was widely varied. She was a member of the Women's Own, a group meeting on Tuesday afternoons to make things by hand; items such as embroidered pillowcases, aprons, and knitted dishcloths ready for sale at the group's stall at the chapel fete. The group was of course reinforced by cake and tea and always ended with the Women's Own prayer.

Far more recently, and now into her nineties, Joyce was a stalwart in another women's group, meeting regularly and sharing her skills with knitting and sewing needles.

Taking over from her mother, with the help of two other church members, she cleaned the chapel every week, continuing in this task on her own until she 'retired' at the age of ninety-two. Another role she undertook was the preparation of the Communion table, and then the washing up of the glasses and whatever laundering was needed. She was also one of the kitchen team catering for teas and similar events, keeping meticulous records of numbers attending, costs and what sandwiches everyone was making.

Joyce never sought the limelight, quite the reverse, and late in life her hearing deteriorated making conversation difficult, but she continued performing so many little tasks unknown to others.

While there will be many memories of Joyce for her true and faithful service, perhaps she will be remembered most distinctly for the fruit loaf which she faithfully created for the afternoon teas.

Memories collated by Carol Wareing

Although a much newer member, I recall going to the chapel one Saturday after it had snowed, expecting to need to clear some snow from paths and part of the car park. It was cold and still threatening more snow, but I needn't have bothered. Joyce had already done the job – walked up the hill, swept up, and walked home again – so typical and that's not to mention the conversations we had about the vegetables she was growing in her garden.

Peter Evans

I have many fond memories of Joyce. Probably my favourite is when I told her I planned to learn to knit. She didn't say much other than "Oh yes?" but I suspect she knew that I wouldn't find it easy and she was right. Her patience was immeasurable when I constantly turned to her when my knitting went wrong. She didn't make any complaints when she had to unpick my stitches for the umpteenth time. She just sorted it out for me even though she knew it wouldn't be long before I asked for help again. Her own beautifully intricate knitted garments were a joy to behold.

Barbara Courtney

WINTER WARMERS



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Magazine**

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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

The issues the Parish Council has been most preoccupied with since the last magazine article have been related to planning, traffic management and the environment. The Parish Council wants to ensure all residents are aware of the work which it is undertaking on behalf of the village community.

If you have not already done so please sign 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.

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 the 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.

Dane Hill Farm/Stevington Riding Club Appeal (APP/K0235/W/21/3268247)

By the time the magazine is circulated the appeal hearing will have been held on 23 November 2022. Any information the Parish Council receives about the decision of the Planning Inspector will be made available as soon as possible to residents.

Highways

The 20-mph speed limit and 7.5 tonne weight limit (the latter for part of Silver Street) were installed by Bedford Borough Council in

August and both schemes will be assessed by the Borough for effectiveness after 12 months with subsequent opportunity for further improvement. The Borough Council also intends to improve the layout of existing speed limits in the West End and Park Road areas of the village in support of road safety.

Delivery has been taken 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. Deployment is now awaiting the Borough Council making existing poles available through removing obsolete infrastructure as well as considering possible new pole installation positions.

The Parish Council maintains a log of incidents on the village roads, so if you witness anything of concern please provide details (ideally with a vehicle registration number and a photo if possible) to the Parish Clerk.

It is intended to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on the subject of the village roads, in order to give residents an opportunity to have a dialogue with both the Parish Council and Borough Council Highways representatives. The date is to be confirmed, with early January 2023 likely.

Stevington Windmill

Bedford Borough Council's annual maintenance plan for the mill has been implemented and discussions with the Friends of Group to formalise an inspection rota are ongoing. The Parish Council continues to work closely with Bedford Borough Council to find a suitable solution to restore public access to the mill, the primary apprehension being health and safety concerns for visitors accessing the upper sections of the mill.

Stevington Environmental Group

The SEG has been working on a manifesto for the Parish Council to adopt. Full details of the work of the group are on page 24.

Village Hall and Playground

The hall is now up and running fully again and recently held successful well supported village events including a Big Breakfast and the traditional fireworks display. The village hall committee was particularly pleased to see so many new residents coming along.

Work to develop a Community Hub: The Friends of St Mary's

The Parish Council is supporting the work of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) to develop a Community Hub where villagers can access a number of services including the Community Shop as well as having a space to meet up. FOSM are working with the Beds Rural Communities Charity to develop a Good Neighbours scheme and we would urge you to respond to the survey in this magazine (see page 14).

The Parish Council would like to thank all those involved in both the Village Hall and the Friends of St Mary's for their work which adds to the quality of life in our village. We are not a big village with a large population but between so many willing volunteers there is a whole range of activities available, including those provided by the Royal George and the Red Lion.

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Village Hall and the Friends of St Mary's and volunteer to help, both organisations would be delighted to hear from you. Contact details are available from the Clerk.

Defibrillator Training

A well attended and successful training session was held on 24 September. All those who attended found the session informative and reassuring if they found themselves in the position of having to access and use the defibrillators.

The Parish Council would like to thank Stephanie Wingrove for doing the weekly checks on the defibrillators, a task she has now undertaken for many years.

Welcome Packs

Printed copies of the village Welcome Pack are distributed to all new residents and the feedback we receive is that they are much appreciated. The pack will be updated over the next couple of months so if you think there is anything which should be included please let the Clerk or myself know.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone in the village a peaceful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Janet Day
Stevington Parish Council.

Email: clerk@stevington-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.stevington-pc.gov.uk

Windmill photo courtesy of John O'Reilly

Dear Resident,

We are working with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity to set up a Good Neighbour group in the village. We have made a very positive start having met with representatives of Friends of St Mary's. We would be grateful if you could complete our survey, which will show if you would like to join us as a volunteer or if there is any way in which we might be able to help you. Your replies will help us in developing the group for the benefit of the village.

Thank you for your help.

What is a Good Neighbour Scheme and how does it work?

A Good Neighbour Scheme is a voluntary group run by local residents who recognise the value in having 'good neighbours', particularly where public transport and other local services can be limited and where people's family may not live close by.

Each volunteer decides what sort of help they are able to offer, how much and when. They do not undertake jobs that would be carried out by qualified professionals but can help with things like occasional lifts, befriending or shopping. All volunteers are fully insured for extra peace of mind. Anyone who needs a bit of extra help can ring the group's phone number. Calls are answered by a volunteer phone-handler, who matches the request for assistance with an available volunteer.

**If you would like more information, or to request further copies
of the survey sheet, please contact**

Debra Aitken at BRCC (debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk)

On the BRCC website you can find more information about Good Neighbour Schemes that are already working in the area: www.bedsrcc.org.uk.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME STEVINGTON RESIDENTS' SURVEY

We have listed below the services we think a Good Neighbour scheme could offer that might be useful to people in the area. Please read the list and tick the boxes to show whether you might use the service listed or might be able to volunteer your help. You can tick boxes in both columns.

If you think you might like to help, the amount of time you volunteer is entirely up to you – even a couple of hours a month helps! All volunteer expenses are reimbursed and all volunteers are fully insured and DBS checked for free (as appropriate).

Possible Services	I might need this myself	I might be able to help with this
Occasional lifts to doctors, lunch clubs, shops, etc.		
Befriending – popping round for a chat over a cup of tea		
Form filling / letter writing / help with using a computer		
Collecting prescriptions, pensions, etc. / occasional help with shopping		
Small household repairs / practical tasks (such as changing a light bulb)		
Pet-care / dog-walking etc.		
Indoor plant watering / light gardening		
Being part of the phone rota, to answer callers and match them to a suitable volunteer		
Being part of the organising group – helping with publicity, fundraising, etc.		
Other – please specify		

Please print your name and address here:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone/ email:.....

Please return this survey by 6th January 2023 to:
John Duffield - 24 West End
Tricia Lennie - 21a Court Lane
Anna Taylor - 4 Foxbrook
Or email to debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk

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COMMUNITY SHOP

Hello everyone. Thank you volunteers for all you do. It's great that we have been able to open again in the afternoons, although Friday afternoons is a bit thin, so we need your help. Anyone able to do two hours volunteering a month would be most welcome. We now cater for the children of the village which we weren't able to do when we only opened mornings. Let us know if there are certain sweets that we can keep on the shelves for you.

As you probably know by now fresh bread is available to order which is delivered to the shop Saturday morning. You can also order online. The link is available through Stevington Social and Stevington Community on Facebook. This is a great initiative but as with everything we will lose it if we don't get the uptake.

Our fresh eggs are very popular and a big thank you to June for continuing to provide these. Profits go to the Community Shop. You can get them from us and also from June at her home in Church Road.

We will be doing our usual Christmas raffle. All donations of prizes to this will be gratefully received as the proceeds from the raffle help with the running costs of the shop.

Thank you Friends of St. Mary's for introducing more initiatives and so bringing more people into the Church Room. This in turn raises awareness of the shop and helps with our takings. 'Every little helps.'

We were very sad to hear of the loss of Doreen's husband Sid. He was a great supporter of the shop and we would like to send our condolences to all of her family.

Jackie, Sarah, Doreen and June.

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.

The Friends of
ST MARY'S CHURCH
STEVINGTON

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AUCTION OF PROMISES

Following the success of our 2016 event we are excited to announce our 2023 Auction of Promises.

This will be held on Saturday 14 October 2023. We are delighted that once again David Fletcher will be our Auctioneer. Details of promises will appear in a catalogue available online prior to the Auction of Promises evening and Gala Dinner. Contact details are given to the buyer only. Please support this fundraising event in aid of Stevington Community Hub by making a promise. We are looking for promises large and small.

To make a promise, please complete the promise form on the next page.

Many thanks for your participation.

Please return your completed promise form to either:

- The box in the Community Hub
- By email to fosmteam@gmail.com
- Or to Stephanie Wingrove's house, No 3, The Bakery, Silver Street.

Extra promise forms are available in the Community Hub.

More details available on the website <https://fosmstevington.uk/>



Provider's contact details

The name of the provider of the promise:

Their contact address:

Postcode:

Their contact phone number:

Their email address:

Details of the promise

Description of the promise:

Are there any restrictions? Such as dates and times available? Age for which this is suitable?

I understand that the promise is a contract between the promise provider and the buyer and The Friends of St. Mary's Church cannot have any responsibility over the process after the sale.

Signed:

If you have recommended/organised this promise through a third party please complete your own name, address, phone and email details

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When you next go to do some shopping in our Community Shop, why not buy an extra tin or other produce and add it to the crate provided to take to the Food Bank?

We can do this and everyone can make a difference!

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED - CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE?

The Elisabeth Curtis Centre Riding for the Disabled at Bromham needs your help. Become part of a team making special moments happen and have a most rewarding experience. Urgent help is needed at sessions on Tuesday evening, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings and no experience with horses is required.

How does volunteering benefit you?

- learn new skills
- make new friends
- keep fit
- improve mental health
- enhance your CV
- make a difference!



I have been volunteering at the centre for 35 years and have enjoyed every moment. To get involved please visit our website www.elisabethcurtiscentre.co.uk/volunteer or email volunteering@elisabethcurtiscentre.co.uk.

If you would like more details please do not hesitate to contact me on 01234 824612 or mobile 07854 767994. We would love you to join our friendly team, from side helper to organiser, event organiser to cake-maker or gardener.

Thank you

Hilary O'Dell

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.

If you take a defibrillator from its cabinet, let Stephanie Wingrove know afterwards on 07725 216568 or 01234 825022



Stevington Guitar Concerts

We have had two great gigs this year. In April Jule Malishke travelled from Germany to play for us supported by bluesmen Kelvin Davis and Gary Jones. The concert was a sell-out success which raised £800 for Bedford Hospital Primrose Unit.

In November Tim Edey travelled from Scotland for a return visit to Stevington supported by rising star Chester Caine from London. The proceeds from this concert are being donated to Pancreatic Cancer research.

Following her great concert this year **Jule Malishke** is returning to Stevington on **25 February 2023** bringing with her Italian Jazz guitarist **Antonio Forcione**. To have two internationally renowned players in the village on the same night is only made possible by the support we get from our loyal audiences, our band of helpers and the village hall committee.



To keep up to date about future concerts be sure to like our Facebook page and subscribe to our mailing list by visiting www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk.

John Duffield

STEVINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

New Environment Planning Work Group:

Since our initial meeting in September, we have been working hard on the Environmental Manifesto for Stevington. The theme of the document is what we can do both as individuals and by working together as a community to make our village more resilient to the environmental and ecological challenges that we will face in the coming years.



Any resident who is interested in reading and contributing to the manifesto before it is finally submitted to the Parish Council for discussion at the January 2023 meeting, should email their request to johnstrutt34@gmail.com. You will then be emailed a draft version of the manifesto for your comments and suggestions of any additional material you think should be included. This will be a purely electronic process as we do not have the resources to send printed copies of this 15-page document to everyone. The cut-off date for your suggestions is 5 January 2023.

SEG Talks:

In 2023, we are planning to continue our talks from specialists in different fields related to energy or ecology to help raise community awareness.

In October we had a very informative talk from Norman Crighton, Chairman of Harmony Energy Investment Trust, on 'Battery Storage for Renewable Energy.' In addition to talking about the storage of renewable energy from solar panels, Norman also discussed the possibility of using batteries, even without solar panels, to buy energy at a cheaper overnight rate as well as providing back up electrical power in the event of power cuts. These techniques are becoming increasingly important as energy costs escalate and power supplies less reliable.

At the time of writing, a further talk by Tim Stanbridge is scheduled for Tuesday 15 November when he will tell us about his environmental plans for habitat creation and management for pollinators on his land in Stevington. This will highlight the important part that our farmers and landowners have to play in combating biodiversity loss.

Talks are normally held in Yew Tree House Barn (opposite the Red Lion) and we plan to offer Zoom links for those unable to attend in person, if you would like to find out more about our talks, please contact seg@btinternet.com for more details.

As part of our ongoing environmental talks programme, all talks are recorded. We would like to make these recordings into videos to make the talks more generally available to residents who were not able to attend the talk itself. However, we need some help with the editing of the videos. If there is anyone in the village who has technical knowledge related to video editing and who would be willing to lend a hand, we would very much like to hear from you. Please contact shh@stevingtonpartners.co.uk.

If you are interested in ecology or the environment do take a look at Jacky Gooding's 'Green Tips' (page 48) and Susan Young's article on light pollution (page 44) in this edition of the magazine.

If you interested in supporting SEG please do get in touch with me at seg@btinternet.com.

John Strutt



Stevington

There will not be a wavelength meeting in December. The first meeting in 2023 will be on Saturday 28 January and thereafter on the last Saturday of the month, everyone is welcome.

During our autumn meetings we have looked at the cloud, the benefits of backing up photos and documents and the frustrations of passwords, updates and security.

At the start of next year, we will set up a tablet in the Church Room that is free to use by anyone. We will also offer one to one introductions for absolute beginners who have never used the internet. You can let us know if you want to have a go or have a subject you would like us to cover next year by leaving us a message on a Wavelength note. They are in a box on top of the piano, so high tech!

Very best wishes for a happy Christmas and healthy happy new year.

Team Wavelength



STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk

We have held two very successful events since the last Magazine, enjoyed by many in the village. **The Big Breakfast** in September filled the Hall with attendees enjoying a full English breakfast served at their tables. There was a real buzz with friends and families socialising and reading the Sunday papers provided. We are very appreciative of the volunteers who made it such a success, assisting with shopping, setting up the Hall, waiting at table and clearing up afterwards. Special thanks are due to our chef, Lawrence Kay, who cooked delicious breakfasts to order.

Fireworks Night on 5 November attracted huge numbers, far in excess of what was expected. A big crowd enjoyed a wonderful display, sustained by food and refreshments. Apparently Turvey, Bromham and Harrold no longer hold displays and Oakley (a much bigger event with advance online ticket sales only) sold out, hence the unexpectedly large audience. We have had lots of positive and appreciative comments but are aware of the issues that such large numbers can cause. The committee will be reviewing the event to inform planning for next year. Grateful thanks to the many volunteers who helped manage car parking, manned the entrance gate, cooked food for the night, served at the bar, refreshment table and kitchen and cleared up the hall and field afterwards. Special thanks, as always, to the fireworks crew of Pete Fisher, Richard Blayney and Dave Walker.

The **Children's Christmas Party** is booked for Sunday, 11 December. Children's entertainment will be provided by Steve Sausage and will include a magic show, children's games and competitions. After the show Santa will arrive with gifts for the children (included in the ticket). This event is open to Stevington Parents and Grandparents. Children (ages up to about 10) must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets available from **stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk**, click on Events.

Maintenance of the Hall continues as funds and volunteer time allows. The away changing room has been redecorated and now looks fresh and clean, thanks to Roger Penney and Gary Thomas. The barge boarding and eaves at the front and back of the Hall are in desperate need of attention and will shortly be replaced with maintenance-free PVC. Thank you in advance to the volunteers who have offered their services for free. The new chairs have been much appreciated by those attending

events and functions and we have been able to recycle the old chairs to other local organisations.

As we all know, everything is increasing in price, especially energy bills, and this affects the Hall as much as anyone else. If you are not already a member of the 100 Club run by Hugo van Kempen, which contributes to our running costs and which offers you the chance to win a monthly prize, please consider joining. Details are given elsewhere in the magazine (page 40).

The Hall is increasingly busy with private hires; we are appreciative of the effort and organisation of our Booking Manager in co-ordinating these. If you wish to book the Hall, please see information at the end on how to do this.

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 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.

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.



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.

Full details of equipment and facilities included in the hire fee are available at 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

THE ROYAL GEORGE



The Royal George's aim is to ensure everyone receives a warm welcome and enjoys our traditional village pub in these trying times. We strive to provide value for money with our locally sourced traditional pub food and real ales. The Royal George continues with Thursday lunch time and Friday evening menus with details on our Facebook page.

The pub is now home to a Premier League Darts team, a Skittles team and Veteran's football team along with a thriving art club. The FIFA World Cup started in November and all the matches will be shown to allow you to support all the home nations involved. Basket meals will be available.

During the Christmas festivities the pub will be open - opening times and functions detailed will be on our Facebook page.

All at The Royal George thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in the future and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The King Family
To contact us ring Gareth on 07810 868738

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for more details on our opening hours and to view our full menu.

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**

Afternoon Teas

Join us for our afternoon tea on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except December) at 3pm. Come along and make new friends and try the quiz.

Christmas Tree Festival

Come and view our Christmas trees decorated by Stevington groups. Saturday 10th and 17th December from 10am-2pm. Free tea and biscuits.

Christmas Carol Service

Join us at 4pm on Sunday, 11 December for our carol service, followed by festive refreshments.

www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org

The Friends of ST MARY'S CHURCH

Happy Christmas to all. 2022 has been a busy year for us, and this looks set to continue in 2023.

Trustee news: Tony Pyner has resigned as Treasurer following his move to Derbyshire. We would like to thank him publicly for many years of service. We have relied on Tony for accurate and timely reports, many private hours of dedication to the cause and willing help at events. He will be missed. We are delighted that Helen Prentice has agreed to be our new Treasurer. Helen has previously been our independent annual accounts scrutineer and is therefore already familiar with our work. Welcome Helen.

John Duffield originally agreed to be Chair for a period of two years, and suddenly it has been nearly 5 years. He has done a fantastic job leading with vision, energy and commitment. A trustees 'awayday' is planned soon to discuss short and long-term planning.

Trustees:

Ann Steward (née Prigmore)

Helen Prentice

Hugo van Kempen

Jane O'Connor

John Duffield

John Strutt

Robert Eadie

Stephanie Wingrove

Tricia Lennie

The Church Room/Stevington Community Hub: Although the Church Room is managed by the PCC with FOSM as a fundraising arm, FOSM has been increasingly involved in the efforts to protect the building and give it a sustainable future. Like many public buildings it has faced financial and managerial pressures in recent years, with running costs outstripping income. However, with the support of our many stakeholders the corner is being turned, and the building is gradually regenerating. There are two strands to the future vision. One is that the building continues to be home to a flourishing Community Shop and drop-in café and increasingly hosts a range of community-based events and services - hence the name Stevington Community Hub. The other is that the building is gradually improved to make it better suited to serving those needs.

Successful community groups rely on both financial and practical support, so thank you to Adrian Page, Emma Freeman and Pauline Indge who have been supporting as ancillary trustees. We need all such offers of help. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved in any way.

Community events and initiatives:

Coffee and croissants mornings. 10-12noon. Monthly. First Saturday. £3. All welcome. Saturday 3 December is our Christmas themed event. If you would like to sell any crafts, jams or chutneys (and make a donation of your profits to the Community Shop) please book table space via tricia.lennie21@gmail.com.

There will be no croissants in January 2023. Croissants resume Saturday 4 February.

Fresh bread from a local Italian bakery is available to order for delivery every Saturday. You can order in person at the Church Room (where you pay the shop) or online via Facebook (you pay on collection). Sales are going well due to John Duffield's vision and commitment. Do let us know if there are further items of fresh produce that you would like to be able to order for delivery and collection.

Parent and Toddler Group meets weekly on Fridays 10-12pm in the Community Hub. This is an informal group of families with young children who meet to chat with each other and encourage play. This group is supported by a grant, so it is free to attend. A budget for a more hygienic play mat and safety equipment has been ringfenced. There is a WhatsApp group to support planning. Thanks to Hugo for initiating this group.

Good Neighbour Scheme - proposed by Adrian Page. See page 14 for details.

Fundraising events and initiatives:

Easyfundraising - Please consider supporting Stevington Community Hub by signing up to <https://easyfundraising.org.uk>. Once you are signed up, retailers donate a percentage of any qualifying purchases you make online to your chosen charity - which we hope will be Stevington Community Hub! It costs you nothing extra as these are purchases you would make anyway, and it boosts the fundraising for this local cause. All the major supermarkets, utility, insurance and online retailers are there. The trial with trustees suggests this could be a very useful way to boost funds! If you want help signing up and understanding how it works, or further details, contact tricia.lennie21@gmail.com.

Christmas wreath making workshop with Ann Steward (née Prigmore - Congratulations Ann!). Sunday 4 December 10-12 and 1-3pm.

Quiz evening - Friday 24 March 2023 in the Church Room. Contact robert@eadies.org.uk for details.

Auction of Promises & Gala Dinner with Stevington friend and auctioneer, David Fletcher - Save the date! 14 October 2023 in the Village Hall. At this stage we need to secure the promises that will form our 'catalogue.' Please consider making a promise, no matter how large or small. See page 18 for more details.

Building improvements:

A large screen TV has been fitted to make presentations and events like the Quiz easier to host. FOSM thanks trustees John Strutt for research, Hugo van Kempen for attaching brackets, Adrian Page for joining the installation team and Jon Sidwick for his help and expertise in audio-visual equipment.

Many thanks to Jon Abbott (Ward Councillor) for a £1k Ward Grant towards recent electrical work. With PCC help, the building has passed its 5-year electrical safety check and has new energy efficient heating and lighting in the toilet block. Testable smoke alarms and lit exit signs all add to the regeneration of the building as a fit for purpose community building.

We are delighted that a major Sustainability Fund grant from Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation has been secured. This has been granted to support community use, provide safer access to the external toilets from the main hall and increase storage allowing more flexible multiuse. To reach the building fund target, grant applications and fundraising activities are ongoing.

Tricia Lennie

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Do you require a babysitter?

Or maybe help with your pets such as dog walking, cat feeding or chicken feeding?

Then call Lottie Jackson on 07949 262424.

FUN FUND FOR FOSM

Each year since 2010 I have been running a charity Village Sweep, based on the Six Nations Rugby competition, in aid of The Friends of St. Mary's. The monies raised are used to help fund repairs and improvements to the Church Room and other FOSM projects. Half of the money raised goes to the charity and the other half to the winner of the sweep. The winner usually receives around £400. Not bad for a £6 stake. You do not need to know anything about rugby to take part and win. Many of the previous winners couldn't tell if the ball was pumped or stuffed and anyway expert guidance is available to those who need it.

Previous winners include:

2010 Darren Wallinger	2011 Richard Blayney
2011 Barbara Cattermole (W.Cup)	2012 Bob Poulter
2013 Richard Blayney	2014 Jane Poulter
2015 The Friends of St. Mary's	2015 Gareth King (W.Cup)
2016 Magnus Lennie	2017 Graham Dawe
2018 Gina Thompson	2019 Robert Eadie
2019 Gary Thomas (W.Cup)	2020 Dave Fitch
2021 The Friends of St. Mary's	2022 Bob Poulter

The Avis Clayton Memorial Six Nations Rugby Forecast 2023

Forecast the total number of points scored in the 2023 Six Nations Rugby Competition. There are 15 games in the competition.

£6 per entry

Rules

You may not pick a total score that has already been selected. Any number accidentally duplicated will be increased to the next available number. The closing date for entries is 14.15 on 4 February 2023. You may enter as often as you wish. If your chosen score is exceeded you are eliminated. The winning entry must match the total points scored or be the closest to exceed that number, but, by no more than 50 points. 50% of the total amount collected will be donated to The Friends of St. Mary's Church. 50% will go to the winner. If there is no winner the entire amount collected will go to The Friends of St. Mary's Church. The winner will be announced after the Ireland v England game on Saturday 18 March 2023. If you wish to take part contact Paul O'Flynn on:

Tel: 823306, 46 Park Road or email your selection(s) to paul.oflynn2@btinternet.com.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Now EVERY FRIDAY!

The Parent and Toddler group meet Fridays 10 to 12 at the Community Hub (Church Room).

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

Parents keep in touch via a parent and toddler WhatsApp group.

For more information please contact Anastasia on anagunasekara@gmail.com



STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

Date	Screening	Production	Type
8 Dec	The Nutcraker	Royal Ballet	Live
19 Jan	Like Water For Chocolate	Royal Ballet	Live
26 Jan	The Crucible	National Theatre	Live
15 Feb	The Barber of Seville	Royal Opera House	Live
23 Feb	Othello	National Theatre	Live
22 Mar	Turandot	Royal Opera House	Live
30 Mar	TBA	National Theatre	Live
12 Apr	Cinderella	Royal Ballet	Live
20 Apr	TBA	National Theatre	Live
27 Apr	The Marriage of Figaro	Royal Opera House	Live

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

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



In September we welcomed our speaker Paul Nicholson who lives in Queens Park. His talk was on the subject of well-known and amazing Bedfordians, e.g. Trevor Huddleston, Ronnie Barker, John le Mesurier, Harold Abrahams, Carol Vordeman and others. The qualification for an amazing Bedfordian being that they were actually born in Bedford albeit some only spending months here. The talk, accompanied with slides, was both informative and enjoyable.

Our Harvest Supper in October was well attended and as usual the food, provided by various members, was really delicious. The occasion allowed us to catch up with all our latest news.

During October we entertained a small party of walkers for lunch and the money raised from this went to our WI funds.

An Arts and Crafts evening took place at our November meeting. This coincides with providing decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival held in the Baptist Church viewing of which will take place on Saturdays 10 and 17 December. This year we decided upon a snow theme i.e. all types of snowmen and paper snowflakes. The evening passed very quickly and if you would like to see the results of our labours please visit the Christmas Tree Festival in the Baptist Church.

We plan to hold a Christmas party in December and members were asked to bring a small plate of finger food to share. There will be games and we will be asking our members to indicate their preference for next year's programme.

During the last three months we have attended three County events (i) a Presidents meeting, (ii) a Presidents and Secretaries workshop and (iii) a Speakers Auditions day which we find very useful in organising our programme for the coming year.

We were pleased to be invited to the Darts League final in October but unfortunately we did not come away with the trophy!

Our book club continues to thrive and we now have eight members.

Our local walks have been somewhat curtailed at the moment due to the very wet weather. Hopefully we will be back in action when the paths become a little drier under foot.

Diary dates:

Thurs 8 Dec	Christmas Party
Thurs 12 Jan	A banquet for pollinators - Susan Young
Thurs 10 Feb	Games evening.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Marilyn Billett



BEDFORD SAILING CLUB

Following a stunning summer with lots of fun and activity on the river - swimming, sailing, rowing, paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking - the sailing club is getting ready for Autumn and Winter.

We remain open all year round and a few hardy souls will continue to use the club facilities throughout the winter to enjoy the exceptional surroundings and wildlife.

In October members turned out in great numbers to take part in the Big Tidy to help clear the grounds, clean and fix equipment and tidy up along our beautiful stretch of the Great Ouse, followed by a BBQ!

The club is involved in monitoring wildlife and river quality to ensure safe and clean water conditions for swimming and boating activities.

Membership has grown considerably over the past year and we would encourage villagers to contact us for a free introductory visit and get on the membership waiting list in time for next spring.

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 at 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 or Hugo on hugovankempen0@gmail.com.

Happy paddling!

Hugo van Kempen

STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB



Our club membership now stands at fifteen, sadly two members have passed away over the last two years. We did however gain four more in 2022. For the first time in a number of years we now have a split of eight ladies and seven gents. There is space for more so please just turn up on a Monday (except Bank Holidays and 19 December).

We are aware that there are quite a number of new people in the village and we would love to meet some of you from twelve years of age upwards. You don't have to be a 'bowler,' your first two visits are free so you can decide if you would like to join us.

Our club is very friendly and is run in a more social format rather than being overly competitive. Please come to the village hall and meet us. You don't even have to live in Stevington – we have members from Bromham, Oakley, Pavenham, Milton Ernest and of course, Spike Islanders.

Our annual dinner will take place on Monday 19 December and hopefully some sort of poultry will be available!

We will be closed on 26 December and will reopen on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.00pm.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Wealthier 2023.

Barbara Collins



Stevington Community Hub

Community Shop and drop-in café

open Mon – Fri 10-12 & 3-5pm, Sat 10-12.

Online bread orders via Facebook, Stevington Social

Free Wi-Fi

Available for private hire £12 per hour.

Bookings contact alison.campion@btinternet.com

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STEVINGTON 100 CLUB

WIN YOURSELF SOME CASH.....AND HELP THE VILLAGE HALL!

For only £5 per month you can enter the monthly draw to 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 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.

LUXURY CHRISTMAS HAMPER. By tradition, we draw an extra number in November to win a fabulous CHRISTMAS HAMPER!

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

These are the most recent lucky winners:

Sep	£100 № 64	H & K Parkinson
	£50 № 17	Ged Puckett
	£25 № 30	Tricia Lennie
	£15 № 38	Pete Fisher
Oct	£100 № 22	Linda Penney
	£50 № 67	Marion Hext
	£25 № 58	Clare Boniface
	£15 № 84	Bob Hart
Nov	£100 № 21	Hillary O'Dell
	£50 № 2	Roger Penney
	£25 № 5	Mary Morris
	£15 № 31	Judith Robinson



.....and the 2022 CHRISTMAS HAMPER goes to.....Margaret Pyner!

Thank you to all our 100 Club members for your support and a Merry Christmas to all!

Hugo van Kempen

STEVINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Due to popularity, an additional date for viewing the Christmas trees at our Festival has been added. Decoration of the trees will take place during the morning of Friday 9 December with viewing of the trees taking place between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 10 and Saturday 17



December. There is still time for your group to enter. Christmas trees are supplied free of charge and further details can be obtained by emailing Jim Russell on jim.russell27@btinternet.com.

This year's Carol Service will be held at 4pm on Sunday 11 December. The service of popular carols and readings will last about an hour and will be followed by festive refreshments. It may be at the start of winter but you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

A reminder that we meet every Sunday at 10am for morning worship and all are welcome.

May we take the opportunity to remind you of our fun challenge of Santa Sightings? The idea is for anyone in the village to build that well-known, red-suited figure and put him on display in their gardens, on the roof, down the chimney - in fact anywhere noticeable. It's purely for fun; no judges, no prizes, no real deadlines, but Santa needs to make an appearance before the day itself. He could be sitting on a wall, climbing through a window, riding a sledge, or up a ladder, or even a tree. If he can be seen after dark so much the better. Let's make Stevington the Santa centre.

Barbara Courtney

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.



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. 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.

I often wonder how many people regularly come down Church Road to walk the familiar circular route around the village, invariably have a natter with another villager, enjoy the beauty of the fields looking across the river, take a stroll around the churchyard, visit a loved one's grave, help with the gardening or enter the church for a service or quiet reflection – I think a fair number. It is always heartening to know how much this is part of our community. You may wish to light a candle on the altar to offer thoughts and prayers for the people of Ukraine so, whatever the reason, it is good to know that the church is always open to all every day of the year.

St Mary's continues to welcome the community in bringing people together for celebrations or times of sadness and commemoration. For example, the wedding celebration for Hannah and Tom Coleman was a joyful, family occasion. Sadly, there have been a number of funerals and commemorative services over the last couple of months but they too have brought family and friends together to pay their respects and celebrate the lives of friends and loved ones. October was a time to celebrate Harvest and November saw the community come together again for its Service of Remembrance – always moving and thought-provoking. We are so privileged to have Richard Galley to play the haunting lament and this year to have young Thomas Lee play the Last Post and Reveille so beautifully. Another example of a community coming together.

Here are the services for December and everyone is welcome:

Sunday 4 December	Morning Eucharist, 9.30am
Sunday 11 December	Morning Eucharist at Turvey, 9.30am
Sunday 18 December	Carol Service, 4pm
Saturday 24 December	Christmas Eve Eucharist 9.30pm
Sunday 25 December	Christmas Day Eucharist at Turvey, 9.30am

All at St Mary's look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Blessings



From the Registers:

Wedding:

Hannah and Tom Coleman

Funerals, Burials, Interments:

John Prentice

Brian Westbrook

Joyce Aspley

Susan White

Edward Brassington Millbourn

Sidney Pendlington

Jane O'Connor
Acting Churchwarden

**WILLIAM BARRINGER CHARITY
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE VACANCY**

The William Barringer Charity is seeking a new trustee. The charity is responsible for the management and maintenance of five almshouses on Park Road in Stevington. The charity provides residential accommodation to beneficiaries eligible under the terms of the trust:

- People in need of economic assistance,
- Who have resided in the parish of Stevington for at least three years, or have strong links to the village, and
- Are over sixty years old.

The position is not paid. Applicants should not have personal connections with existing beneficiaries.

To apply please contact Frances Hirst:

Stone End House,
4 The Bakery,
Stevington,
Bedford MK43 7QH
frances@hirst1.plus.com

LIGHT POLLUTION

In 2022 it's said around 80% of the world's people and as many as 99% of European and US citizens live in areas affected by light pollution. What's the reason for this? Excessive emission of artificial light at night, mainly because of inappropriately mounted streetlamps, illumination of places that shouldn't be lit and the use of inadequately designed lights.

Why are more people becoming concerned about light pollution?

People are becoming more conscious of the impact and consequences of their actions on the environment, especially in the area around where they live and immediate surroundings. They are also progressively aware of longer-term threats to the planet and the negative impact that can have on life, health and organisms. Light pollution is increasingly becoming part of the conversation.

What does light pollution cause?

It's said light pollution can develop hormonal disorders in humans, including melatonin deficiency resulting in problems with metabolism and sleep deprivation. It can also have negative consequences for the development of plants and animals who rely on circadian rhythm in evolution.

What exactly is light pollution?

Generally, light pollution is when an excessive and unnecessary number of artificial lights are being used in a natural night-time environment. Light pollution can be split into three different categories.

Skyglow is when light shines upwards, whether directed, without glare control or reflected from ground surfaces and put into the atmosphere to produce an illuminous background.

Over-illumination features issues including:

- Not using timers, sensors, or other controls to make sure lights aren't being used when they're not needed.
- Poor design leading to lights specifying higher levels of brightness than is warranted.
- Wrong choice of lighting fixtures or bulbs, hence not providing the correct levels of direct light in specific areas.
- Sub-optimum lighting systems which mean more energy than necessary is used to achieve desired lighting output.
- Lights not being maintained correctly which increases the amount of stray light and energy used.

Light trespass can happen when light shines into a property from one nearby – this relates to the previously mentioned causes of sleep deprivation.

Reducing light pollution

Having looked at the negative impact of light pollution, it's important to know what can be done about it. Here, we've put together a list of things you can try to help reduce it:

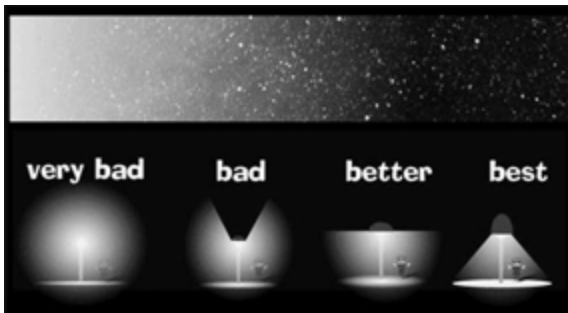
- Using LED lights which are eco-friendlier and brighter and could mean a reduction in the overall numbers of lights needed in a space.
- Shielding light illumination either by purchasing glare control louvres and shields etc. or buying fixtures with ones already fitted. This will help avoid having the light shine into the night sky.
- Remembering when to switch off lights which aren't being used or switching off any lights that aren't needed for safety or security reasons when you go to bed.
- Installing timers or motion sensors so lights aren't on when you don't need them to be.

Choosing the light solutions to mitigate light pollution

Choose to limit upwards illumination by not using brighter lights than are needed and by blocking any upward light with hoods and glare shields. Some spreadlights have hats which block any light from going up, and ground recessed lights have a small, mirrored surface above the light source to block any upward light and reflect it sideways.

Many of the wall lights point downwards so very little light goes up. Some wall lights have hats or eyelids built into the design specifically to block upward light.

Unlike most bollard lights on the market, some path lights and bollard lights have been designed specifically to direct the light where it is needed - which is mostly downwards or across. Many more have louvres which limit upward light spill and others throw light downwards and sideways. As well as cutting down on light pollution it is a more efficient use of the light.



Susan Young
Stevington Environment
Group




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GREEN TIPS

Cheaper, healthier food

Make veg the main ingredient. This will cut your food bill, be good for your health and lower your carbon footprint. Meat takes more land and resources to produce than any of the other sources of protein available to us. Have a look at websites such as tinyurl.com/bbc-vegetarian or tinyurl.com/jamie-vegetarian. All the Jamie Oliver recipes I've tried are especially tasty but veggie recipes are very adaptable to what you have, what's in season and what you like.

Save fuel when you cook

Soak rice, particularly brown or wild rice, for half an hour to shorten the boiling time.

Use a microwave to roughly halve the cost of cooking with a conventional oven. This works very well for chunks of pumpkin or butternut squash (no need to peel) and root veg which take much longer in a pan. An added bonus is that they have more flavour because they only need to be cooked in a splash of water. Baked potatoes can be started in the microwave and crisped up in the oven if you aren't cooking anything else at the same time.

Greener gardening

Choosing flower seeds for next year? Pick single flowers rather than doubles because doubles are bred to produce extra petals rather than the pollen bearing stamens or nectar producing nectaries. Any pollen and nectar that is there is hard for insects to get at between the many petals.

Value your prunings. The green bin won't miss them and your garden will feel their benefit. Small pieces can be spread as a mulch under shrubs and hedges. Larger pieces can be arranged in a tidy pile to make a shelter for beetles and other invertebrates. Twiggy branches make pea sticks and longer branches make good bean poles. If the thin ends are whippy they can be persuaded to bend over to make an arch.

SEG would love to hear what you do to reduce fuel use, help biodiversity and recycle or any other ideas. Email your tips to jackyogooding@gmail.com or tell any of the SEG group and we can include them in the next year's magazines.

Jacky Gooding
Stevington Environment Group

FARMING NEWS

Another really dry summer and early autumn has meant a very early clearance of the arable harvest but difficult conditions for drilling (sowing) next year's winter crops of wheat, barley and beans. However, they are nearly all in the ground now and the pre-emergence herbicides are on. Because blackgrass is quickly resistant to new herbicides and the fact that there are less of them coming along, we have to 'stack' them up early in the autumn to kill the blackgrass before it reaches even one true leaf. In a catchy autumn (which this is), this is difficult to achieve and if you don't get them on quickly it is common for what appear to be very good crops to be sprayed off and re-drilled because the level of blackgrass is simply too high to combat through the remainder of the season. The next and final operation this autumn will be the control of Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV). To do this we cannot kill the virus itself but must kill its aphid vectors with an insecticide. Farmers can only spray this insecticide if aphid numbers reach a certain threshold and also only if they have received sufficient warning from the government scientific centre at Rothamstead.

From what I've seen so far only winter cereals and winter beans have been drilled in Stevington this autumn. No winter oilseed rape at all has been drilled because the control of cabbage stem flea beetle is now nigh impossible, thanks to the withdrawal of neonicotinoid insecticides - mainly on the totally unscientific whim of green activists. It's daft.

The environmental cropping at Duck End Farm has had a difficult start. It was drilled on 4 September and luckily had 6mm of rain fall a few days later. Unfortunately, it remained hot and dry for the next two months and so was slow to establish. Because of the nature of the wild seeds, they had to be dropped lightly on the soil surface then rolled over - if we had tried to drill them into the ground, like arable crops, most of them would not have grown straightaway and would have remained dormant for up to 12 months. This situation would have been unsatisfactory for the inspector if/when he or she comes and we might be fined. They may do this anyway even if we think we *have* done a good job - who knows? Surprisingly, slugs have taken out a good area of Baulk field and Top Field's fine grasses and we will probably need to re-drill these areas in the spring - fingers crossed we will not get an inspection before then. Amazingly the Winter Bird Food cover actually works like they said it would - if you stand still for just a few minutes you will see loads of small birds and finches feeding on the Quinoa (pronounced

“quin-oh-ah”). I counted a flock of 20+ Goldfinches the other day. As well as these, many Kestrels, Buzzards, Red Kites, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a covey of nine Grey Partridges, as well as the usual suspects - Woodpigeons, Crows, Magpies and Pheasants. My mate reckoned he saw a Merlin too but they're so small and fast it could have been anything.

Talking of rainfall (were we? – Ed), there seems to be a lot of confusion about the relative amount we have had. In very basic layman's terms we have had b*gger-all for a very long while. Ditches will only start to run again when the land has taken up so much rain that it can no longer keep it in between its soil particles (this is called Field Capacity), and so it will run through the natural fissures and into the watercourses. Any water in ditches you will have seen lately (early November) is mostly from surface run-off which is what all farmers are trying to prevent by using less heavy machinery at the wrong time (when its wet), retaining a 'green cover' over the winter and generally keeping their soils able to drain freely. Surface run-off will contain silty soil particles and possibly unused fertiliser residues that will contaminate the groundwater. By allowing rainwater to run through the soils at a natural rate, it will allow these fertilisers to do their job and get absorbed by the crops rather than end up at the water treatment works to be removed at great cost. Admirably, I haven't seen any running ditches yet, apart from the bigger ones that run all year round. This means the farmers are doing a pretty good job. The real test will come if we get substantial rainfall in a very short space of time this winter.

Finally, please could we ask you to keep your dogs under control and preferably on a lead, not just for the sake of farm livestock but for the wildlife too.

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THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

The Bedford Times & Bedfordshire Independent – 17/04/1860

Shocking and Fatal Accident – On Thursday morning, Thos. Aspley, horsekeeper, was taking home a steam-engine belonging to Mr. Pike, of Stevington, his master, from Mr. Barker's farm, Stagsden; the thrashing machine was being conveyed home at the same time and was in charge of some men a little way in advance. On coming to a hollow in the road, the deceased who had his hand on the harness of the rear horse, was seen to stumble and fall down when the wheel passed over him. One of the men with the machine went back and asked Aspley if he was hurt. He appeared sensible but could not speak, and blood came from his mouth. A few minutes after he was asked if he should like to be removed to the Infirmary. He signified assent. A proper conveyance was provided, but had not proceeded more than one hundred yards towards Bedford when Aspley breathed his last. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday, by Mr. E. Eagles, jun., deputy coroner for the county, at the house of Mr. Sleath, White Horse, Stagsden. After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." Deceased was 57 years of age.

The Bedford Times & Bedfordshire Independent - 13/01/1863

Division Petty Sessions – George Towns and William Cox were charged with being drunk, and whilst so, guilty of riotous and indecent conduct in the village of Stevington. Defendant Towns said he was not drunk, and Cox that he had only a little beer. From the evidence of police officers Smith and Mardlin it appeared the defendants were both drunk and riotous and refused to go home; the latter was so pot-valiant that he wanted to fight for £5. For these unseemly demonstrations they were fined 5s. each, and the costs.

William Towns, of the same village, was charged with being drunk and assaulting Joseph Wright, the parish-constable. Defendant was a very decent individual when sober, but when under the influence of the Stevington strong ale he loses his head and makes himself very disagreeable. On this occasion he disputed the authority of the parish officer and struck police-constable Mardlin. The magistrates fined him for the first offence 5s., with 7s. costs; and 10s., with 7s. costs, for the second offence. Allowed three weeks for payment.

Thomas Hulatt and Thomas Harding were charged with a similar offence, and fined 12s. 9d. each, including costs.

The Bedfordshire Times And Independent – 12/05/1916

Accident Near Midnight – Albert Jordan Ruffhead, dealer, North Crawley, was charged with being drunk when in charge of a horse and cart at Biddenham and with driving a cart without a lighted lamp at Biddenham on April 22nd.

Mr. C. J. Allinson, Stony Stratford, defended.

Mr. Walter Bowyer, Stevington, said he was driving a horse and cart at 11.30pm on April 22nd along Bromham Road, when about a dozen yards in front he thought he saw something approaching him. As it got nearer he saw it was a cattle float which had no light. They ran into one another. Defendant was drunk.

Frederick Carter, who was in the witness's cart corroborated his story.

P.C. Pegg said at midnight he received information of the accident and went to the spot. Ruffhead was drunk and refused to have the pony shut out, so witness backed it on to the side of the grass, leaving a man in charge, and then took defendant into custody. Defendant had no rear lamp, and his headlamp had no candle.

Supt. Anniwell spoke to conversation at the Police Station when defendant was brought in. Defendant was quite drunk and quite incapable of taking charge of a horse and cart.

Defendant, on oath, said his lamp was well alight. Mr. Bowyer was driving in the middle of the road and defendant tried to get out of the way, but could not do so, and the collision which ensued jolted his light out. P.C. Pegg advised him to shut the horse out and walk home. He gave his address both to Bowyer and the constable. He had only about three pints of beer that day.

Fined 10/- and 10/- costs.

Defendant then pleaded guilty to having no light, and was fined 5/-.

The Bedfordshire Times And Standard – 14/11/1941

Young Farmer Broadcasts – Mr. Kenneth Prentice of Stevington – Mr. Kenneth Prentice, a young Stevington farmer, took part in a broadcast discussion between John Hilton and young workers from

various parts of the country on 6th November. Mr. Prentice, who is nineteen years of age, was awarded a scholarship by the County Agricultural Committee to an agricultural college.

The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Prentice of West End, Stevington. Mr. Kenneth George Prentice went to Stevington School until he was fourteen. He helped his father for two years and then went to the Moulton Farm Institute, Northampton, and stayed there for a year. Returning to his father's farm he is now his father's right-hand man.

Kenneth is especially fond of, and good at, tractor work, and developed a liking and aptitude for agriculture from his early years. He is a good shot and a good horseman and is leader of a troop of boys who collect salvage in the district.

During the broadcast discussion, which was mainly concerned with the welfare of young workers, Kenneth referred to his experience on the land. He said that he was going to stick to farming for good. In the villages he said, everyone helped everyone else and there was no lack of social amenities. Working machinery on the land was more easy than in a factory, he avowed, owing to the more reasonable pace.

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Mark Jackson

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The usual times for the Stevington stop at the cross are 1.30 to 1.50pm on the following Wednesdays:

December 14 and 28	January 11 and 25
February 8 and 22	March 8 and 22

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Stay safe, and we look forward to you borrowing from us soon! A very happy new year to you all!

The Kempston Mobile Library team

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
November	29		
December	13, tba	6, 20	None
January	10, 24	3?, 17, 31	None
February	7, 21	14, 28	None
March	7, 21	14, 28	14, 28

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GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

By early December all the leaves will have been blown off the trees, around the garden and have collected in corners. Leaf mould cannot be purchased and is easily made by stuffing into black sacks and stashing away behind the shed for a couple of years. Use the black crumbly leaf mould to improve the ground for spring planting under trees, where you have bulbs or as general mulch.

In mild weather the grass will continue to grow but rather slowly. Avoid walking on the lawn when there is frost or ice as it would damage the grass.

DECEMBER

By now we should have emptied containers of summer bedding and have to hand fleece and bubble wrap ready to protect your plants when freezing temperatures are forecast. I use clothes pegs to fix fleece in place, don't wrap too tightly and remove as soon as temperatures rise otherwise rot can set in.

Those pots that are too large to bring inside need to be raised a couple of centimetres off the ground to allow excess water to drain away. If you don't have pot feet, use pieces of broken pots instead or position the containers on gravel.

I usually have new rose bushes on order for clients, with their delivery due in early December and will be using mycorrhizal fungi granules on their bare roots to assist with their establishment in newly dug soil improved with well-rotted farmyard manure.

This is the month for pruning wisteria. Look carefully at the twigs and you will see fat buds near the base of last season's growth. These are the flower buds, cut back to one or two of these. All the thin buds will be leaves and new branch growth, so you will need to decide which to retain for new framework and flowering spurs, before cutting back.

This and next month are best for pruning apple and pear trees. Call a tree surgeon if you are unsure what to do.

At Christmas we enjoy using holly as decorations. As soon as the birds have cleared the branches of berries, I go out and prune my holly trees on a mild day.

JANUARY

Winter aconites will be the first flowers to emerge in January with snowdrops in February. Their shoots are delicate and can be seen a few weeks before, so make sure you have cleared away weeds or long grass from those areas in December, in time to enjoy the display.

Unless you want to retain plants for insects, tackle the perennial weeds such as dandelions, dock and nettles by getting out their roots and cut off tattered evergreen foliage as you go round tidying up. Cut down hops and remove ivy which has got out of hand. Many birds rely on mature ivy berries for food this should be left un-pruned until all the berries have been taken. Leaving ivy and other evergreens unpruned until after nesting in the summer, would provide much needed cover for birds and insects to use as shelter from the cold and wet.

FEBRUARY

February is the right time to prune late summer and autumn flowering clematis. Find the new leaf buds low down on the plant and prune back to a couple of these. If it's a mild spring further buds will break even lower down, but be careful how low you prune as a sharp frost can kill their tender leaves.

This month cut down the canes of autumn fruiting raspberries, be careful to burn the old canes or dispose them to landfill. Also the best time to revitalize rhubarb; dig up the old root and cut pieces with a sharp spade keeping one bud to each section. Replant each piece in a new position at the same depth using farmyard manure and as mulch. Allow the new leaves to strengthen the plant by harvesting fruits in summer the following year.

Late February is the time to divide snowdrops after they have flowered. Just fork up a clump, divide it gently with your fingers and replant the bulbs complete with foliage in their new positions at the same depth. Remember to water in straight away.

I like to clean out water-butts, wash empty flowerpots, clear and clean the shed and garage at this time of year so we are shipshape and ready for the new growing season.



WILDLIFE

There will be many insects hibernating amongst the dead stems of your herbaceous perennials in January and February. Some of us like to give wildlife a chance by delaying cutting back of the stems until March. Whichever way you decide, new shoots will be emerging from early March and need light and air to develop to their full potential.



If you like the idea of a garden wildlife pond or bog garden, a cold winter's morning could be a good time to get digging. Ideally position it in a naturally low position in the geography of your garden and away from overhanging trees. Have a deep area for dragonflies, frogs and waterlilies, with shallows for birds and small mammals to take a drink and marginal plantings. Line with a thick butyl liner, weigh down the edges with heavy rocks, make a beach with shingle and plant up in spring.

Check the bonfire heap for hibernating hedgehogs before lighting it. A tell-tale sign are dried leaves and soft material such as grasses, in which the hedgehog rolls to create a sort of cocoon around itself.

We feed garden birds throughout the year, as the arable fields around us have little to offer in the way of bird food. Net-less fat balls, sunflower kernels and niger seeds will attract a range of birds. Soak raisins in water for thrushes at ground level and put mealworms on the bird table for robins. Keep bird tables and ground feeding stations clean to prevent the spread of disease, also scrub out bird baths and change their drinking and bathing water daily.

By keeping busy in the garden those gloomy winter days will soon pass and spring will be upon us.

If any readers would like information about a specific aspect of horticulture or to encourage wildlife, please let me know, by email to info@susanyoungdesign.co.uk or contact the editors. I would be pleased to write about it for all our benefit.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Christmas and don't forget to order those new seeds in good time!

Susan Young

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