

Borough Monthly

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Newsflash

Council bid for funding for Ampthill Road

Bedford Borough Council is hoping to ease congestion on Bedford's busy Ampthill Road by bidding for £5.1 million of funding that would be used to improve the road.

The Council submitted an application to the South East Midland Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) to be included in their bid for government funding for transport improvements.

Improvement measures proposed include enhanced signals and junctions which can respond better to heavy traffic; information systems that report on current traffic conditions; improved capacity for vehicles at key junctions along the route; as well as improved access and traffic management at the Interchange Retail Park.

Following the successful application a bid will be made to the government by SEMLEP in autumn 2016 for a share of an allocated £1.8 billion in government funding.

Successful projects will be notified in early 2017.

Blue Badge fraud uncovered

Teresa Sacco of Grafton Road, Bedford, pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud for using a blue badge that did not belong to her after an allegation of misuse was referred to council services.

In a hearing at Bedford Magistrates Court on 27 July, Mrs Sacco pleaded guilty and was issued with a twelve month Conditional Discharge and ordered to pay a total of £115 by way of court costs and a victim surcharge.

Don't forget you can report Tenancy Fraud, Council Tax and Blue Badge Fraud to the council:

- By calling Freephone number 0800 917 8491
- By visiting the Council's Customer Care Centre in Horne Lane
- By filling in a form online at www.bedford.gov.uk
- By downloading our Bedford Fraud App.

Winning the war on weeds!

Bedford Borough Highways have been sprayed with (green-friendly) weed killer in response to the rapid growth in weeds caused by the warm weather. A Hit Squad have also been out and about manually ripping out weeds in affected areas.

To report a problem with weeds on the highway, contact the Highways Helpdesk on 01234 718003.



Is the electoral register information for your property correct?

This month all households in Bedford Borough will receive a letter asking them to confirm the names of those eligible to vote who are living at the property. The process is quick and simple if you go online to www.bedford.gov.uk/household-update.

You need to be included in the electoral register in order to vote. Even if you are registered for council tax or council services you still need to apply to register as an elector. Credit reference agencies use the electoral register as part of their services to banks and loan companies. Not being included in the electoral register may also harm your access to credit.

Bedford Parks awarded Green Flag status

Four parks in Bedford Borough have been judged to be among the best in the country after receiving a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

Priory Country Park, Harrold Odell Country Park, Addison Howard Park and Bedford Park will all be flying their new Green Flags on site this summer.

The Green Flag Awards are judged by more than 700 green space experts, who visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.

A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

Priory Country Park has the longest history of being awarded the Green Flag, having won it for fifteen years running, while Harrold-Odell Country Park has been awarded a green flag for nine years! Winning these Green Flag Awards is testament to the continued high standards and hard work that has gone into maintaining and improving the grounds at these local parks.

In addition, last week both Harrold-Odell Country Park and Priory Country Park were awarded Certificates of Excellence by travel website Trip Advisor. The TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence is awarded to attractions that consistently achieve outstanding traveller reviews on TripAdvisor.



The Community Safety Partnership Consultation

The Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a group of statutory and voluntary agencies working together to make Bedford one of the safest boroughs to live.

The partnership is running a public consultation over the summer period, closing at the end of September. The purpose of the survey is to seek the opinions and views about levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough, and is asking all residents to take part.

If you are a resident of Bedford Borough, please take a few minutes to complete the survey online here; www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/CSP.

For all other enquiries, please email communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk.

Thousands sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge!

Bedford Borough Libraries are nearly a month into this year's Summer Reading Challenge, with 2,650 children having joined the challenge already - but there is still time to sign up at your local library!

Children will receive a special collector's folder when they join the challenge, collecting six special postcards to complete their folder by reading six books. After reading six books children will collect a certificate; if they read twelve library books they will be rewarded with a pair of amazing rainbow glasses; and by reading a mammoth eighteen library books children will receive a medal!

The Challenge has a new theme each year and for 2016, it's The Big Friendly Read, delivered in collaboration with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate to celebrate what would be have been his 100th birthday!

The Summer Reading Challenge continues in all libraries in Bedford Borough until Saturday 10th September.



Picasso and the Masters of Print

Opens 15 October at The Higgins Bedford

Picasso and the Masters of Print will be opening at The Higgins Bedford on 15 October, offering a unique opportunity to view some of the most important prints by one of the most highly regarded artists of the 20th century.

Renowned for his paintings and sculptures, Picasso was also the twentieth century's greatest printmaker and the seven prints by Picasso held at The Higgins Bedford will showcase the varied printmaking techniques that he mastered.

The print 'Still Life under the Lamp', 1962 is a highlight of the exhibition and one of Picasso's best known linocuts. Although by then well into his 80s, Picasso continued to innovate, using a complex new technique to create this colourful night-time scene.

'The Frugal Meal', 1904, is the earliest work in the exhibition and

one of the last works of Picasso's Blue Period. A haunting depiction of an emaciated couple in a café in Montmartre, The Frugal Meal is considered to be one of the masterpieces of twentieth century graphic art.

These stunning works will be accompanied by a wider exhibition of major artists' original prints drawn from the Cecil Higgins Collection and further afield. Five centuries of printmaking will be on show, ranging from masterpieces by key figures in the history of European printmaking, such as Rembrandt, Picasso and Matisse.

The Exhibition will continue until April 16 2017 and a programme of gallery tours, talks and workshops will be announced in the coming months. Entry is free of charge.

Looking for conference facilities? Look no further than the Bedford i-Lab!

The Bedford i-Lab, Bedford Borough Council's designated facility for established or aspiring businesses, is located at the gateway to Bedford's most prestigious business setting, Priory Business Park.

The Innovation & Business Centre can offer an excellent range of conference facilities to meet all requirements within a professional setting. The centre also offers free car parking and complimentary tea and coffee. If you need a flexible, modern space for your business then look no further!



For more information including rates for hire [click here](#). Alternatively, please contact Syreeta Kalyan on 01234 834567 or email info@bedfordi-lab.com.



Be four times more likely to quit this Stoptober!

The Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service is inviting smokers to quit with them this October.

Last year, over 215,000 people across England and Wales signed up to take part in Stoptober.

Now returning for its fifth year, the mass quit campaign from Public Health England aims to help thousands more to stop for the month of October – and beyond!

Evidence shows that residents who use the Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service are four times more likely to quit smoking.

For free, friendly advice on stopping smoking and to order a free 'Quit Kit', call 0800 013 0553.

Alternatively, visit www.smokefreebedfordshire.co.uk.

Uncover some local history this September!

Come and explore some local history at our heritage open days, taking place next month across Bedford Borough as part of Bedford Heritage Weekend.

Heritage Open Days are England's biggest festival of history and culture, involving over 40,000 volunteers. Every year, thousands of events across the country invite you to explore local treasures, see hidden places and try out new experiences over a four day period in September (8-11 September).

A number of Bedford Borough Council's local attractions are offering you the chance to find out more via special talks, tours and events, all free of charge. You can enjoy talks and exhibitions from the

wartime era at The Higgins Bedford, marvel at the rich history and architecture found at Moot Hall and Bromham Mill, and take a guided tour of Bedford Cemetery. Bedford Heritage Weekend will also see the grand unveiling of Bedfordshire Archives' 'Weaving Narratives' project, which displays the work of local textile artists inspired by the archives.

A number of other properties and sites of local interest will be opening their doors across the weekend. To find out more click [here](#) and to view the programme for Bedford and the surrounding area see overleaf!

Could you contribute to our County's written history?

The Bedfordshire Archives service are looking for volunteers to help provide a historic overview of local towns, villages and hamlets by researching and writing about their local community for the community archives webpages.

This project is an opportunity for interested parties to;

- learn how to carry out archival research with professional support and guidance.
- use your skills to support the archive service by documenting our county's past.
- contribute to the written history of Bedfordshire by sharing your own research online.

Interested?

Bedfordshire Archives will be holding a meeting on Thursday 22 September in the Riverside Building at Borough Hall.

There will be two sessions, at 10am and 2pm, (although you only need attend one) and you can book in advance by calling 01234 228833 or emailing archive@bedford.gov.uk.

For more information on the Community Archives, visit www.bedford.gov.uk/archive and follow the link on the left-hand side of the page.

New Café at Priory Country Park



Fresh from obtaining Green Flag status, Priory Country Park now has a brand new café!

The Cloverdale Retreat Café is based in the visitor centre and open to the public seven days a week from 10am to 4pm; serving a range of teas, coffees, savoury snacks and cakes.

The new café seats forty inside with room for over twenty customers at outside tables; and the team have plans to double this number as soon as possible.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said "We now have cafes in five of the Borough's parks and all are hugely popular community hubs. Priory offers a wonderful country park setting and is popular with people of all ages and with numerous clubs and groups, and the new café will only make it an even more attractive destination."

"I wish the team at the Cloverdale Retreat Café every success and I would encourage people to head down to Priory Country Park this summer and throughout the year to enjoy all it has to offer."

TREASURE

YOUR

TREASURES



heritage open days

BEDFORD HERITAGE WEEKEND

8th - 11th September 2016

Explore Bedford's heritage at these special events, all part of Heritage Open Days, England's biggest festival of history.

AILESBURY MAUSOLEUM & CRYPT

Sunday 11th September 3 - 5pm

Explore this 17th century octagonal mausoleum in the churchyard of St, Mary the Virgin, Maulden.

www.mauldenhistorysociety.org

RIDGMONT HERITAGE CENTRE

Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th September 10am - 4pm

Visit the vintage tea room and find out more about the story of the Marston Vale railway line.

bedsrcc.org.uk/ridgmont-station-heritage-centre

BROMHAM MILL AND CAFE

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September 10am - 4pm

Visit the 18th Century Bromham Mill, enjoy homemade cakes and afternoon tea. Guided tours at 12.30 & 2.30pm.

www.bedford.gov.uk

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COCKAYNE

HATLEY Saturday 10th September 10am - 4pm

Explore this church featuring the finest Flemish monastic woodwork in England.

CRACKING TALES & DARK DEEDS: Historic Walk

Sunday 11th September 10.30am, 1pm and 4pm

Meet at Dan Albone Car Park, Biggleswade Common for this gentle walk with historical stories of old Biggleswade.

WARTIME BEDFORD: THE HIGGINS BEDFORD

Saturday 10th September 11am - 5pm

Find out more about wartime Bedford at these special talks and tours at The Higgins Bedford.

www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk for more details.

FOSTER HILL ROAD CEMETERY

Saturday 10th September 11am - 4pm

Staff will be on hand to help visitors look at burial registers dating back to 1855.

Sunday 11th September 1pm - 5pm

Enjoy a programme of themed guided walks.

Visit www.bedfordcemeteryfriends.org.uk for more details.

WEAVING NARRATIVES:

CREATIONS FROM THE ARCHIVE

Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th September 10am - 4pm

See work by local textile artists inspired by the archives.

Thursday 8th and Saturday 10th September

Behind the scenes tours of Bedfordshire Archive & Records Office. Starting every half hour from 10am -

12noon and 2pm - 4pm. www.bedfordshire.gov.uk

MOOT HALL, ELSTOW

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September 1pm - 4pm

Step into the world of John Bunyan at this 15th century timber framed market house.

www.bedford.gov.uk

WILLINGTON DOVECOTE & STABLES

Sunday 11th September 1pm - 5pm

Visit spectacular Tudor buildings, meet with volunteers from Willington Local History Group and the National Trust. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/willington-dovecote-and-stables for more details.



www.heritageopendays.org.uk

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