

THE WEEKLY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

Produced by Grassroots Publications

Previously The Rural Grunch

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VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 31

19th March 2026



**SPORTS
COVERAGE
SEE PAGE 23**

**DIARY DATES
SEE PAGE 15**

THEATRE COVERAGE - PAGES 20-21

WEEKLY GRUNCH INFORMATION

To assist our readers we have expanded our Key Changes section.

This allows regular readers to see what has changed at a glance in the editions that they may have missed.

SEE RATE CARD ON PAGE 3

Front Cover: *A street scene in Bolnhurst.*

Picture: *Graham White*

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KEY CHANGES TO THE WEEKLY GRUNCH FROM THE LAST ISSUE

19th March: *Page 3, Page 9, Page 11, Page 12, Page 15, Page 23*

12th March: *Page 9, Page 11, Page 12, Page 15, Page 22, Page 23*

5th March: *Page 1, Page 3, Page 9, Page 11, Page 13, Page 15, Page 23*

26th February: *Page 3, Page 11, Page 15, Page 20, Page 23*

19th February: *Page 11, Page 15, Page 21, Page 23*

12th February: *Page 3, Page 9, Page 11, Page 12, Page 15, Page 20, Page 23*

5th February: *Page 3, Page 9, Page 11, Page 12, Page 13, Page 15, Page 16, Page 20, Page 23*

**AS ALWAYS WE ENCOURAGE
YOU TO SEND US YOUR
NEWS AND DETAILS OF
ANY EVENTS YOU MAY BE
HOLDING.**

Email us at

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**Deadline: 10am Tuesday before
Thursday publishing day**

WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY GRUNCH

When the word AI is mentioned, it is usually portrayed in a negative fashion.

Shortened for Artificial Intelligence, AI will become a significant part of our lives, whether we like it or not.

As we are all probably aware, it has been misused in an inappropriate way.

There is also concern that it could replace jobs although it can do some of those tedious tasks in an efficient way.

However, I am still getting used to it and do not appreciate it when AI, in the form of Copilot, tries to write my emails.

Unfortunately, AI cannot read my mind so the end result would not be quite as intended.

So there are some negatives about AI and we have to realise it is still in its early days.

Despite this, there may be some advantages of AI.

In recent weeks, I have started to use AI when I am doing some research.

Previously, I have had to scroll through several websites to get a basic piece of information.

As a starting point, I tend to use the AI overview which can be quite detailed.

Place a precise question into your search engine, press return then select AI Mode.

For instance, when asked how to get tickets for Luton Town Football Club's Vertu Trophy final against Stockport County on 12th April, it gave a detailed explanation, covering a number of pages.

This is just one example but it has to be used with caution and the eagle-eyed will notice that at the end of every explanation there is a disclaimer - AI can make mistakes.

Other areas in which AI can be useful is when you want to find more information about a holiday.

Often, AI can come up with some fantastic gems that may not appear in holiday brochures.

Yes, I am happy with some aspects of AI but treat with caution.

Graham White

WEEKLY GRUNCH RATE CARD

ADVERTISING PRICES

FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

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1/2 Page: £6 for up to 4 issues - £50 yearly

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Thursday publishing date.**

TAKE A SHORT CUT BY SUE

Many people are now reading The Daily Grunch but for some it is a new experience.

For a few, it may be too many clicks or you cannot remember the name of the website.

There is a little trick:

Go to the www.grassrootspublications.co.uk Home Page where the link to The Daily Grunch is located. In the top right hand corner of this page you will see 'three vertical dots'. Click on these and you will see a list of options.

Choose 'Add to Home Screen' and you should have an icon for Grassroots Publications in the favourites area or something similar on your device. Then any time you want to access The Daily Grunch you only have to click on this icon to take you to the link.

If you want to find a specific article in The Daily Grunch try this



Ctrl + F to find the subject/word you are looking for. This avoids trying to find the elusive article.

For example: Open The Daily Grunch – Press **Ctrl + F** which will open a small box, Type in the box the topic/number you are looking for. Say for example - 'Riseley'.

You will find 16 entries in the 27th October.2020 edition.

Sue
www.renholdvillage.co.uk

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Why not try a walk with North Beds Ramblers?

We are a friendly group who walk on Saturdays:
Every Saturday afternoon, approx. 6 miles

Saturday mornings, twice monthly, 10 -12 miles
Just turn up wearing suitable footwear and clothing
Sorry only assistance dogs allowed

We walk in all weathers,
you may get wet and muddy!!

Bring refreshments
(and plenty of water in the summer)

Interested?
Find our programme on the Ramblers website <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedsfordshire>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northbedsramblers>
Twitter @nb_ramblers

Walks are free but if you decide to walk with us regularly we would like you to join the Ramblers

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (1093577) and a company limited by guarantee, (No.445852). Registered Office: 1 Clerk Street, 9th Floor, London, SE1 3DQ



Collection Calendar

Please ensure that your bins are out for collection by 6am on your collection day. Missed collections must be reported within 48 hours of your scheduled collection. Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/misssedbin to report a missed collection.



Remember!

Garden waste collections are suspended from 1st December to 1st March.

December 2025 and January 2026 Date Changes

Recycling only

Mon 22 Dec	moves to	Sat 20 Dec
Tues 23 Dec	moves to	Mon 22 Dec
Weds 24 Dec	moves to	Tues 23 Dec
Thurs 25 Dec	moves to	Weds 24 Dec
Fri 26 Dec	moves to	Sat 27 Dec

Rubbish only

Mon 29 Dec	No Change
Tues 30 Dec	No Change
Weds 31 Dec	No Change
Thurs 1 Jan	moves to Fri 2 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	moves to Sat 3 Jan

This calendar runs until March 2026. After this date, collection days may change as Bedford Borough Council introduces a new weekly food waste collection service.

All households will be informed in advance of any day changes, and a new collection calendar will be available to download before the new service begins.

Key

Red Outline = Date Change

Orange = Recycling Only

Purple = Recycling and Garden

Grey = General Rubbish

December 2025

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

January 2026

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

February 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

March 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			



Weekly Food Waste Collections are coming in 2026!



Weekly food waste collections are coming! Keep your black bin cleaner and fresher - recycle your food waste into energy!

FOCUS ON THE VILLAGER BUS

The Villager Bus is run by volunteers for the North Bedfordshire communities. There are scheduled routes each week and it can be hired for outings.

The new bus can take up to 16 passengers including space for one wheelchair user. It has a low floor for easy access and a wheelchair ramp, as well as air conditioning, WiFi and phone charging points.

The Villager Bus provides regular bus services from the North Bedfordshire villages to various destinations, including Olney, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Rushden Lakes and St Ives. Concessionary Bus Passes can be used as well as payment by card or cash. Currently the cost of a single journey to any destination is only £2.

The purchase of the new bus was made possible with the generous support of various sponsors including Bedford Borough Council, the Harpur Trust, The Gale Family Charity Trust, Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust, Wixamtree Trust, The Connolly Foundation and the Christopher H R Reeves Trust.



● The brand new Villager Bus.

The Villager Bus is a service for all, helping everyone to get out to town centres and local supermarkets. It has been run entirely by volunteers since 1987 with the aim of improving the lives of those in the North Beds villages.

The service supports many older people and those with mobility problems who may find it difficult to travel on their own. It's a great opportunity to socialise too! We currently deliver between 250 and 300 passenger journeys a month as well as frequent community hires.

● The Villager Bus (Sharnbrook) committee member Andrew Gell welcomes a passenger for a local service.



FOCUS ON THE VILLAGER BUS

The Villager Minibus



The Villager is a friendly bus service that runs through many North Bedfordshire villages going to Milton Keynes, Olney, Rushden Lakes, St Ives and Sainsbury's in Bedford. All Concession Pass holders travel free and children travel half price.

Do support your local community bus service run and driven by volunteers.

Thurleigh - Harrold - Lavendon - Olney - Milton Keynes Route VL4 - 2nd Tuesday of each month

	Out	Return
Thurleigh, The Close	0900	RR 1312
Milton Ernest, Queens Head	0905	RR 1317
Radwell Village	0907	RR 1315
Felmersham, Sun	0910	1313
Carlton, Crossroads	0913	1307
Carlton, The Fox	0920	1305
Harrold, Centre	0925	1300
Lavendon, Cross	0935	1250
Olney, Market Place	0940	1245
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0953	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	1000	1230

24 April 2023

Sharnbrook/Oddell - Harrold - Sainsbury's (Bedford, Clapham Road)

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, Opp Fordham Arms	0930	1230
Sharnbrook Court	0935	1225
Sharnbrook, The Swan	0937	1223
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0940	1220
Oddell, The Bell	0943	1217
Harrold, Centre	0948	1212
Carlton, The Fox	0954	1208
Parenham	1003	1157
Clapham	1015	1145
Sainsbury's	1020	1140

Our bus is available for community/private hire. Our website has more information.

www.sharnbrookvillagerminibus.co.uk

or e-mail:
villagerbus.sharnbrook@gmail.com

If you are interested in becoming one of our volunteer drivers do phone us for an informal chat without any obligation on 01234 708191.



Felmersham - Sharnbrook - Riseley - Kimbolton - Huntingdon - St Ives

Route VL14 - 3rd Monday of each month

	Out	Return
Felmersham, The Sun	0840	RR 1507
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0850	1500
Sharnbrook, Opp Nisa Store	0900	1507
Bletsoe, A6 Bus Stop	0905	RR 1542
Milton Ernest	0907	RR 1540
Thurleigh, The Close	0905	RR 1535
Riseley, High St (Gold St)	0917	1523
Riseley, Primary School	0920	1520
Swineshead, Church	0923	1517
Melchbourne Village	0929	RR 1511
Upper Dean, High Street	0933	1507
Shelfton, Bus Stop	0937	RR 1503
Lower Dean, High Street	0942	1458
Tilbrook, White Horse	0945	1455
Kimbolton, Post Office	0948	1452
Stonsley, Main Road	0950	1450
Gr. Staughton, Spouty Tavern	0953	1447
Dillington, Crossroads	0954	1445
Penny, Opp Wheatshed	0955	1444
Brampton, Thrapston Road	1007	1433
Huntingdon, Bus Station	1010	1430
St Ives, Bus Station	1025	1415

Sharnbrook - Harrold - Turvey - Milton Keynes

Route VL15 - 1st Tuesday of each month

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, Swan	0930	1331
Sharnbrook, Lodge & Loring Rd	0932	1329
Oddell, The Bell	0936	1325
Harrold, Centre	0943	1318
Carlton, The Fox via The Moor	0950	1313
Turvey, The Green	0958	1303
Newton Blossomville, Old Mill	1004	1257
Clifton Reynes, Robin Hood	1011	RR 1250
Milton Keynes, Shop Centre	1020	1230

Clapham - Oakley - Stevington - Turvey - Milton Keynes

Route VL6 - 4th Tuesday of each month

	Out	Return
Clapham, Community Centre	0900	1330
Oakley, High Street	0905	1325
Oakley, Memorial	0907	1323
Parenham, Close Road	0910	1320
Parenham, Weavers Lane	0913	1317
Stevington, West End	0918	1312
Stevington, Cross	0920	1310
Bromham, Grange Lane	0925	1305
Turvey, Station Road	0930	1308
Turvey, The Green	0932	1300
Newton Blossomville, Old Mill	0938	1253
Clifton Reynes, Robin Hood	0945	RR 1243
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0958	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	1000	1230

Melchbourne - Riseley - Sharnbrook - Olney - Milton Keynes

Route VL7 - 3rd Tuesday of each month

	Out	Return
Melchbourne, Village	0850	RR 1335
Swineshead, Church	0855	RR 1330
Riseley, Primary School	0900	RR 1328
Riseley, High St (Gold St)	0903	RR 1323
Bletsoe, Church	0909	RR 1317
Sharnbrook, Swan	0914	1310
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0918	1308
Oddell, The Bell	0921	1305
Harrold, Centre	0928	1300
Lavendon, Cross	0931	1255
Olney, Market Place	0936	1250
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0954	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	0956	1230

Riseley/Thurleigh - Sainsbury's (Bedford, Clapham Road)

Route VL12 - 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month

	Out	Return
Riseley, High St. (Gold St)	0930	1135
Bletsoe, Church	0940	1130
Milton Ernest, Opp Queens Head	0945	1125
Sainsbury's	0955	1110
Thurleigh, The Close	1010	1225
Milton Ernest, Marsh Lane	1020	1215
Sainsbury's	1030	1200

Sharnbrook - Riseley - Melchbourne - Rushden - Watrous/Rushden Lakes

Route VL13 - 2nd Monday of each month

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0855	1308
Sharnbrook, Opp Nisa Store	0858	1305
Bletsoe, Opp Church	0908	RR 1300
Thurleigh, The Close	0918	RR 1255
Riseley, High St (Gold St)	0930	1241
Riseley, Primary School	0933	1240
Swineshead, Church	0936	1237
Upper Dean	0943	RR 1230
Melchbourne	0948	RR 1225
Telden, High Street /Spring Lane	0953	1220
Newton Blossomville Village	0957	1216
Rushden, College Street	1003	RR 1210
Rushden, Watrous/Rushden Lakes	1012	RR 1201

Passengers are strongly advised to book their journeys, apart from the Olney and Sainsbury's runs, using our website.

www.sharnbrookvillagerminibus.co.uk
Or phone: 01234 708191

Where you see **RR** in the timetable, this means **Request**. The bus calls for passengers on request only, ie where booked.

Sharnbrook - Felmersham - Oddell - Harrold - Lavendon - Olney Market

Route VL5A - Every Thursday

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, The Swan	0910	1148
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0912	1146
Felmersham, The Sun	0915	RR 1143
Oddell, Bell	0920	1138
Harrold, Green	0924	1134
Lavendon, Cross	0932	1126
Olney, Market Place	0938	1120

Carlton - Stevington - Bromham - Turvey - Cold Brayfield - Olney Market

Route VL5B - Every Thursday

	Out	Return
Carlton, Fox	1008	1243
Stevington, West End	1008	1238
Stevington, Cross	1010	1236
Stevington, Arms Houses	1012	1234
Bromham, Grange Lane	1017	1229
Turvey, Station Road	1023	1223
Turvey, Jacks Lane	1025	1221
Turvey, Green	1026	1220
Cold Brayfield	1028	1218
Olney, Market Place	1036	1210

GRUNCH NEWS



● The Tibbs Memory Cafe is held at Renhold Chapel on the third Friday of each month. The sessions proved popular throughout 2025. They are continuing into 2026 with the first of the New Year being held on Friday 15th January. The next one will be on Friday 20th February where there will be more fun and chat.



**Welcome to the 2026 Coffee Mornings
and Soup Lunches at The Old School in
Bolnhurst**

Thank you so much for supporting these events in
2025 and we look forward to seeing you again soon

January to March dates for your diaries

Soup lunches

Friday 9th January

Friday 6th February

Friday 6th March

Coffee Mornings

Saturday 31st January

Saturday 28th February

Saturday 28th March

Any queries wendylevy2811@gmail.com

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GRUNCH NEWS

Bookings are now open for the Bedford River Festival Sports Island 2026.

The 24th Bedford River Festival takes place on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July.

The Festival is free to the public and offers numerous opportunities to participate in, or just to relax and enjoy, with a vast array of activities and entertainment across a 105-acre site.

The Sports Island is located next to the Butterfly Bridge opposite Russell Park (one of the main bridges on the river), and offers thousands of visitors the opportunity to take part in, watch, find out about and enjoy a massive range of sports, health and leisure opportunities.

In 2024, the Sports Island had 40 different organisations with marquees offering activities such as kayaking, table tennis, golf, rugby, martial arts, fitness, free-running, dancing, cycling, basketball and hockey, as well as a sports stage with 42 sports, dance and physical activity demonstrations.



● The North Beds Repair Shop specialists were kept busy, repairing 39 items, at their first event of 2026 at Bletsoe Village Hall on Saturday 7th March. Future events will take place on 16th May, 11th July, 12th September and 28th November.



● The Renhold Mini-Market and Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th March at All Saints Church raised over £1000. The highlights of the day was the cake and the Renhold Primary School Choir.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

GRUNCH NEWS

BEDFORD CRAFT MARKETS

These Saturday craft markets have different local craft traders and free workshop/performance every second Saturday on the Silver Square and along the whole Silver Street!

From soap flower gifts to up-cycled jars and glasses, wax melts to handmade bags and clothes, hand-painted plant pots to knitwear, you will find all high-quality and original crafts that showcase our local crafters' passion and expertise.

The market runs 9.30am-3.30pm.



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ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB EVENTS

Tuesday 24th March

DANA ROBINSON

Dana Robinson is a songwriter but also a master storyteller, spinning his yarns with the precise skill of an artisan loom weaver.

Tuesday 31st March

ROUND THE ROOM

This is a friendly sing-around atmosphere, performers and audience all welcome. Admission £5

Tuesday 7th April

This is a TBC event.. This means we are not sure who is performing. As soon as we know, we will publish the details . This will depend on whether we become aware of them.

Tuesday 14th April

LANDERMASON

Fiona Lander (vocals, piano, whistles, saxophone, clarinet and recorder) and Paul Mason (guitars, ukulele and vocals) present a fabulous and varied show which combines both traditional and contemporary folk with jazz, blues, classical and other styles.



LANDERMASON



DANA ROBINSON

Tuesday 21st April

DARIA KULESH

Shares stories and songs that are deeply personal but feel universal and timeless. Every performance is an 'emotional, compelling and uplifting experience', leaving the audiences completely spellbound.

Tuesday 28th April

ROUND THE ROOM

This is a friendly sing-around atmosphere, performers and audience all welcome. Admission £5.

Tuesday 5th May

WINTER WILSON

Kip Winter and Dave Wilson bring a sense of intimacy, blending often hard-hitting original songs, stunning harmonies and musicianship.

ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB

St Neots Folk Club meets on Tuesday evening at 7:30pm to 9:45pm at The Eatons, The Eatons, 18 The Maltings, Eaton Socon, PE19 8ES. Next to Co-op.

Non-Members £10 / Members £8 unless otherwise stated. Membership: £20/year.

To contact St Neots Folk Club:

email: stneotsfolkclub@aol.com

Tel: 01234 376278

GRUNCH NEWS

Portfolio holder for environment at Bedford Borough Council, Nicola Gribble is responsible for the new food waste collection initiative.

The first weekly collections will be during the week commencing Monday 30th March.

All houses in the Bedford Borough Council area will have both an outdoor caddy and a smaller one for indoors.

Those living in flats will only have the small caddy but there will be a collection point close to their homes.

The caddies will be used to collect leftovers, out-of-date food and scraps.

The aim of the initiative is to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and to convert green energy and fertiliser.

Cllr Gribble has advised on how the caddies should be maintained such as lining them with newspaper or a small bin bag.

In a special video and also on information sheets, on the initiative, Cllr Gribble said: "However, you do not have to use a liner, you can simply give the caddy a rinse after it has been emptied."

"Any plastic or paper bag and newspaper will be removed at the recycling facility before the food waste is processed."

"We will be able to process food waste in a more specialist facility where it will be turned into renewable energy and a nutrient rich fertiliser through processes such as anaerobic digestion."



● **Bedford Borough councillor Nicola Gribble shows off the new outdoor caddy that will be used to dispose of food waste.**

GRUNCH NEWS ROUND-UP

☐ **The Dean Duck Dash will celebrate its 30th anniversary when the popular race takes place on Saturday 21st March.**

A bumper crowd will be at the start line at the Upper Dean Bridge at 11.30am to watch the plastic, yellow ducks being thrown into the brook.

After the race, there will be a chance to celebrate as there will be a Post Race Fair at the Eileen Wade Primary School in the High Street. As well as the presentations, there will be plenty of stalls and refreshments.

☐ Some early events have been announced for the 2026 BedFringe Festival.

Regular performer at the Festival Alfie Moore will be at The Quarry Theatre on Wednesday 22nd July.

Alfie will be providing a fun-filled evening ahead of recording his 10th series of popular Radio Four comedy 'It's A Fair Cop'.

Go to www.quarrytheatre.org.uk for further details.

GRUNCH RECIPES

OUR FAVOURITES

Vegetable Enchiladas

What's For Dinner - Slow Cooker - Sarah Rossi

Ingredients

500g butternut squash, peeled and chopped into **2cm** approx pieces - you could use frozen ready prepared.

2x400g tinned mixed beans, rinsed and drained

1 onion, peeled and finely chopped

500g passata

1x 400g tinned tomatoes

2tsp garlic granules

2tsp smoked paprika

1tbsp dried oregano

4tsp ground cumin

2tsp mild chilli powder

2tbsp tomato puree

2tsp dark brown sugar

½ tsp sea salt

½ tsp freshly ground black pepper

To Finish

240g tortilla wraps

1 x 325g tinned sweetcorn, drained

150g grated mozzarella cheese

Method

❑ Is it still an enchilada if you do not actually roll the filled tortillas? Probably not, but this dish still has a lot of the flavours of the classic Tex-Mex classic. The sauce cooks then you just tuck some tortilla strips into it to soften and soak up the flavours while the cheese topping melts. It is messy and delicious.

❑ Put all the ingredients for the slow cook into the slow cooker pot and mix well. Put the lid on and cook on high for 6-7 hours or low for 8-9 hours. This is dependent on your slow cooker pot but the butternut squash needs to be soft and the sauce has thickened.

❑ Cut the tortilla into 3cm strips. Add these and the sweetcorn to the slow cooker. Mix in with the enchilada filling. Sprinkle over the cheese.

❑ If your slow cooker is oven/grill safe then place under the grill for 10 minutes until the cheese has melted and golden. If not, put the lid back on the slow cooker and cook for 30 minutes until the cheese has melted.



VEGETARIAN ENCHILADAS



SARAH ROSSI

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BREAKING NEWS 📰
MARKET DATES FOR 2026



VENUE:

**GREAT
STAUGHTON
VILLAGE HALL
THE GREEN
GREAT
STAUGHTON
ST NEOTS
PE19 5DG**

DATES:

- **21ST FEB**
- **21ST MARCH**
- **18TH APRIL**
- **16TH MAY**
- **20TH JUNE**
- **18TH JULY**
- **15TH AUG TBC**
- **19TH SEPT**
- **17TH OCT**
- **21ST NOV**
- **19TH DEC**

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TIME 11.30AM MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
TILL 2PM queeniesfoodandcraftsevents@gmail.com

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th March: Colmworth Village Hall. 7.30pm. Colmworth & Neighbours Historical Society Talk : Richard Moon - Seizing The Skies - The Story of the R101. Membership £12.50 per annum. Guests can attend Open Meetings for a £4 donation.

Saturday 21st March: Carlton (Mk43 7AW) 1.30pm. 7 Miles. Parking on The Causeway and meet by Village Green. The walk will include parts of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail. Please note if there is heavy rain there could be flooding issues with regards to parking. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 21st March: Upper Dean Bridge, Upper Dean. 11.30am. Dean Duck Dash. The annual race for yellow plastic ducks. Refreshments and entertainment afterwards at the Eileen Wade Primary School in the High Street.

Saturday 28th March: Old Warden Church (SG18 9HD) 10am. 12 miles. This countryside walk takes us over the Greensand Ridge and down to Cople before heading east and then up to Northill before circling the Shuttleworth Estate and back to the start. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 28th March: Cranfield (MK43 0FZ) 1.30pm. 6.5 miles. Sting at Cranfield Community Centre, Thillans, Cranfield. A circular walk exploring the northeren edge of Marston Vale taking in Holcott Wood and Marston Thrift. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Sunday 12th April: St Peter's De Merton Church, St Peter's Street, Bedford. 3pm. Cantamus Chamber Choir presents Motets by J S Bach and works celebrating the 400th anniversary of John Dowland and the 450th anniversary of Thomas Weelkes Conductor Gary Mudd Tickets £10 at the door in aid of church funds

Saturday 25th April: Harrold Green, High Street, Harrold and Harrold Country Park. From 12.30pm. Harrold Pit Run and Fair. Races for all age groups including senior race. Plus entertainment for all the family on The Green.

Saturday 16th May: Renhold Village Hall. 7pm-9pm (Doors Open at 6.45pm. Live Music. An Evening With Fynnius Fogg. Bedford's Oldest Boy Band. Hall limited to 120. Ticket Only. Tickets £20 to include a glass of wine or beer plus nibbles. Available in advance only from Amanda Quince on 07948 183164.

Every Sunday: Great Barford Village Hall at 10am. Great Barford Run Together. Running for fun for all standards including novices.

Every Thursday: Riseley Village Hall 3.30-5pm. Riseley Bus Stop Cafe for School Years 7-13 During school term.

First Friday of the Month: Keysoe Village Hall at 7.30pm. Bar Night

Every Saturday/Sunday: There may be football matches at Thurleigh, Sharnbrook and Riseley.

FOR YOUR DIARY

£1 per insertion per 30 days for a max 30 word insertion, cheque payable to Grassroots Publications, may be sent to Grassroots Publications, 2, Strawberry Hill Cottages, Knotting Green, Bedford, MK44 1AB Use this section to advertise any community or social event that may be coming up in the forthcoming months. It can include sports events. We reserve the right to omit any dates if payment is not made. If in doubt feel free to contact us on 07725 812963 or email: dailygrunch@outlook.com. Price includes VAT

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SCAN

FOCUS ON NORTH BEDS RAMBLERS

WE ARE 50

North Beds Ramblers, the oldest Ramblers Group in Bedfordshire turns 50 in 2026.

A recently discovered walking programme from 1976 will allow us to recreate our first year of walking as a celebration.

The programme was very scant, with one monthly walk offered on the first Saturday afternoon of the month. We still walk on Saturday afternoons.

The only other detail was a start time of 2.15pm, a meeting point and the leader.

Sadly, we have no idea how long the walks were, although starting at 2.15pm in the winter might suggest that they weren't very long.

So, 2026 starts a year of celebrations for us. Not just recreating the 1976 programme but we also hope to incorporate parts of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail into many of these walks.

Recently, a number of our members have been involved in re-signing the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail and so it will be lovely to see some of their work first hand.

As with any big birthday, we plan to have a celebration party and will be producing some memorabilia for our walkers, watch this space. All the memorabilia and promotional material will include our new 50th year logo, kindly designed by one of our members - Julianna Jagielska.

If you are in the locality please come and join us on one of our birthday walks or any other. as we now walk every Saturday, not just the first of the month.

For further details contact us at:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/north-bedfordshire-group>



NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE GROUP		
1976		
January 3rd	Meet at Turvey Cross Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
February 7th	Meet Willstead Cross Road We are hoping that Mr. Coles will be able to lead on some of the footpaths in Willstead area.	2.15 pm
March 6th	Meet Wootton Church Leader - Mike Hudson (Amphill 402721 - Office)	2.15 pm
April 3rd	Meet Milton Ernest Church Leader - D. Boddington (Oakley 2995)	2.30 pm
May 1st	Meet Texas Instruments Leader - John Pynes (Bedford 60992)	2.15 pm
June 5th	Meet Kington Church Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
July 3rd	Meet on A428 1 1/2 miles west of Bromham Leader - Tony Ely (Oakley 2747)	2.15 pm
August 7th	Meet Northill Church Leader - details later	2.15 pm
Sept. 4th	Meet Renhold Church We are inviting Mrs. Tiffney to lead on this occasion	2.15 pm
Oct. 2nd	Meet Old Warden Church Leader W. Nevard (Hitchin 812089)	2.15 pm
Nov. 6th	Meet GR 027550 Leaders D. Boddington (Oakley 2995) S. Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
Dec. 4th	Meet Newbury Park Car Park, Kimbolton Road Leader J. Quilly (Bedford 46210)	2.15 pm

**SEE DIARY DATES
ON PAGE 15
FOR DETAILS OF
NORTH BEDS RAMBLERS
WALKS**

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WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

StageWrite Spring 2026
Produced by LifeBox Theatre
The Place, Bedford
29th March
7.30pm
Tickets £5, £10, £15

StageWrite is a hothouse for the development of new writing for theatre, designed to help plays grow from page to performance. It supports writers in the process of getting their work up on its feet and in front of an audience for the very first time.

We rehearse over one weekend and then the plays are performed semi-staged, script in hand to allow for a more developed experience than a rehearsed reading (where actors simply read the play out loud). You'll be amazed at how much we can do in a short space of time.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE PLACE BEDFORD
www.theplacebedford.org.uk or phone 01234 354321

WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

Exploring with Kaye Leidoskope
Produced by Kaye Mahoney
The Place, Bedford
27th March
9.30am
Pay What You Can: £2-£9

Blending storytelling, nature-based crafts, and the rich tapestry of everyday stories, Exploring with Kaye sessions are a unique space where young children and their carers can slow down, connect, and explore together. Each session is inspired by the colourful wonders of the natural world.

Kaye Mahoney, the creator and facilitator of the programme, says:

"These sessions are about more than just play, they're about creating shared moments between carers and children, supporting early literacy and communication skills through interactive stories, and encouraging fine motor development and sensory exploration through meaningful, hands-on craft activities."



FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE PLACE BEDFORD
www.theplacebedford.org.uk or phone 01234 354321

WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

Nurse Dessie

*Produced by Mary Seacole Housing Association
The Place, Bedford*

9th April

11am

Tickets: Free But Reserve

**Join us for Story Time with Nurse Dessie!
Bring the whole family to The Place Bedford
for a magical, free storytelling show!**

**Follow our beloved mascot, Nurse Dessie, as
she brings history to life, sharing the inspiring
legacy of Mary Seacole and real-life stories
from the Windrush generation.**

**Designed for children and young people,
this show fosters empathy, resilience, and
cultural pride through creative sessions full of
learning and fun.**

Children's snacks & activity packs included!



**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE PLACE BEDFORD
www.theplacebedford.org.uk or phone 01234 354321**

WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

Avenue Q

*Produced by Rehearsal Rooms Theatre
The Place, Bedford*

15th-18th April

7.30pm (Also 2.30pm on 18th April)

Tickets £22

**Welcome to Avenue Q! This beloved musical
tells the story of a recent college graduate
named Princeton, who moves into a shabby
New York apartment out on Avenue Q.**

**He soon discovers that this is not your
ordinary neighbourhood, with monsters,
humans and lot of interesting characters as
his neighbours!**

**He and his new-found friends go on hilarious
journeys as they struggle to find jobs, dates,
and their ever-elusive purpose in life.**



**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE PLACE BEDFORD
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WEEKLY GRUNCH SPORT



● Evening showjumping will take place at the Keysoe International Equestrian Centre with the Claire Darwin Clinic. The sessions will take place on 29th January, 17th February, 4th March and 18th March from 6pm and 8pm in the indoor arena. Claire is a UKCC Level Three qualified showjumping coach. She is very passionate about getting the best from horse and rider, with a keen interest in helping riders to improve their technical skills and gain confidence. Claire is the lead coach of the BS Beds and Bucks Academy.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

CRICKET: Thurleigh Cricket Club will be holding girls sessions during the summer for the first time. For further details on the Girls Dynamos and to register go to: <https://forms.gle/hLmA28PtUde7knQE9>

For youth registration go to: <https://forms.gle/nwRLCStiN2KLKMA17>

CROSS COUNTRY: Bedford & County finished sixth in the National Men's Championships, that were held at Sedgfield in County Durham. They were the second placed Southern club.

Thurleigh athlete Andy Blair won the Over-60s class at the Bedfordshire Cross Country Championships at Southill Park. Andy was representing Bedford & County AC, for whom

he has competed for around 40 years.

ROAD RUNNING: The Harrold Pit has been scheduled to take place on Saturday 25th April. The Stevington 12km Road Race is on Sunday 10th May.

Football Fixtures - 21st March

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division: Riseley Sports v Biggleswade United Reserves; Totternhoe Reserves v AFC Oakley. **Division One:** AFC Oakley Development v Baldock Victoria; Blunham v Kempston United; Thurleigh v Bletchley Scot **Watson Shield:** Turvey v Ampthill Town Colts **Division Four:** M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves v Meltis Rangers.



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