

THE WEEKLY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

Produced by Grassroots Publications

Previously The Rural Grunch

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VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 29

5th 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

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*

29th January: *Page 3, Page 11, Page 12, Page 15, Page 21, Page 23*

22nd January: *Page 9, Page 11, Page 15, Page 23*

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

Email us at

dailygrunch@outlook.com

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

WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY GRUNCH

Many of us in north Bedfordshire heard the loud aircraft noise on the evening of 2nd March.

It transpired that it was a military-type aircraft and was flying low.

For some, it was a scary experience especially with the outbreak of war in the Middle East.

There have been a few viewpoints on what this aircraft was doing and even AI had an opinion.

The artificial intelligence suggested it was due to scheduled military night-flying exercises.

In greater detail, it added that RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire are doing night-flying training from 2nd March between 2pm and 10pm with their Typhoon fast jets.

RAF Coningsby were also carrying out separate low flying training and planes could be as low as 250ft.

There were also reported movements of US F-15 fighter jets from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, which could have been heard over

north Bedfordshire.

However, there was an explanation on the Riseley & Friends Facebook page that the aircraft originated from RAF Brize Norton.

The post said it was the Airbus A400M Atlas that took off from RAF Brize Norton at 8.35pm and would arrive in our area at approx 8.50pm on its way to Wisbech.

The aircraft then went to Devon then back to RAF Brize Norton where there was a debrief and a nightcap.

All very interesting but I wonder if the Airbus could be an alternative to the East West Railway...

Or were they trialling a new ride for the proposed Universal theme park at Kempston Hardwick.

□ It was always going to happen that the new grey bins for food waste would have an alternative use. I went to see a local youth theatre performance in Bedford and yes the grey bin was used as a prop in a short play about bullying. Please do not do this at home or school.

WEEKLY GRUNCH RATE CARD

ADVERTISING PRICES

FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

Full Page: £10 for up to 4 issues - £80 yearly

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

1/4 Page: £4 for up to 4 issues - £30 yearly

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For further information and to place advertising: dailygrunch@outlook.com

Graham White

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**10am on the Tuesday before the
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-beds>
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)

Route VLL1 - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month

	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
Stonely, 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, Ann's 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

Three government inspectors will evaluate the current financial situation at Bedford Borough Council.

The investigation will last three months and it is assumed it will be led by Paul Najsarek and assisted by Margaret Lee and Parveen Akhtar.

They will make an independent assessment on how the Council is performing, focusing on a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The inspectors will evaluate the Council against key parameters as defined in Statutory Guidance.

These are leadership, governance, culture, use of resources, service delivery, partnerships and community engagement and improvement.

Bedford Borough Council revealed the forthcoming investigation on their Facebook page claiming they will continue to provide the best possible services to local residents by their skilled and dedicated staff.



● The Blunham Book Sale was another success on 28th February with a wide range of books on sale along with quality refreshments.



● The Riseley Youth Theatre takes place on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm and is a free group aimed at children in Year Two and above. The sessions are for those interested in acting, performing, building confidence and learning stagecraft regardless of ability. For further information contact Martyn Wady on 07702 852527

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.



CONTACT US AT:
dailygrunch@outlook.com



Andrew Blair

Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning

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e-mail arblair64@yahoo.co.uk

website

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ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB EVENTS

Tuesday 10th March

SHOWCASE EVENING

This is a chance for local talent to show us what they can do. Firstly Jasper Squire, The Mandolin Minstrel, will sing iconic songs with a mandolin. Then there will be Ragged Staff, a four piece band playing traditional and contemporary Anglo/Celtic folk music.

Tuesday 17th March

NORTH SEA GAS

North Sea Gas are a Scottish folk musical trio founded in 1980. The current trio are Dave Gilfillan, Grant Simpson and Ronnie MacDonald.

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

TBC



NORTH SEA GAS



DANA ROBINSON

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.

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.

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

□ **All Saints Church, Renhold are holding a Spring Mini Market and Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th March.**

The event will take place between 10am and 12 noon.

A special highlight will be the appearance of the Renhold School, who will entertain with a wide variety of music.

There will a wide variety of goods at the Mini Market including books, cakes, crafts, jewelry and plants along with a raffle.

□ The Village Show at Keysoe are holding a special fundraising event on Saturday 14th March. An Evening with Craig Garner will be held at The Village Hall. Craig was Harry Potter's body double in the two Deathly

Hallows films. Tickets £10 from 01234 378878.

□ Riseley author Julia Jarman will be launching her new book 'The Widows Book (and wine) Club at the Fox and Hounds pub on Wednesday 11th March from 6pm to 8pm. There will be a glass of fizz to celebrate the occasion and the event is free.

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 6th March: The Old School, School Lane, Bolnhurst. 12 noon. Bolnhurst Soup Lunch. Hot soup and possibly cake. Plus a chance to browse the books in the library. For further details contact wendylevy2811@gmail.com

Saturday 7th March: NBR Ramble at Cranfield (MK43 0FZ) 10am 5 Miles. Meet at Cranfield Community Centre. Exploration of Marston Thrift at a leisurely pace with a slight ascent back to the village. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 7th March: Wootton Village Hall (MK43 9EU). 1.30pm. 6.5 miles Starting from the free car park behind the Village Hall. Heading along Church Road to join The John Bunyan Trail. Then to Longcroft Spinney and back via Wootton Green Farm. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 7th March: Bletsoe Village Hall. 10am-3pm. North Beds Repair Cafe. There will be around 10 specialists available to repair your products from electricians, clock repairers, clothing and tools sharpeners to name a few.

Saturday 7th March: All Saints Church, Renhold. 10am to 12 noon. Spring Mini Market and Coffee Morning. Plenty of stalls including books, cakes, crafts, gifts, toys, jewelry, plants, bric-a-brac plus a raffle. Special performance by Renhold School Choir.

Friday 13th March: The Kingfisher Hotel, Cardington Road, Bedford MK44 2SA (formerly The Barns Hotel). 7.30pm Doors Open 6.30pm. Charity Fashion Show. Tickets £15 per person.

Saturday 14th March: Great Linford, Milton Keynes (MK14 5AS) 10am 10 miles. Park and meet at Great Linford Memorial Hall Car Park, off Marsh Drive. Walking through Great Linford Manor, passing remains of St Peter's Church. Then on to Linford Lakes Nature Reserve then back to Great Linford.. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 14th March: Wilden (MK44 2PB) 1.30pm. 7 Miles. Meet at the village green on the High Street near the old Victoria Arms. Do not park at the old pub as this now a private residence. The walk will include parts of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

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. Tiffey 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

The Kerry George Show
Produced by Weekend Wednesdays
The Place, Bedford
18th March
7.30pm
£20 Concessions: £18

International vocalist Kerry George brings her powerhouse voice and captivating stories to the stage. From headlining the UK No.1 tour of *Annie the Musical* to leading roles on luxury cruise ships, Kerry has enchanted audiences worldwide. She's also known for her memorable viral moment singing to her street during lockdown.

Joining Kerry is the talented Joe Connors, a gifted singer and longtime collaborator with whom she toured extensively in *Annie the Musical*.



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
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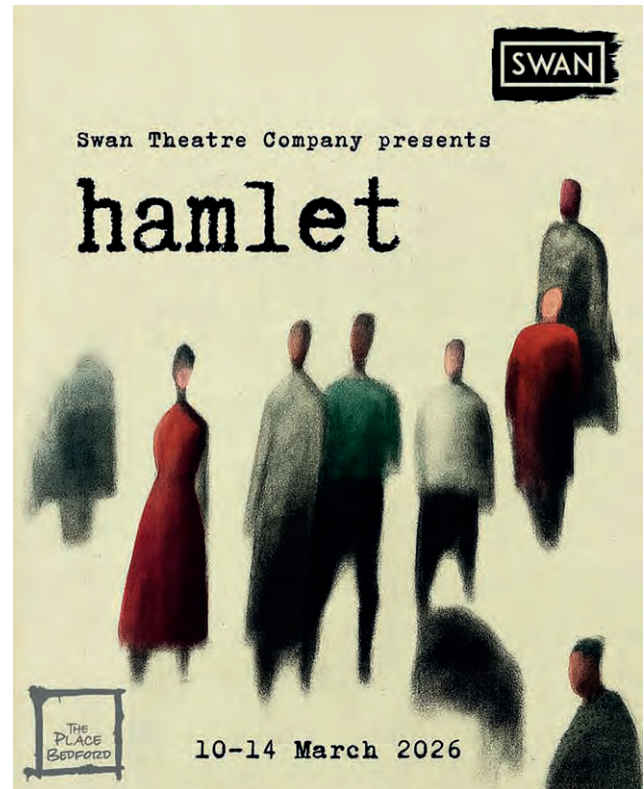
WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

Hamlet
Produced by Swan Theatre Company
The Place, Bedford
10th-14th March
7.30pm (also 1.30pm on 14th March)
Tickets: £16 Concessions: £14, £12

Hamlet remains one of the most powerful, unsettling, and timeless plays ever written. For over 400 years the questions it poses about what it's like to be human are as powerful today as they have always been.

In this Swan Theatre Production, Hamlet is a contemporary staging, stripping the play back to its human essence.

The setting is minimalist and stark placing the focus on the characters themselves. These are not distant characters from another age, but people who are familiar, here and now. Their fears, doubts, and desires belong to us all.



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

WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

A Walk IN The Park
Produced by BRICK Arts Co
The Place, Bedford
7th March
7.30pm
Tickets: £18 Concessions: £16

70% of women in the UK have experienced sexual harassment in public. Meanwhile, a social media poll finds that, in a hypothetical world without men for a day, the overwhelming majority of women said they'd use the opportunity to go for walk alone after dark.

A Walk in the Park is a participatory performance aimed at exploring our shared experience of public spaces. Combining authentic conversations, startling statistics and choreographed movement to create an atmospheric exploration of what it can feel like to walk alone in the dark.



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

WAITING FOR GODOT

by Samuel Beckett

This amateur production of "Waiting for Godot" is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE
3RD-7TH MARCH 2026
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www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

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

FOOTBALL: AFC Oakley continued their recent good form when they edged to a 3-2 away victory at Marston Shelton Rovers in the Bedfordshire County League Premier Division on 28th February. The visitors' goals came from Harry Chinn, Tariq Dallas and Sonny Newton-Cootes. **Riseley Sports** showed plenty of character at leaders Cranfield United Reserves but suffered a 2-1 defeat despite a goal from James Cooke shortly after half-time.

In the First Division, Edward Hatfield-Shaw bagged a hat-trick as Thurleigh clinched a 3-1 home win over Bedford Albion.

CROSS COUNTRY: 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 Stevington 12km Road Race is on Sunday 10th May.

Football Fixtures - 5th March

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division: Harlington Juniors v Riseley Sports. **Britannia Cup:** Elstow Abbey v AFC Oakley **Division One:** AFC Oakley Development v Clifton. Centenary Cup: Blunham v FC Haynes; Thurleigh v Wootton Blue Cross Reserves. **Division Three:** M&DH Clapham Sports v Everton Athletic **Watson Shield:** Leighton Youth Under-18s v Turvey. **Division Four:** AFC Clophill v M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves.



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