

# THE WEEKLY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

*Produced by Grassroots Publications*

*Previously The Rural Grunch*

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12th 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

**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*

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

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**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

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**Graham White**

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**Deadline**

**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](http://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](http://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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/misssedbin) to report a missed collection.



**Remember!**

Garden waste collections are suspended from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> 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/Oadell - 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   |
| Oadell, 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](http://www.sharnbrookvillagerminibus.co.uk)

or e-mail:  
[villagerbus.sharnbrook@gmail.com](mailto: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    |
| Oadell, 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 Keynes, 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 Keynes, 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    |
| Oadell, 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 Bromswold 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](http://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 - Oadell - 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 |
| Oadell, 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](mailto: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 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.**



**CONTACT US AT:**  
**[dailygrunch@outlook.com](mailto:dailygrunch@outlook.com)**



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# ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB EVENTS

**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**

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



## **DANA ROBINSON**

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.

**Tuesday 28th April**

## **ROUND THE ROOM**

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



## **NORTH SEA GAS**

## **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](mailto: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.**

□ 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.

□ **The Bletsoe Spring Breakfast takes place on Saturday 14th March from 8.30am. There will be a choice of Full English and a Continental.**

# 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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# MAKERS & PRODUCE MARKET

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**BREAKING NEWS **  
**MARKET DATES FOR 2026**



## **VENUE:**

**GREAT  
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STAUGHTON  
ST NEOTS  
PE19 5DG**

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## **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](mailto:queeniesfoodandcraftsevents@gmail.com)**

# FOR YOUR DIARY

**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](http://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](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire).

**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](http://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.

**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](mailto: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<br>Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)                                                              | 2.15 pm |
| February 7th             | Meet Willstead Cross Road<br>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<br>Leader - Mike Hudson (Amphill 402721 - Office)                                                      | 2.15 pm |
| April 3rd                | Meet Milton Ernest Church<br>Leader - D. Boddington (Oakley 2995)                                                          | 2.30 pm |
| May 1st                  | Meet Texas Instruments<br>Leader - John Pynes (Bedford 60992)                                                              | 2.15 pm |
| June 5th                 | Meet Kington Church<br>Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)                                                               | 2.15 pm |
| July 3rd                 | Meet on A428 1 1/2 miles west of Bromham<br>Leader - Tony Ely (Oakley 2747)                                                | 2.15 pm |
| August 7th               | Meet Northill Church<br>Leader - details later                                                                             | 2.15 pm |
| Sept. 4th                | Meet Renhold Church<br>We are inviting Mrs. Tiffey to lead on this occasion                                                | 2.15 pm |
| Oct. 2nd                 | Meet Old Warden Church<br>Leader W. Nevard (Hitchin 812089)                                                                | 2.15 pm |
| Nov. 6th                 | Meet GR 027550<br>Leaders D. Boddington (Oakley 2995)<br>S. Andrews (Bedford 771477)                                       | 2.15 pm |
| Dec. 4th                 | Meet Newbury Park Car Park, Kimbolton Road<br>Leader J. Quilly (Bedford 46210)                                             | 2.15 pm |

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

# The Arches Theatre

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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](http://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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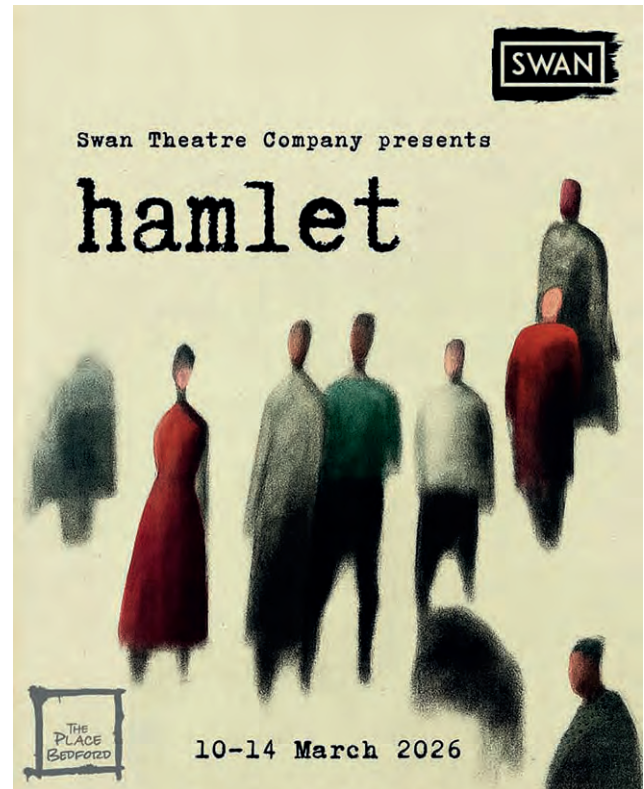
# WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

*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.



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# WEEKLY GRUNCH THEATRE

*A Knight Of Terror*  
Produced by Bonnet Dog  
The Place, Bedford  
19th March  
7.30pm  
Tickets: £18 Concessions: £16

Embark on this hilarious Victorian ghost story of a witless young man and a cast of eerie locals, with curses, skulls and shin kicking!

An old man languishing in his stately home awaits the arrival of his solicitor to share a tale of golden days... Oh, and the Butler is on fire.

Journalist Thomas Carstairs is absolutely hopeless. He's foppish, foolish and above all totally unqualified to be a writer. Looking for inspiration, Thomas travels to a remote seaside town and immediately has an unceremonious welcome from the locals.



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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 - 14th March

#### **Bedfordshire County League Premier**

**Division:** Queens Park Crescents v AFC Oakley; Wootton Blue Cross v Riseley Sports.

**Division One:** AFC Oakley Development v FC Haynes; Baldoick Victoria v Blunham; Caldecote Res v Thurleigh

**Watson Shield:** Stopsley United Reserves v M&DH Clapham Sports. **Division Four:** M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves v Leighton Woodside Athletic.



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