

THE DAILY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

*Produced by Grassroots Publications
Previously The Rural Grunch
07725 812963*

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 233
22nd December - 7th January 2024

Email: dailygrunch@outlook.com
Web: www.grassrootspublications.co.uk

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

PAGES 22-23

**THEATRE
COVERAGE**

SEE PAGES 32-37

**SPORTS
COVERAGE**

SEE PAGES 40-42

PAGE CHANGES TO THE ONLINE DAILY GRUNCH

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: *Sharnbrook switches on its Christmas Lights*

Picture: Graham White

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KEY CHANGES TO THE DAILY GRUNCH FROM THE LAST ISSUE

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21st December: *Page 6*

20th December: *Page 41*

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15th December: *Page 16*

14th December: *Page 20, Page 21*

13th December: *Page 18, Page 41*

12th December: *Page 14*

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: Approx two working days before publication - for example Friday = 10am Wednesday

WELCOME TO THE DAILY GRUNCH

It was four years on 12th April since we launched the online Daily Grunch.

This replaced the traditional Rural Grunch, which we had published and printed since March 2009.

We made the decision to go online following the Covid 19 Lockdown that came into effect on 23rd March 2020.

After Covid 19, the UK has suffered a cost-of-living crisis and it is safe to say we would not have been able to continue the magazine in its traditional form due to the increase in prices for paper and print.

As indicated in its title, we are able to update the online magazine on a daily basis and we do this 300 times a year.

This allows us to give coverage of local community events almost immediately after they have taken place rather than wait up to 31 days, which was the case with the printed monthly issue.

The same applies with advertising as we can insert material almost as soon as we

receive the copy. The online magazine is also in colour, which makes our coverage of community events more attractive.

Our goal remains the same - supporting community events and small businesses.

You will have noticed on our access page - www.grassrootspublications.co.uk - that we have produced a number of supplements.

The Summer 2023 includes a record of community events during the first part of last year while the Autumn 2023 does likewise up to Christmas.

We are aiming to produce similar publications for 2024.

We have also set up a Business and Community Directory. Please contact us at dailygrunch@outlook.com for further information including rates for the Directory.

See below for The Daily Grunch Rate Card.

Graham White

RATE CARD ADVERTISING PRICES

FROM 8th APRIL 2024

Full Page: 30p per issue

1/2 Page: 18p per issue

1/4 Page: 12p per issue

Community Rates: 50% Discount

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

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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-bedfordshire>
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.4438932). Registered Office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd 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 2024 and January 2025 Date Changes

Recycling only

Mon 23 Dec	moves to	Sat 21 Dec
Tues 24 Dec	moves to	Mon 23 Dec
Weds 25 Dec	moves to	Tues 24 Dec
Thurs 26 Dec	moves to	Fri 27 Dec
Fri 27 Dec	moves to	Sat 28 Dec

Rubbish only

Mon 30 Dec	No Change
Tues 31 Dec	No Change
Weds 1 Jan	moves to Thurs 2 Jan
Thurs 2 Jan	moves to Fri 3 Jan
Fri 3 Jan	moves to Sat 4 Jan

Key

Red Outline = Date Change

Orange = Recycling Only

Purple = Recycling and Garden

Grey = General Rubbish

December 2024				
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			

January 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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27	28	29	30	31

February 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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9	10	11	12	13
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30				

July 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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28	28	30	31	

August 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
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September 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			

October 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

GRUNCH OPINION

I saw an interesting interview on BBC Breakfast with MP Ed Miliband about the plans for renewable energy.

Mr Miliband was being questioned about local opposition to some of the plans.

His response was interesting saying that opposition will not interfere with the greater plan.

What he means is that if we have made our plans about a particular project then we will not be affected by any opposition. If we think it is a good idea, then we will go full steam ahead.

This interview came a couple of days after the East West Rail consultation event at Wilden.

While discussing the railway with an EWR representative, he came out with an interesting statement.

"This is not a referendum," he said. "We are simply letting people know what is going to happen."

What this means is that those attending the consultations are not going to change the decision whether it is as a project as a whole or try and persuade those in power to look again at an alternative route between Bedford and Cambridge.

The decision to go ahead with the project for the entire length between Oxford and Cambridge was confirmed by the Labour government shortly after they were elected.

According to what was said the EWR event at Wilden EWR, it seems they have made the decision without knowing what the total costs will be. Effectively, the green light has been given still without a business plan.

For when asked about the costings, no definitive answer could be given. And it was same when the experts were asked about the plans for constructing the railway.

For example, no one could clarify the diversion route for the A6 when the viaduct is being built over the Paula Radcliffe Way.

Graham White

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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

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	1140
Milton Ernest, Opp Queens Head	0945	1125
Sainsbury's	0955	1110
Thurleigh, The Close	1010	1225
Milton Ernest, Marsh Lane	1020	1215
Sainsbury's	1040	1200

Sharnbrook – Riseley - Melkbourne – Rushden - Watrous/ Rushden Lakes

Route VL13 - 2nd Monday of each month

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0850	1308
Sharnbrook, Opp Nisa Store	0858	1305
Bletsoe, Opp Church	0903	RR 1300
Thurleigh, The Close	0918	RR 1255
Riseley, High St (Gold St)	0930	1243
Riseley, Primary School	0933	1240
Swineshead, Church	0936	1237
Upper Dean	0943	RR 1230
Melkbourne	0948	RR 1225
Yelden, 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 Or phone: 01234 708191

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

Sharnbrook - Felmersham - Odell - 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
Odell, 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	1003	1243
Stevington, West End	1008	1238
Stevington, Cross	1010	1236
Stevington, Aims 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

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

Route VL14 - 2nd Monday of each month

	Out	Return
Felmersham, The Sun	0840	RR 1557
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0850	1550
Sharnbrook, Opp Nisa Store	0900	1547
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
Melkbourne Village	0929	RR 1511
Upper Dean, High Street	0933	1507
Shelton, Bus Stop	0937	RR 1503
Lower Dean, High Street	0942	1458
Tilbrook, White Horse	0945	1455
Kimbolton, Post Office	0948	1452
Stoney, Main Road	0950	1450
Gr. Staughton, Snooty Tavern	0953	1447
Dillington, Crossroads	0954	1446
Perry, Opp Wheatsheaf	0956	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
Odell, The Bell	0936	1325
Harrold, Centre	0943	1318
Carlton, The Fox, via The Moor	0950	1311
Turvey, The Green	0958	1303
Newton Blossomville, Old Mill	1004	1257
Clifton Keynes, Robin Hood	1011	RR 1250
Milton Keynes, Shop Centre	1030	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
Pavenham, Close Road	0910	1320
Pavenham, Weavers Lane	0913	1317
Stevington, West End	0918	1312
Stevington, Cross	0920	1310
Bromham, Grange Lane	0925	1305
Turvey, Station Road	0930	1303
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

Melkbourne - Riseley - Sharnbrook - Olney - Milton Keynes

Route VL7 - 3rd Tuesday of each month

	Out	Return
Melkbourne, Village	0850	RR 1335
Swineshead, Church	0855	RR 1330
Riseley, Primary School	0900	RR 1326
Riseley, High St (Gold St)	0903	RR 1323
Bletsoe, Church	0909	RR 1317
Sharnbrook, Swan	0916	1310
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0918	1308
Odell, The Bell	0921	1305
Harrold, Centre	0926	1300
Lavendon, Cross	0931	1255
Olney, Market Place	0936	1250
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0954	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	0956	1230

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	0918	1307
Carlton, The Fox	0920	1305
Harrold, Centre	0925	1300
Lavendon, Cross	0935	1250
Olney, Market Place	0940	1245
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0958	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	1000	1230

24 April 2023

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

Route VL11 - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month

	Out	Return
Sharnbrook, Opp Fordham Arms	0930	1150
Sharnbrook Court	0935	1125
Sharnbrook, The Swan	0937	1123
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0940	1120
Odell, The Bell	0943	1117
Harrold, Centre	0948	1112
Carlton, The Fox	0954	1106
Pavenham	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 please contact us for an informal chat without any obligation on 01234 708191.



BEDFORDSHIRE WALKING FESTIVAL

The Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks 2024 ran between 7th and 15th September this year.

It is fair to say that the Festival was a huge success with 55 walks, attracting 850 walkers over the nine days.

What did we do differently this year? The Festival is hosted by the four groups that make up Bedfordshire – North Beds, Leighton Buzzard, Lea & Icknield (Luton) and Ivel Valley Walkers.

It's a huge task managing to source a large number of walks so this year we reached out to other groups and invited them to come and run walks as part of the Festival.

We had a terrific response to our request. We had support from our neighbouring ramblers groups – Wellingborough Ramblers, Hunts Ramblers and Stag Walkers.

In addition to these, we garnered support from local affiliated groups Bedford Rambling Club and Toddington Ramblers together with general walking groups The Northampton Shamblers and U3A.

And of course we should also mention the fantastic well-being walks, which contributed a number of shorter walks. 2024 also saw the return of the Greensand Ridge Challenge, covering 40 miles in two days.

All this meant we were able to offer walks from one mile to 21 miles across the nine days. Absolutely something for everyone.

The Festival tries to reach out to people who may not normally consider walking and this year, we had a large number of interest walks that sparked attendance from far and wide.

The Festival covered Friday 13th and we were delighted to host a Ghost, Murders and Mysteries walk, which attracted 29 walkers.

There was also a bat walk in the evening where the walkers were provided with bat detectors. We spotted four different types of bats and saw a huge number as they



emerged from their roosts to feed around the lake at Harrold and Odell Country Park.

There were short town walks looking at the industrial parts of Leighton Buzzard and the various industries associated with Luton.

One of the benefits of town walking is that it allows accessibility for less mobile members of the public.

Fancy a nosey around a cemetery and see the history that is locked up in the gravestones? The two walks around the Victorian Cemetery in Bedford certainly sparked people's interest.

We are proud that our efforts opened up walking to a wider community.

Our dedicated webpage also attracted groups who contacted us to advertise their walks via this medium and Turvey, a north Bedfordshire village, saw huge interest generated in their historical weekend.

Then there were nature walks too – it's the bird migration season and an early morning walk was offered by Marston Vale to see the birds packing their bags to fly south.

All the above supplemented our usual offering of morning, afternoon and all day walks and covered the whole of the county and showcased the beautiful countryside that we call home.

**Sandra Kelsey
North Beds Ramblers on behalf of
Bedfordshire Ramblers**

GRUNCH NEWS

North Bedfordshire MP Richard Fuller recently contacted BT Openreach to question the rollout of broadband connectivity in a number of our North Bedfordshire villages as well as the overall situation in the constituency.

Mr Fuller admits this will inevitably open a can of worms, however he would be interested to hear your actual experiences and whether the reality matches the picture painted by the response he received from Openreach which I have included below:

Thanks again for getting in touch to enquire about the current situation in the villages of Bletsoe, Keysoe, Thurleigh and the North Bedfordshire area as a collective.

We're currently in the process of upgrading our network, moving away from copper, and replacing this with Ultrafast Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), reaching speeds up to 1000Mbps through our commercial delivery plans.

Our FTTP delivery is based on telephone exchange areas. When an exchange is scheduled, we aim to build to as much of that exchange area as we can, considering certain operational conditions, upgrading as many properties as we can.

For each specific village requested, I have checked a couple of central addresses to provide an insight of what the current situation is, while providing this under each of the below headings:

BLETSOE

The good news here is that some constituents of Bletsoe can already access FTTP, as Sharnbrook Exchange, which serves this area and the address I checked, was an announced exchange where we were building our fibre network.

For those constituents who can't currently access FTTP, our build is running to the end of 2026, so it's not to say the area wouldn't be covered in a future phase of our delivery, with our planning teams continuously reviewing and adding further plans as time goes on. This will also apply to the village of Keysoe, below.

The constituents who don't currently have access to FTTP can currently access a Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) broadband service, and the estimated speed range is 80 Mbps – 60 Mbps. I know the speeds available to using this service aren't ultrafast, but it should be suitable for most online tasks and working from home.

KEYSOE

Similarly to Bletsoe, there's good news in that many of your constituents will already have access to a FTTP connection, as the residents here are fed from Colmworth Exchange, which was also announced for our fibre delivery.

For those not currently able to order a FTTP service, FTTC is available with speeds up to 36 Mbps. With these speeds largely determined by the distance between the fibre cabinet and the property, the broadband signal will get weaker the further it has to travel, will result in longer lines having slower speeds.

THURLEIGH

The village of Thurleigh is slightly different from the two above, but the good news is we do have potential plans to deliver FTTP to Ravensden Exchange, which serves this area, however as you can appreciate, there's a lot of work required and it will take us some time to do, with programmes such as these phased over the coming years. We'll need to carry out more detailed work to deliver FTTP to this area.

I know your constituents here will be keen for a FTTP connection, but for now it's too early to confirm any further detail on what premises will be upgraded or give any sort of firm delivery dates. In the meantime, the constituents of Thurleigh can access a FTTC connection, with their estimated range being 80 Mbps – 68 Mbps.

CONCLUSION

My advice for your constituents who are eager for FTTP, would be to keep an eye on our website, as well as register their interest if they haven't already, using the following link so they can be kept in-the-loop of how things are getting on in their area:

<https://www.openreach.com/broadband.../fibre-availability...>

RISELEY GIDDY GOAT CAFE



● The Giddy Goat Cafe, Riseley will continue under its current name when the new owners take over in January. Nicky Perfect, above left, held a farewell party on 7th December. A highlight was the Scalextric in the Community Hub. Also see advert on Page 13.



SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

THE GIDDY GOAT



REOPENING

Same place, Same name,
NEW management:

Riseley Cafe
Community Interest Company
Run by the Community for the Community



WE NEED YOU!

What do you think would make the
perfect community cafe?

Come and join us to have your say!

SATURDAY 18th JANUARY

10am - 3pm

GRUNCH NEWS

□ The East-West Rail Consultation Phase is currently taking place. The Government has confirmed that the route between Bedford and Cambridge will go through Clapham Park, Ravensden, Wilden, Roxton and Tempsford. Local meetings are at St Neots Town Football Club on 7th January. All events are between 2pm and 7pm. There is an online event on 9th January between 10am and 12pm.

□ The Keysoe Big Breakfast takes place on Saturday 21st December from 9am to 11am at Keysoe Village Hall. The Full English Breakfast is £7.50 and a Small English is £4.50. Coffee and tea is included. No need to book.

□ The North Bedfordshire Young Farmers Charity Tractor Run takes place on Friday 27th December starting at Stagsden at 10am. It will pass through Pavenham at 11.20, Felmersham at 11.30am and Carlton at 11.50am.



● The Carlton Santa Run took place on Sunday 8th December from The Fox despite the stormy weather. The event raised £400 for The Firefighters Charity.

Picture: Harrold Facebook

SAXBY CIDER FARNDISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● Saxby Cider held their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th December attracting many local businesses and producers. This included a Northampton cheese maker and a Kettering brewery. Plus cider from Farndish.

MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENT
Email: dailygrunch@outlook.com



A great variety of stalls at the Milton Ernest Garden Centre Christmas Fayre but the bad weather during the weekend of 23rd and 24th November may have kept a few people away from the event.

Those who did attend had plenty of choice of some fine potential Christmas gifts.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 23rd-24th NOVEMBER

STABLES BOLNJURST CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● The Stables Christian Centre, Bolnhurst held their final event of 2024 on Saturday 7th December. This was their annual Christmas Fayre which attracted a steady flow of clients despite the inclement weather. One of the highlights on offer was the excellent jams and chutneys. There was also the chance to enjoy a cuppa.



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FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 21st-Tuesday 31st December: Bedford Corn Exchange. Maybe Various Times. Snow White Pantomime. Filled with slapstick comedy, audience interaction and catchy tunes. 'Snow White Pantomime' is a magical adventure that delights audiences of all ages. For further details: www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk/events/snow-white/

Friday 27th December: Manor Farm, Church Lane, Stagsden at 10am. Breakfast Baps from 9am. North Bedfordshire Young Farmers Christmas Tractor Run to Church Farm, Church Lane, Stoke Goldington. To go via Pavenham, Felmersham and Carlton.

Saturday 28th December: North Beds Ramblers Walk - Riseley Fox and Hounds Pub.(MK44 1DT) Park near pub. 1pm. 6.3 miles. Walking through the North Bedfordshire Wolds from Riseley to Melchbourne via Coppice Wood with views of Melchbourne Park. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 4th January: North Beds Ramblers Walk - Ampthill Park West Car Park 6 Miles. A chance to explore the Greensand country around Ampthill. The car park is at the far end of Woburn Street near where it joins the A507. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Tuesday 14th January: Addison Centre, Kempston at 2.15pm. Bedford National Trust Meeting. Speaker John Gibson of SERV (Service by Emergency Response Volunteers). Serv volunteers, known as Bloodrunners, are experienced motorcyclists and car drivers who help save lives by transporting urgently needed blood and other medical supplies. Tea available before the meeting. There will be a small entrance fee. Plenty of parking. If you want further information ring Betty Thomas on 01480 860421

Tuesday 11th February: Addison Centre, Kempston at 2.15pm. Bedford National Trust Meeting. Speakers: Julian and Valerie Rutherford - 'The Two Apothecaries' Experienced reenactors who portray the role of the Medieval Apothecary in a living history context. Tea available before the meeting. There will be a small entrance fee. Plenty of parking. If you want further information ring Betty Thomas on 01480 860421

Tuesday 13th-Saturday 17th May: Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. Godspell. Further details to be confirmed.

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.

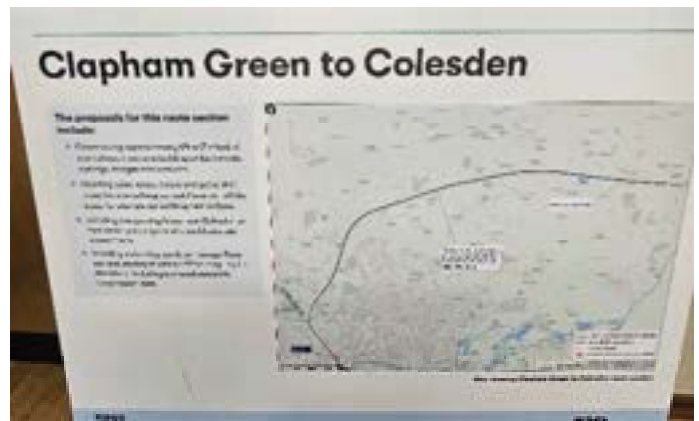
First Friday of the Month: Keysoe Village Hall at 7.30pm. Bar Night

Every Saturday: There may be football matches at Riseley, Oakley and Thurleigh

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

GRUNCH NEWS



Information on the Clapham Green to Colesden poster included the following. Lay approximately 12km of new track (7 miles) of new track and build embankments, cuttings, bridges and viaducts where needed to enable this.

Divert some roads, tracks and paths that cross the new railway so that these can still be used, by building new bridges.

Install two passing loops so that faster passenger trains can overtake slower trains.

● There was a good turnout at the East West Rail Consultation meeting at Wilden on 11th December

Bedford and District Young Farmers Club

TRACTOR RUN

Friday 27th December 2024

Start - Manor Farm, Church Lane, Slagsden, MK43 8SH
End - Church Farm, Church Lane, Stoke Goldington, MK16 8NZ

Start time - 10am
(Bacon baps from 9am)

£10 per tractor includes bacon bap and hot drink

Raffle on site

Hot food, Cakes, Hot and Cold drinks available

Making money for

Road insurance must be presented on arrival

KEYSOE CHRISTMAS CONCERT



● The Rushden Town Band made their 22nd appearance at the Keysoe Christmas Concert at the Village Hall on 1st December. And by all accounts, they will be returning in 2025.

Picture: Rushden Town Band Facebook



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BLETSOE CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST



The appearance of Santa ensured the Bletsoe Christmas Breakfast was a great success.

It was held for the first time in 2023 when there was a tentative response.

Now with something all the family, the Village Hall was well populated.

Along with excellent breakfast rolls, there were several festive stalls.

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

ST PETERS CHURCH, SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Many of the community groups in Sharnbrook contributed to the St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival. This included trees decorated by pupils from Sharnbrook Primary along with The Brownies and Rainbows. There was a steady flow of people at the Festival throughout the weekend.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY 6th-8th DECEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The High Street road closure ensured that the Sharnbrook Christmas Fayre was another success.

The Fayre included the Switch-On of the festive lights, which attracted a sizeable crowd.

All the events took place in the centre of Sharnbrook, along the High Street and Church Road.

A number of activities for youngsters took place at the Primary School while there was a crafts marquee and a fun fair on Church Road.

The Fayre was supported by many local businesses.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 22-23

FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS FAYRE



FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER

BEDFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



The Bedford Christmas Lights were finally switched on by Mayor Cllr Tom Wootton during the early evening of Saturday 30th November.

The original date for the switch-on was 23rd November but had to be postponed because of the recent storms.

Crowds flocked to the Harpur Square to see the lights and there was festive entertainment and stalls throughout the day.

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

MELCHBOURNE CHRISTMAS FAIR



The Melchbourne Christmas Fair, this year was held in the Village Hall rather than at St Mary Magdalene Church.

The weather was unkind outside but there was a warm, festive atmosphere inside the Village Hall with plenty of seasonal gifts. The loyal clientele had the best choice of the potential Christmas gifts on offer.

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

KIMBOLTON CASTLE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Plenty of quality stalls were on display at the Kimbolton Castle Christmas Fayre on 1st December.

This event appears to have grown over the years with many of the state rooms being filled with potential Christmas gifts.

Seasonal music was provided by the Kimbolton School Choir and Father Christmas made an appearance.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 26-27

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER

KIMBOLTON CASTLE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



COVERAGE ON PAGES 26-27

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER

GRUNCH RECIPES OUR FAVOURITES

Christmas Pudding Trifle BBC Good Food App

Ingredients

3 oranges
1tbsp demerara sugar
2tbsp Grand Marnier
300g left over Christmas Pudding
500g pot custard (or make your own)
250g pot mascarpone
284ml/300ml pot double cream

To Serve

Handful flaked almonds, toasted
Dark chocolate, grated

Method

Peel the oranges using a sharp knife ensuring all the pith is removed.

Slice as thinly as possible and arrange over a dinner plate.

Sprinkle the orange slices with the demerara

sugar followed by the Grand Marnier and set aside.

Crumble the Christmas Pudding into large pieces and scatter over the bottom of a trifle bowl.

Lift the oranges on to the pudding in a layer and pour over any juices.

Beat the mascarpone until smooth, then stir in the custard. Spoon the mixture over the top of the oranges.

Lightly whip the double cream and over the custard. Sprinkle with the flaked almonds and grated chocolate.

You can make this dessert a day in advance if you like. Chill until ready to serve.

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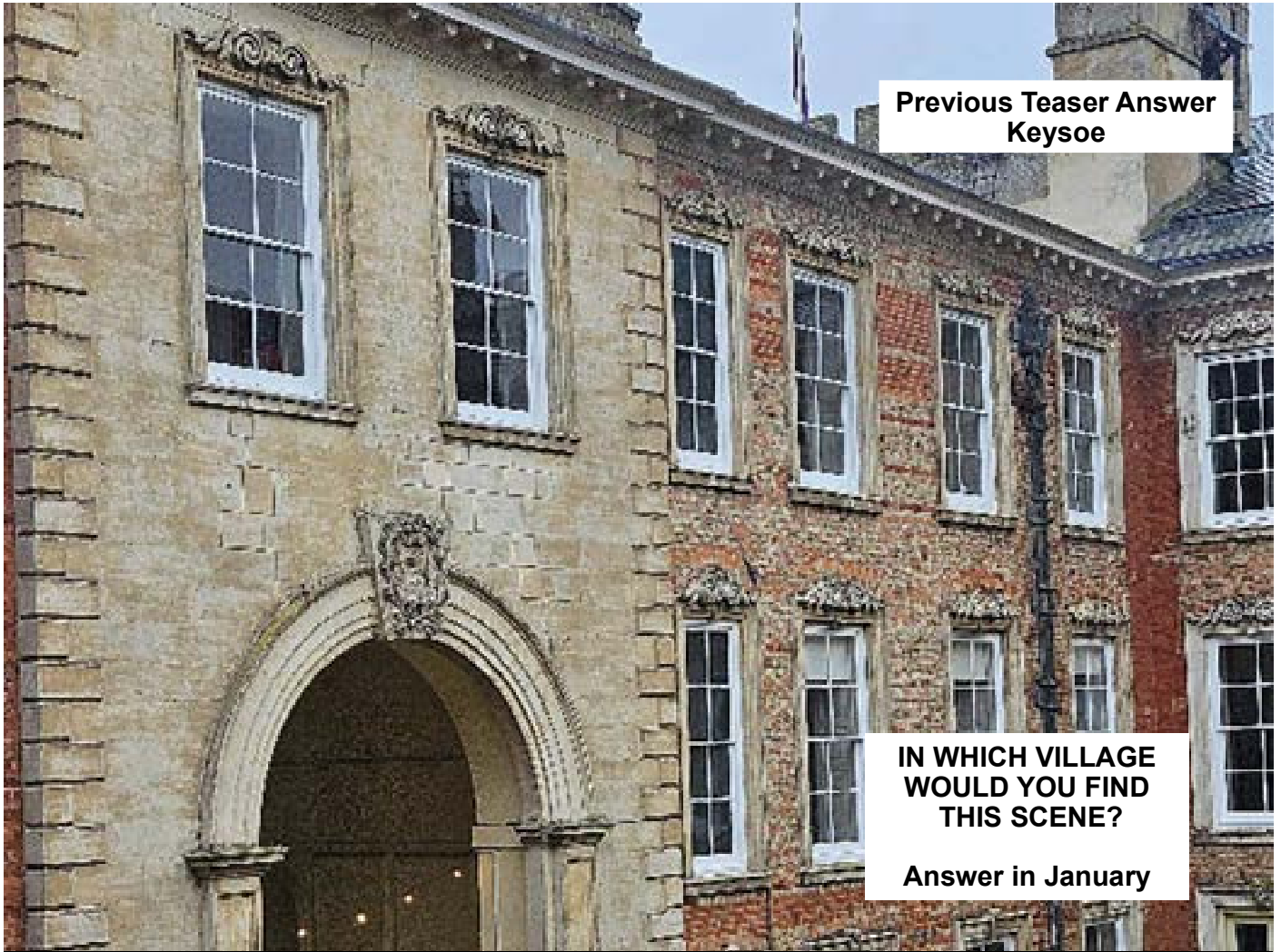
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RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'Shot In The Dark'

27th-30th November



Riseley Community Theatre are set to put in a strong stage performance of 'Shot in the Dark', the well known 1964 film featuring the clumsy and inept Inspector Clouseau.

'Shot in the Air' was a standalone sequel to the 'Pink Panther' so many will be familiar with the tune music at the start of the play.

From the outset, the play was performed brilliantly by all members of Riseley Community Theatre and the set was again first class with authentic sound effects. Beware of the gun fire....

The comedy aspects of this production was perfectly carried out and even Inspector Clouseau appeared to have a French accent as he attempted to unravel whether maid Maria Gambrelli really did murder her lover Miguel.

There were some excellent scenes between the duo.



COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-35

RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'Shot In The Dark'

27th-30th November



COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-35

RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'Shot In The Dark'

27th-30th November



COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-35

RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'Shot In The Dark'

27th-30th November



COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-35

GRUNCH THEATRE

Victorian Gothic
Produced by Don't Go Into The Cellar
The Place, Bedford
29th January
7.30pm
Tickets: £16 Concessions: £14/£12

We present an anthology stage show based on a classic trio of nineteenth century chillers – *The Body-Snatcher*, *The Monkey's Paw* and *Lot No 249*.

Dramatic story-telling in the theatre-style at its best!

Actor Jonathan Goodwin performs a show scripted by himself and co-directed with Gary Archer.



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

GRUNCH THEATRE

Exploring With Kaye Leidoskope -
The Weather
Produced by Kaye Mahoney
The Place, Bedford
20th December at 10am
Tickets: Pay What You Can
£9, £7.50 or £6. Adults £2

Join Kaye Leidoskope for these lively and lovely interactive storytelling sessions for under-fives and their grown-ups. Expect songs, games, crafts and dancing ...perfect for little ones to creatively learn through play!

Kaye Leidoskope (aka Kaye Mahoney) is an experienced performer and workshop leader who loves to help little ones (and big ones!) to create and learn. She also runs Puggle Club, the preschooler's creative arts programme at The Higgins, and you can follow her on social media to find out more at:

<https://www.instagram.com/k.leidoskope/>
and <https://www.facebook.com/k.leidoskope/>



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GRUNCH THEATRE

A Christmas Carol

Produced by The Pantaloons

The Place, Bedford

12th December-24th December

7.30pm

Also 2.30pm showing at weekends

Tickets: £16 Concessions: £12.50 and £10

The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company present a brand-new adaptation of Charles Dickens' fantastical festive fable.

It's Christmas Eve and tight-fisted Ebenezer Scrooge is meaner than ever. He is shunning his only living relative, underpaying his clerk and refusing to acknowledge the plight of the poor... but will timely visits from the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future change his miserly ways before it's too late?

Performed by a multi-talented cast in The Pantaloons' own inimitable, hilarious and moving style this show features live music, audience interaction and absolutely no humbug.



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GRUNCH THEATRE

Vintage Hitchcock - Live Radio Play by Joe Landry

Produced by: Bedford Drama Company

The Place, Bedford

26th January

7.30pm

Tickets: £16 Concessions: £14/£12

Spies, murder, love, and other trademarks of Alfred Hitchcock come to life in the style of a 1940s radio broadcast of the master of suspense's earlier films.

With *The Lodger*, *Sabotage* and *The 39 Steps*, *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play* is a triple feature, complete with vintage commercials, that recreates a daring train chase, a serial killer's ominous presence, and a devastating explosion through the magic of live sound effects. The show is performed with script in hand.



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DAILY GRUNCH BIG MATCH

RISELEY SPORTS

2

SHEFFORD TOWN CAMPTON RES

4



Goals from Mitchell Crook and Lewis Donald were not enough to prevent Riseley Sports, yellow shirts, from suffering a disappointing 4-2 home defeat against struggling Shefford Town & Campton Reserves in the Bedfordshire County League Premier Division on 14th December. The visitors' goals were scored by Daniel Kemp, Luca Phillips, Toby Starling and Oliver Kemp.

GRUNCH FOOTBALL

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE - AFC Oakley continued their challenge for the **Premier Division** title with a convincing 5-1 victory at Caldecote.

Chisom Amadi netted two of the goals with the others coming from Omojiseoluwa Bankole, Fabio Cammarano and Teddy Daniels.

Riseley Sports suffered a disappointing 4-2 home defeat against struggling Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.

Mitchell Crook and Lewis Donald were on target for the hosts while Daniel Kemp, Luke Phillips, Toby Starling and Oliver Kemp replied for the visitors.

AFC Oakley Development crashed to a 5-1 defeat at Buffs in **Division One** with their only effort coming from Harvey Holland.

Thurleigh romped to an 8-0 victory over Shefford Town & Campton Development in **Division Two North** with Edward Hatfield-

Shaw bagging four goals while Josh Marshall weighed in with a hat-trick. The other scorer was Bradley Duffett.

Turvey showed good form to clinch a 5-2 triumph at Everton Athletic Reserves in **Division Four**. Samuel Jessop was the hero of the day with four goals while the other came from Alfred Dawson.

M&DH Clapham Sports went down 3-2 to Wootton Blue Cross A despite goals from Brendan Cunningham and Odhran Imlah.

FIXTURES - 4th January

Bedfordshire County League - Premier Division: AFC Oakley v Wootton Blue Cross; Caldecote v Riseley Sports
Division One: Wootton Blue Reserves v AFC Oakley Development.
Division Two North: Shefford Town & Campton Development v Thurleigh; Wixams Wanderers v M&DH Clapham Sports
Division Four: Turvey v M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves

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SPOTLIGHT ON SHARNBROOK COLWORTH RUGBY CLUB



Sharnbrook & Colworth Rugby Club pulled off a 50-19 victory against St Neots II in their Remembrance Day match.

The pictures show Sharnbrook & Colworth, green shirts, scoring their final try.

Their next match is at home on Saturday 7th December when they entertain Kempston in an East Midlands League Two fixture.

SPOTLIGHT ON SHARNBROOK COLWORTH RUGBY CLUB



Sharnbrook and Colworth were involved in a titanic home battle against Milton Keynes II in an East Midlands League Two clash on 30th November.

The hosts were finally able to breach the Milton Keynes II defence to clinch a 17-13 victory.





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