

THE DAILY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

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

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Web: www.grassrootspublications.co.uk

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 300
7th April 2025

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT
SEE PAGE 3**

**SPORTS
COVERAGE
SEE PAGES 29-31**

**PICTURE BY
TONY PAY**

THEATRE COVERAGE - PAGES 26-27



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: *A hot air balloon close to the road between Riseley and Bletsoe.*

Picture: *Graham White*

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

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KEY CHANGES TO THE DAILY GRUNCH FROM THE LAST ISSUE

7th April: *Page 29*

6th April: *Page 17*

5th April: *Page 24, Page 25*

4th April: *Page 28, Page 30*

3rd April: *Page 1, Page 3, Page 29*

2nd April: *Page 1, Page 3, Page 16, Page 17*

29th March: *Page 6, Page 26, Page 27*

28th March: *Page 21*

27th March: *Page 15, Page 28*

26th March: *Page 11, Page 17, Page 29*

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 WEEKLY GRUNCH

After five years, the online Daily Grunch will cease on 7th April 2025. This will be the 300th issue for the 2024-25 year.

We have had to make the decision because we are now unable to cover events in north Bedfordshire, which we have done for the past 16 years, firstly with the printed Rural Grunch then the online Daily Grunch, which was introduced on 12th April 2020 during the Covid 19 pandemic.

We are planning to introduce the Weekly Grunch from the beginning of May, initially on a four-issue trial period.

Some planning has already taken place for the Weekly Grunch.

Firstly, it is likely to be published with a Wednesday date and there will be at least 40 issues per year.

The aim for the Weekly Grunch will be a comprehensive information service on what is happening in north Bedfordshire and also events that may be of interest outside our area.

There will be an emphasis on fun items such as theatre, the arts, pub and dining, sport and also Bedford Borough Council.

For the new Weekly Grunch to be viable, it will need support otherwise it will not continue after the trial period and into the long term.

We will be starting with a clean slate with regards to advertising. So if you want guaranteed advertising then you will need to re-apply.

The ex-VAT price for advertising will be as follows: Full Page £10 for up to 4 issues with a maximum of £80 for 40 issues. Community Groups will pay no more than £40 for 40 issues.

A half page will be £6 for up to 4 issues and a maximum of £50 for 40 issues and £25 for Community Groups. For a quarter page the prices will be £4 for up to 4 issues. £30 for 40 issues and £15 for Community Groups. All prices will be ex-VAT.

Please note during the Trial Period (first four issues) all advertising will be complimentary.

WEEKLY GRUNCH RATE CARD

ADVERTISING PRICES

FROM JUNE 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

Community Rates
50% Discount On Yearly Price

All Prices ex-VAT

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

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NEWS AND DETAILS OF
ANY EVENTS YOU MAY BE
HOLDING.**

Email us at

dailygrunch@outlook.com

Deadline

**A week before publishing date. The
first deadline for the Weekly Grunch is
Wednesday 30th April**

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.4458932). Registered Office: 1 Clerk Street, 3rd Floor, London, SE1 3DQ



Collection Calendar

1

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
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February 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

March 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
31				

April 2025

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
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
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June 2025

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				

July 2025

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

August 2025

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

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

Some of us had a huge sigh of relief when Stagecoach took over the rural bus contract in north Bedfordshire.

However, was it good news for many of us living in the villages to the north of Bedford?

The answer to this question will come in the next few weeks as we get used to the new timetables that begin on 31st March.

From a personal point of view, I wanted to see all villages have a commuter service to and from Bedford.

For clarification, a commuter service should arrive in Bedford before 9am but preferably around 8.30am. It should do the return journey ideally between 5pm and 6pm.

Using this criteria, villages such as Yelden, Melchbourne and Knotting have never had such a service.

Reviewing the changes that come in on 31st March, Upper Dean, Souldrop and Pertenhall can be added to this list.

I am particularly interested in the new

timetables because my daughter is hoping to go to college in Bedford this September.

As it stands, she will not be able to get there using public transport.

Having highlighted this issue on the Yelden and Melchbourne Facebook Page, before the new timetables were announced, someone replied saying their daughter had to give up college because of this problem.

It seems to me that this issue could be more serious given more areas will be without a bus service during the commuter hours.

It has to be said, though, there are some improvements. Those living in the Renhold and Wilden area no longer have to rely on a shopping service on just Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is now a Monday to Saturday service.

The message is that if you still have a reasonable bus service then use it or you may find yourself on the list that includes Yelden, Pertenhall, Melchbourne and Souldrop.

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	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	1040	1200

Sharnbrook – Riseley – Melkbourne – Rushden – Waitrose/ 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	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, Waitrose/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	1006	1238
Stevington, Cross	1010	1236
Stevington, Arms Houses	1012	1234
Bromham, Grange Lane	1017	1229
Turvey, Station Road	1023	1223
Turvey, Jacks Lane	1025	1221
Turvey, Green	1026	1220
Cold Brayfield	1028	1218
Olney, Market Place	1036	1210

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	0908	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
Soenely, 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

Route	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 1322
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	1230
Sharnbrook Court	0935	1225
Sharnbrook, The Swan	0937	1223
Sharnbrook, Lodge Rd/Loring Rd	0940	1220
Odell, The Bell	0943	1217
Harrold, Centre	0948	1212
Carlton, The Fox	0954	1206
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 phone us for an informal chat without any obligation on 01234 708191.





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KEYSOE PLANT SALE

Saturday 26th April



The Village Show at Keysoe will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It promises to be bigger and better than ever with a celebratory feel.

The organisers have promised more classes for the big event on the first Saturday in September.

Also there is a new official logo for the Show plus an Instagram Page has been created for additional coverage.

The fund-raising events for the Show are now in full swing and the next event will be the annual Plant Sale.

It will be held on Saturday 26th April from 10am where there will be plenty of plants to purchase. Plus there will be refreshments and a chance to have a chat with friends.



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website

<https://andrewblairprofessionalcarpetandupholsterycleaning.com>

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

GRUNCH NEWS



● The Tibbs Dementia Foundation hold their Tibbs 'Memory' Cafe on the third Friday every month at Renhold Chapel in Woodfield Lane between 11am and 12.30pm. The session is a relaxed opportunity - over a cuppa, cake and chat - to enjoy a range of fun and interesting activities including 'Music 4 Memory' and fun exercises for the brain. There will be information available on how Tibbs can support you. No need to book. Just come along, all welcome. See www.tibbsdementia.co.uk

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

*FREE
ENTRY*

GREAT STAUGHTON FOOD AND CRAFT MARKET 11.30am-2.30pm GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

*FREE
ENTRY*

2025 DATES

17th JANUARY - 15th FEBRUARY - 15th MARCH

19th APRIL - 17th MAY - 21st JUNE

19th JULY - 16th AUGUST - 20th SEPTEMBER

18th OCTOBER - 15th NOVEMBER - 20th DECEMBER



FASHION SHOW

Pure Heart Boutique
Italian clothing
(from sizes 6-26)

FRIDAY 25TH
APRIL

Contact Cristina

07775638861 /
824684

Doors open 6.30pm

Show starts at
7.30pm

The Village Hall
Milton Ernest

Tickets £10 inc a glass of
fizz & nibbles
(entry with ticket)

Made with PosterMyWall.com

GRUNCH NEWS

□ The Bedford Junior Aquathlon will take place on Sunday 30th March at Robinson Pool in Bedford Park for children and young people in school years three to 11 (as at September 2024).

It is a continuous swim and run event and children swim and run different distances depending on their school year.

There will be competitions for each year group and the event has a staggered start.

Each child will start 30 seconds after the child before, so each participant is swimming and running their own race.

It promises to be a fun day both in Robinson Pool and Bedford Park.

Bookings are now open and the closing date for entries will be Tuesday 18 March at 5pm

TAI CHI SESSIONS BEDFORD



TAI CHI

Tai Chi is a Chinese mind and body exercise health system designed to teach relaxation, natural body movement and a high level of body awareness.

Come and join a class at Fitness First, Aspects Leisure Park, Bedford, on Mondays 12pm or at Shortstown Village Hall on Fridays at 11am. Only £5 per session.

For further information and to book, contact Christopher Butcher by phone 07886 894922.



This year's Proms show at Bedford Park on Sunday 6th July will feature the renowned London Gala Orchestra and the Bedford Choral Society, promising an enchanting music programme filled with popular classical pieces, alongside the rousing traditional Proms favourites to close the show.

Guest tenor and soprano performers will be announced soon. The compère of the show will be Sam Roberts, who has for many years built up a firm rapport with the audience.

Promenaders can look forward to a stunning laser and special effects finale that will elevate the concert experience. The concert will embrace a picnic-style atmosphere, allowing guests to bring their own food, drink, furniture, and of course, their finest Proms attire!

The concert will feature a range of stage pyrotechnics and special effects, ensuring an exhilarating finale complemented by a superb laser show instead of fireworks.

From Friday, 7th February, ticket prices will be £35* and after that may increase to £45*, with any remaining tickets available at the gate for £55. Child tickets will remain at £5* at all times. *Plus fees.

To book: <https://www.smmrsessions.com/locations/bedford/promsinthepark>

Other events include Simple Minds and Alison Moyet on Thursday 3rd July and Rag 'n' Bone Man on Saturday 5th July.

During the second week, Human League will perform on Thursday 10th July, Cafe Mambo Ibiza on Friday 11th July, Supergrass on Saturday 12th July and McFly on Sunday 13th July.

For further details:

<https://www.smmrsessions.com/locations/bedford>

GRUNCH NEWS

❑ **BUS TIMETABLECHANGES:** Stagecoach will be making significant changes to its rural bus timetables from Monday 31st March including services 25, 28 and 28A. There will no longer be commuter services that arrive in Bedford before 9am from Souldrop, Upper Dean and Pertenhall Details: Bedford Borough Council website or www.bustimes.org

❑ **BEDFORD CORN EXCHANGE:** Top class events are taking place this spring and summer including comedians Chris McCausland and Dara o'Brian. Please note tickets are selling fast. For further information on all forthcoming performances see <https://www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk/>

❑ **CANOE TRAIL** - Learn kayaking , canoeing and stand up paddleboarding skills. Book qualification courses and/or coaching sessions with Canoe Trail at Kempston outdoor centre. Dates for this years programmes are now live on the website. **Go to: www.canoe-trail.co.uk/activities/lessons-courses**

❑ **PARKINSON'S UK:** A water-based exercise group for anyone with Parkinson's looking to keep fit and live well. Held every Wednesday 1.15pm at the Kempston Pool and Fitness, Hillgrounds, Kempston. **For further information please call Rachel on 07514 365858.**

❑ **BLUES AND BEYOND:** A partnership between Bedford Blues and Beyond Limits. These are specialised physical activity sessions for young individual people aged 10-18 years from across the SEND community.

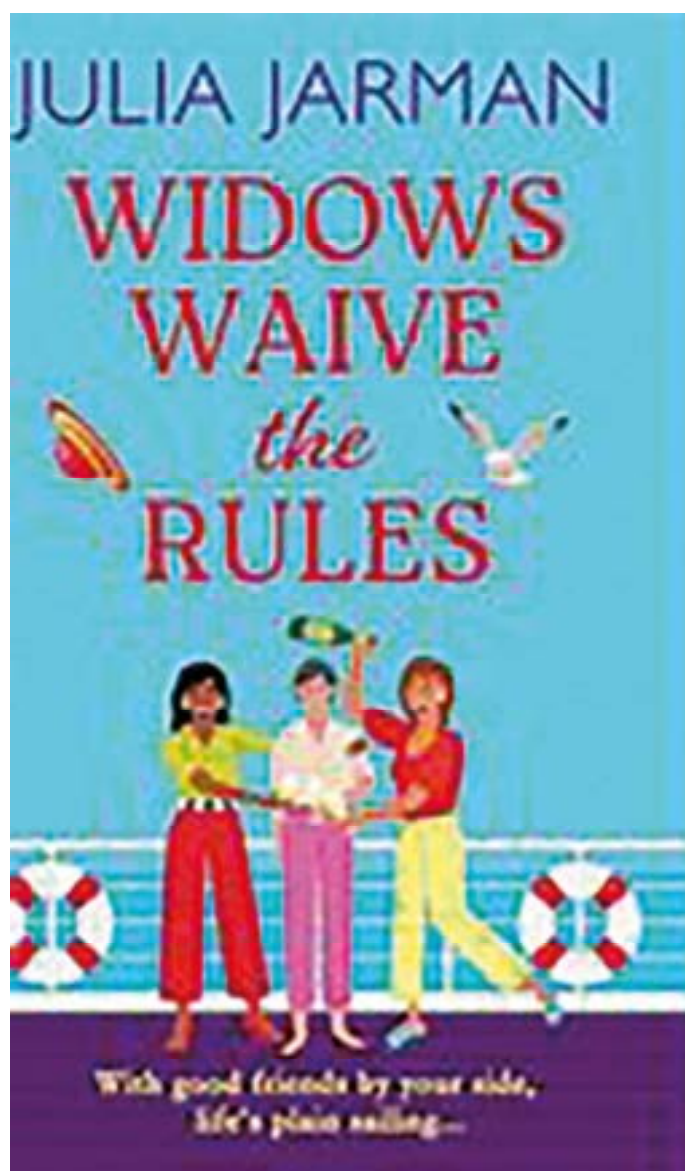
Sessions will take place during term time at John Bunyan Sports and Fitness, Mile Road, Bedford on: Tuesdays: 6.30-7.30pm
Saturdays: 10-11am. These sessions are designed to foster inclusivity and promote physical well-being. **To register interest, please email Olivia.flemons@bedford.gov.uk**

❑ **BEDFORD EAT FEAST:** Takes place on the final Friday of the month between March and September from 4pm to 9pm.



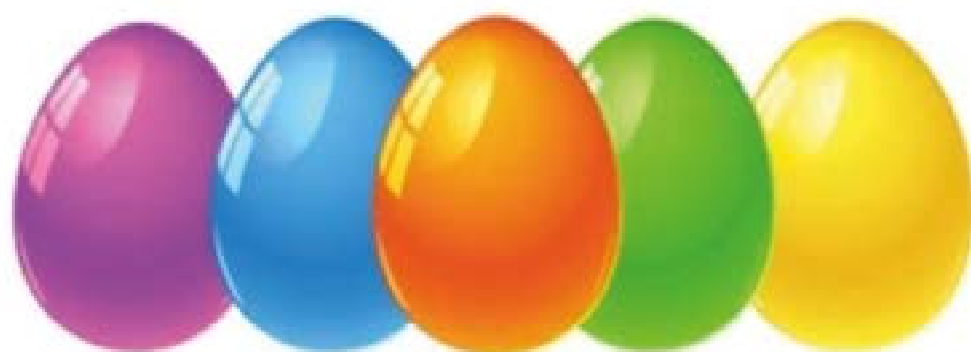
Julia Jarman recently launched her latest book in Riseley, where there was an excellent turnout.

'Widows Waive The Rules' is about three widowed friends Viv, Janet and Zelda who embark on a transatlantic cruise to New York where they encounter mystery and romance.



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EASTER FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 11th April: Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm. Colmworth and Neighbours History Society. Monthly Meeting. Speaker Simon Markus on 'Overstone, Northampton: Excavations from 2019 - Bronze Age, Saxon Cemeteries and Settlement.

Saturday 12th April: North Beds Ramblers Walk - Wilstead (MK45 3DB) at 1.30pm. 6 miles. Parking in car park on Whitworth Way. A circular walk south of the village and up on to the Greensands Ridge for wonderful views of north Bedfordshire. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 12th April: St Denys Church, Colmworth at 6pm. Beetle Drive. Tickets £12 to include meal and dessert. Bring your own drink. Plus raffle. Cash only event. For further details: wendy.jephcote@gmail.com 07415 006278 or jackieayto@btinternet.com 07929 943348

Saturday 12th-Sunday 13th April: St Peter's Church, Newton Bromswold. 2pm-4pm. Cowslip and Fritillary. Afternoon Teas and Plants for sale..

Saturday 19th April: North Beds Ramblers Walk - MK Willen Sports Pavilion, Milton Keynes (MK15 9HU). 7.2 miles. Follow signs for Pavilion through playing field. Walking along Grand Union Canal through Woughton-on-the-Green and back past Willen Lake. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 19th April: Great Staughton Village Hall at 11.30am-2.30pm. Great Staughton Monthly Food and Craft Fayre.

Saturday 26th April: North Beds Ramblers Walk - Thrapston (NN14 4GD) 12 miles. Parking on Meadow Lane. Circular walk following the River Nene and visiting several villages including Achurch and Wadenhoe. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 26th April: North Beds Ramblers Walk - Stoke Hammond 3 Locks (MK17 9DD) 7 miles. Meet in car park off Stoke Road not in 3 Locks Pub car park. Beautiful canal walk. For further details go to www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire.

Saturday 26th April: Keysoe Village Hall at 10am. The Village Show at Keysoe Plant Sale. Plenty of plants on sale plus refreshments to raise funds for the Show in September.

Saturday 26th April: Harrold High Street. From about midday. Harrold Pit Run and Fayre. Various races including the senior race around Harrold Country Park' Also family entertainment on Harrold Green throughout the afternoon including several craft and food stalls. Also a post-race party.

Monday 5th May: Mandeville Hall and Scout Hut, Kimbolton. 11am - 4pm. VE Day 80th Anniversary Events. Dancing and Singing, Activities for children, Display of Memorabilia, Bring a Picnic or Fish and Chips (ticket required), adult and children's Cake Competition.

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



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GRUNCH NEWS



● Every Voice Choir Thurleigh meet every Thursday at St Peter's Church, Thurleigh at 7.30pm. The Choir performs music of all types from classical to pop and musicals to rock. All are welcome to join.



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SAVE THE DATE



MONDAY 5TH MAY 2025
Mandeville Hall & Scout Hut,
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11 - 4pm

Dancing & singing
Fun activities for children,
Display of memorabilia
Bring a picnic or treat yourself to fish &
chips (ticket required)
Adult and children's cake competition
Bar open
Lighting of the beacon & tribute



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Afternoon Tea



Bletsoe Village Hall

Saturday 5th April

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Full afternoon tea - sandwiches and savouries, scones
and sweet treats. £15pp (children £7.50)

.....

Sunday 6th April

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Cream tea or Tea and cake. £5pp

ALL proceeds to The Brain Tumour Charity.

Booking essential due to restriction on numbers
To book call Alison/Julia on 07896 977626
Please bring cash for entry and raffle

GRUNCH RECIPES

OUR FAVOURITES

Sheet Pan Roasted Veg With Gnocchi

Juliet Sear - BBC Good Food App

Ingredients

1 large onion sliced
300g frozen peppers
1-2tsp chilli flakes
3-4 garlic cloves sliced
3-4tbsp olive oil
2x400g cans cherry tomatoes
150g spinach
500g fresh gnocchi
Small handful of basil to serve
Shaved vegetarian Italian-style hard cheese to serve.

Method

□ Heat the oven to 200°C. Scatter the onion slices, frozen peppers, chilli flakes and garlic slices into the base of a large roasting tin (about 30cm).

□ Season well and drizzle over the olive oil.

Roast for about 20-25 minutes, stirring halfway through until the vegetables are softened and starting to brown slightly.

□ Toss the canned cherry tomatoes through the roasted vegetables and roast for a further 15 minutes until the mixture has started to thicken.

□ Add the spinach and gnocchi, stirring to wilt the spinach.

□ Return to the oven for a further five minutes then serve in bowls topped with the basil and the cheese.



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IN WHICH VILLAGE
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THIS SCENE?

Answer in the
Weekly Grunch
in May



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GRUNCH THEATRE

Alas! Poor Yorick
Produced by Ridiculusmus
The Place, Bedford
12th April
7.30pm

Tickets: £18 Concessions: £16

If the Two Ronnies were cast as the Gravediggers in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* re-written by Samuel Beckett you might have something like Ridiculusmus's "Alas! Poor Yorick".

Mixing the mundane with the magical; moments of banal idiocy are interspersed with ones of cinematic elegance to an underscore of groans, grunts and the odd Shakespearean aside.

The legendary independent theatre double act of Jon Haynes and David Woods pull



out every trick in their theatrical playbook to create a fresh take on Shakespeare's much-loved clowns, re-enacting all the preceding acts of the original and meticulously staging the famous graveyard scene in all its 420 year-old glory.

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

GRUNCH THEATRE

Exploring With Kaye Leidoskope -
Exploring Bugs
Produced by Kaye Mahoney
The Place, Bedford
25th April 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 pre-schooler'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/>

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

GRUNCH THEATRE

Whole
Produced by Zoe Gibbons
The Place, Bedford
23rd April
7.30pm

Tickets: £18 Concessions: £16

My sister smells of wood smoke, warm earth, oranges, and dust... we buried you in a wood, underneath an oak tree. There are bluebells there in April."

Whole is a show about two people – one of them is on stage, the other isn't.

Emma has been looking for a way to fill the gaping hole her identical twin sister's death has left behind. So, she thought she would make a show for them. Only it's proving a little tricky because Emma doesn't like doing things on her own.

A unique and intimate experience that uses visual imagery, storytelling, and inspiration from an anarchic ginger cat, Whole explores a



tender, messy love story about siblings, loss and the healing power of a creative mission. Expect ghost stories, music, and the magic of community. Uplifting, life affirming and different every night, Whole takes a peek into the journeys we take to re-find ourselves in our darkest moments..

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

GRUNCH THEATRE

The Lost Lionesses
Produced by The Unlock Theatre Company
The Place, Bedford
15th-19th April
7.30pm
Tickets: £18 Concessions: £16

The knees are shaking, the ground is quaking, the heat is BAKING... Game on! Based on true events; "The Lost Lionesses" tells the story of a Bedfordshire based team of pioneering young women who travel to Mexico to play in the 1971 women's football world cup in front of 90,000 people.

Immerse yourself in this vibrant world where football is more than just a game! Can you handle the heat? After a run of sold out shows in London the team head home to Bedfordshire to share their story. Catch us while you can!



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

ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB EVENTS

Tuesday 8th April

ADAM COONEY AND THOMAS BRADLEY

A Showcase Evening with Adam Cooney and Thomas Bradley. Adam Cooney is an Oxfordshire based folk musician who sings songs that are honest, melodic, and often melancholic. Thomas Bradley Project are a folk-rock band hailing from Liverpool writing and producing original music for the genre. Lyrically, the songs tackle the social issues of the day while also delving into the lives of ordinary people.

Tuesday 15th April

PAUL DOWNES

Paul Downes is an English folk guitarist, singer and composer. He has appeared on eight albums with bands, three solo albums and has over 150 session credits.

Tuesday 22nd April

JOE TOPPING

Joe Topping is a folk singer and multi-instrumentalist from Liverpool whose performances has engaged audiences all over the country and across Europe and the United States. During the pandemic, Joe reached the semi-final of ITV's The Voice.

Tuesday 29th April

ROUND THE ROOM

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



JOE TOPPING



LUKE JACKSON

Tuesday 6th May

LUKE JACKSON

Blessed with a distinctive, bluesy, soulful voice, UK based singer-songwriter Luke Jackson has developed an enviable reputation for himself in the Roots, Acoustic, Americana, Blues & Folk circuits by virtue of his acclaimed recordings and dynamic live performances, be they solo or trio.

Tuesday 13th May

THE QUIGGS

Songs from Scotland and beyond – the Danish/Scottish folk duo Stephen and Pernille Quigg present a unique tapestry of songs woven with a Celtic thread.



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 376033

GRUNCH FOOTBALL

FIXTURES

9th April

Bedfordshire County League - Premier Division: Cranfield United Reserves v AFC Oakley. **Division One:** AFC Oakley Development v Wootton Bluer Cross Reserves

12th April

Bedfordshire County League - Premier Division: Shefford Town & Campton Reserves v Riseley Sports. **Watson Shield:** Ampthill Town Colts v Turvey.

16th April

Bedfordshire County League Division One: Clifton v AFC Oakley Development

19th April

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division: AFC Oakley v Queens Park

Crescents. **Division One:** Harlington Juniors v AFC Oakley Development. **Division Four:** EB Lions v Turvey

21st April

Bedfordshire County League Division Four: Turvey v AFC Clophill

23rd April

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division: Riseley Sports v AFC Oakley

26th April

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division: Totternhoe Reserves v AFC Oakley; Wootton Blue Cross v Riseley Sports **Division One:** AFC Oakley Development v Harlington Juniors. **Division Four:** M&DH Clapham Sports v EB Lions

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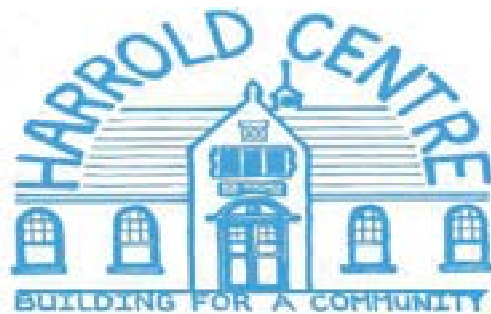
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HARMONY



Harrold Pit Run



13:00 Reception, Year 1 and 2

13:20 Year 3 and 4

13:30 Year 5 and 6

15:00 Main Race

£15 Adult

£6 Child

<http://harroldcentre.co.uk/harrold-pit-run/>

harroldpitrun@gmail.com





Thurleigh CC Junior Cricket Training

Ages 4-6 Thursday 24th April - 10th July 5.30-6.30

Ages 7-9 - Thursday 24th April - 10th July 5.30-6.30

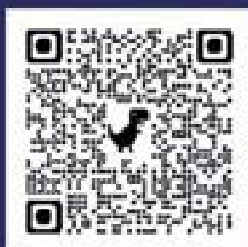
Ages 10-15- Thursday 24th April - 10th July 6.30-7.30

£60 for 12 weeks including a free training T-shirt or cap

All training at Thurleigh Cricket Club, Mk442DZ

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Daniel Johnson · L2 coach · 1st Aid trained · DBS checked



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