

Borough Monthly

Issue 5

April 2016

**'Prost! Bedford Bamberg
Springfest Returns –**

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Newsflash

Blue Badge Fraudster sentenced

Alexander Javanovic, 35, of Dahl Close, Bedford has been sentenced following the fraudulent use of a blue badge. In addition to the Community Order and 100 hours of unpaid work, the Magistrates also ordered Javanovic to pay £500 in costs along with a victim surcharge of £60.

Riseley to welcome a new C of E Primary School

Pupils in Riseley are set to benefit from the creation of a Church of England Primary School on the current Margaret Beaufort School site from 2017.

The announcement comes about following extensive negotiations between The Diocese of St Albans, Sharnbrook Academy Federation (SAF) and Bedford Borough Council, all of who were keen to develop the best education provision possible for pupils in Riseley.

Wellbeing campaign celebrates a five month milestone!



Five months in and the Five Ways to Wellbeing campaign is going from strength to strength. The campaign aims to promote five actions that scientists have found to be strongly associated with improved mental health and wellbeing;

- Connect – With the people around you; with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.
- Be Active – Discover a physical activity you enjoy that suits your level of mobility and fitness.
- Take Notice – Be curious. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling.
- Keep Learning – Try something new. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving.
- Give – Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Join a community group. Carry out a random act of kindness.

If you would like more information about mental health issues, visit <http://www.mind.org.uk>.

Alternatively, for a chat about anything that may be troubling you, contact the Samaritans on 08457 90 90 90.

Kempston School victorious at People's Cup Final

Kempston school Grange Academy's Under 16 disability team have been crowned victorious at the FA People's Cup Final. The side beat the Bedfordshire County FA side 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

Finals day saw teams across 11 categories do battle in an initial group stage for the right to face off in showpiece finals, which would determine the overall winners of the competition.

The Grange Academy and the other 10 winning teams will be invited to May's Emirates FA Cup final, where they will be honoured at half-time on the pitch.

Final phase of Bedford Western Bypass now open!

- Bypass opened by Mayor Dave Hodgson on Monday 25 April
- Major £18.6 million scheme delivered on time and in budget
- Scheme will help ease congestion and boost the local economy



The northern section of the Bedford Western Bypass opened on 25 April.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, and members of Bedford Borough Council were joined by contractors Breheny Civil Engineering, funders and local schoolchildren at a special ceremony on the site which marked the completion of the £18.6 million scheme.

As part of the official opening, a Routemaster bus led a convoy of vintage and classic cars in a tour of the highway. Volunteers from Sustrans also took to their bikes to ride on the new cycle and pedestrian path which runs along the length of the road.

Following the opening ceremony,

motorists and residents alike will now benefit from the new road, called 'The Great Ouse Way', because it will ease congestion, reduce delays and connect the A4280 at Biddenham with the A6 at Clapham, improving the traffic infrastructure of the Borough overall.

A complete Bedford Western Bypass has featured in local and national plans for over 50 years. The first phase of the bypass, the Branston Way, links the A421 to the south west of Bedford and Kempston with the A4280 at Bromham.

The project will allow 1,200 new homes, including affordable dwellings, to be constructed and will also enable the creation of a new employment park providing 650 new jobs.

Wildlife conservation has also been a key consideration during the works. New planting and pond areas have been introduced to support the existing ecosystem and allow it to continue to thrive. New wildflower meadows have been created over an area of 40,000m², equivalent to the size of four football pitches.

Other measures to protect local wildlife include fencing to prevent badgers straying onto the carriageway and the construction of a new artificial badger sett.

To find out more about the Bedford Western Bypass project, visit www.bedford.gov.uk/westernbypass

Has your dog been microchipped?



Dog owners are being advised to make sure they have their pet microchipped now that a new law has come into force.

All dogs in England must be

microchipped from 6 April 2016 as part of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.

Microchipping a dog means

that if they become lost or stolen the chip, which contains a code number unique to your dog, can be matched with your details on a national database meaning they can be quickly reunited with you.

For further information and full details about registering your dog, making changes to the registered keeper details and a list of local veterinary practices offering microchipping, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/microchipping or www.petlog.co.uk/petowners

Grant to fund Bikeability training

Thanks to grant funding from the Department for Transport, the Council will continue to offer Bikeability cycle training for the rest of the academic year, enabling 350 schoolchildren to learn important skills to help them cycle safely and confidently in modern traffic conditions.

Bikeability is the modern equivalent of cycling proficiency

and focuses mainly at pupils in school years 5 and 6. Qualified instructors teach children in participating schools to learn to ride in a fun, safe environment.

The council has been delivering Bikeability training since 2009 and during that period over 3,000 children have benefitted from the scheme.

An application will be made for

further funding to allow training to continue for the next academic year.

If you are a parent keen to know more about Bikeability, please contact your child's school in the first instance or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/bikeability.



Bedford Register Office now based in the Old Town Hall



The Bedford Register Office has moved to the Old Town Hall on St Paul's Square, providing the people of Bedford Borough with a new venue to register births, deaths and marriages.

The Old Town Hall will host ceremonies, including wedding and civil partnerships, renewal of vows and citizenship ceremonies, in the Old Council Chamber and

Mayor's Parlour.

Ceremonies booked to take place at the previous location, the Pilgrim Centre on

Brickhill Drive will continue to do so until 30 June 2016.

The register office is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm, and at weekends for ceremonies only.

New opening hours for Customer Service Centre

The Council's Customer Service Centre and Payments Office changed their opening hours from Friday 1 April.

The Customer Service Centre

is now open from 8.45am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.45am to 4.45pm on Friday.

Both offices will now be closed on Saturdays.

Customers can contact the Council by telephone on 01234 267422 or visit the website at www.bedford.gov.uk to apply for, report or pay for services.

Voters urged to register for EU Referendum

Residents who are not yet registered to vote are being urged to go online and register their details ahead of the European Referendum on 23 June.

Residents not registered to vote will not be able to exercise their right to their say.

Anyone who needs to register

should go to www.bedford.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Those applying will need to enter some basic information, including their date of birth and national insurance number. The process takes less than five minutes.



Prost! Beers galore at the Bedford Bamberg Spring Fest!



Bedford's Harpur Suite was transformed into a German Beer Hall this past weekend with the launch of the ninth annual Bedford Bamberg Spring Fest!

The event took place on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 April, with 18 German beers on tap and many more bottles, wine and schnapps on offer including beers brewed in Bamberg, Bedford's twin town.

There was also a German barbecue, live music and authentic beer hall anthems from German band 'Dom Bosco' for guests to enjoy!

Spring Fest is one of the most popular events celebrated in Bedford and always attracts hundreds of people.

Bedford's Spring Fest Event began in 2008 to highlight Bedford's twinning with the German town of Bamberg; both of which towns are famous for their beer brewing.

Bedford to welcome the Davis Cup this May

Great Britain won the Davis Cup in Belgium and the iconic trophy is set to come to Bedford this spring!

Bedford Borough Council and the Bedfordshire Lawn Tennis Association launched a joint bid to bring the giant tournament trophy to the town and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has confirmed

that the Davis Cup will be visiting Bedford on Tuesday 17 May.

The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in tennis. The trophy was lifted by the Great Britain team – which includes Andy and Jamie Murray – in November 2015. The win was Great Britain's first Davis Cup victory in 79 years.

People will be invited to see the trophy on The Embankment (next to the Butterfly Bridge) between 10am and 2pm. There will also be 'come and try tennis' sessions on Longholme Meadow and Russell Park. Refreshments will be available at the Kiosk and café by the Boating Lake.

Do you need help with design? Want to get something printed?

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New exhibitions at The Higgins Bedford

Two new exhibitions open at The Higgins Bedford this month, running until 2 October 2016.

'Bedford's War Machines'

This exhibition takes a close look at the Simplex railway locomotives made in Bedford and explores the town's home-front contribution to the Great War.

2016 marks the centenary year in which Simplex petrol locomotives, which were integral to the allied effort on the Western Front, began to be made in Bedford.

823 Simplex Motor Rail petrol locomotives were exported to the Front from Bedford. The engines were part of a new infrastructure for getting troops, supplies and ammunition to the front lines. Simplex petrol engines were safer

than steam engines, which could be targeted by the enemy and were too heavy for the mud-ridden trenches.

Other engineering firms in Bedford, including W. H. Allen's, were also involved in manufacturing war machinery and ammunition for the Front. In 1916, W.H. Allen's expanded, building a new factory at Biddenham, employing a predominantly female workforce and producing Le Rhone Rotary aircraft engines. The men and women making these machines played an essential role in the eventual allied victory in the First World War.

The exhibition, in partnership with Leighton Buzzard Railway, includes a rare surviving Simplex locomotive and wagon, which will be installed in The Higgins Bedford courtyard.

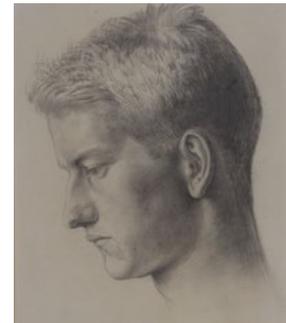


Simplexes in use on forward lines, 1917 © Imperial War Museum ref: CO 001259

'Beautiful Bodies'

Lucien Freud, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Stanley Spencer and Dora Carrington are just some of the 20th Century influential artists included in this exhibition, which celebrates the different approaches of drawing the human figure.

Both exhibitions will open on 23 April and are free to visit between Tuesday to Saturday (from 11am – 5pm) and Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays (2pm– 5pm).



Dora Carrington (1893 – 1932) 'Noel Carrington', 1912, The Higgins Bedford

Stick with Bear and get more from your local library!

A fantastic new incentive to encourage parents to get a library card for their pre-school child has launched.

Families with children aged between 0-5 years can pick up a free sticker storybook called 'Bear's Reading Adventure', which has 10 stickers for children to collect.

The stickers have their own special place in the storybook and help to complete the pictures.

Parents can pick up a free

sticker storybook when their baby or pre-school child joins the library and gets their very own library card. They can then collect a sticker each time they visit the library to borrow books or take part in a Rhymetime or Storytime session. When the child has collected all 10 stickers, there is a certificate that parents can download from the Bookstart website here www.bookstart.org.uk/bearsadventure.

'Bear's Reading Adventure' is available at Bedford Central, Kempston, Putnoe, Bromham and Wootton Libraries and the Mobile Library. Information about activities and events for pre-school children can be found on the Virtual Library here www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries.

For more information, call 01234 718178.