

Borough Monthly

Issue 3

February 2016

SHERLOCK FANS REJOICE...

► find out more on page 3

J.M.W. Turner (1775 - 1851) The Great Falls of the Reichenbach, 1804, courtesy of the Trustees of Cecil Higgins Art Gallery



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

In this issue...

Celebrate 850 years of Bedford Borough

► see page 4

Quit smoking for your loved ones this year

► see page 5

Bawden by the Sea at The Higgins Bedford

► see page 6

The way you receive Borough Monthly may soon be changing – look out for further details soon!

Newsflash



New Development Wins Top Award

John Crosse House and Bedford Borough Council have won a top award at the National Local Authority Building Control Awards (LABC).

The awards celebrate positive working relationships between Construction Industry Design and Build Teams and the Building Control Department of local councils. John Crosse House won the best social or affordable new housing development award.

The project involved the building of 9 sheltered flats and additional supporting buildings. More than 1,000 projects across England and Wales were nominated for the prestigious awards.

Officer's action protects lives

Action taken by council officers has led to the custodial sentencing of builder Robert Scott, who installed faulty wood burning stoves and issued fraudulent safety certificates.

Mr Scott, who was trading as JRS Builders and Fire Installations, displayed the HETAS logo on his website fraudulently and issued a HETAS Certificate to a customer which he had stolen.

Complaints were initially received by Bedford Borough Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards service back in November 2013.

Mr Scott failed to attend two hearings prior to his subsequent arrest on 19 October 2015.



Body worn camera provides evidence of dangerous driving

A driver named Jennifer Phipps was recently convicted of driving without due care and attention on the 16 June 2015. The prosecution was made possible due to footage being available from the body camera, worn by one of Bedford Borough's school crossing patrols.

The incident took place on Putnoe Lane, Bedford. The recorded footage showed the driver very narrowly missing two adults, three children and the school crossing patrol officer.

Body worn cameras were introduced to all Bedford Borough Council school crossing patrols officers on 21 April 2014.

Half-term Fun at The Higgins Bedford!

Spend time with friends and family at The Higgins Bedford this half-term!

Visit www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk for details of holiday activities and events.



Newsflash



Sherlock fans rejoice! Turner's painting on display at The Higgins

Calling all fans of Sherlock!

The Great Falls of the Reichenbach, painted in 1804, is the centrepiece of the current exhibition J.M.W. Turner & The Art of Watercolour at The Higgins Bedford.

The Reichenbach Falls is the scene of a famous showdown between Sherlock and Moriarty in the original short story by Conan Doyle. In the recent one off TV special of 'Sherlock', the painting became a sort-of cipher for Sherlock's ongoing battle with Moriarty.

In this episode, the painting appears in a dream-sequence; Sherlock enters the painting for a final encounter with Moriarty.

At over a metre tall, it is a spectacular exhibition watercolour and a technical tour de force; make sure you catch it while you can!

The exhibition is free to visit Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm and Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 2pm to 5pm, until 10 April 2016.

94% of residents satisfied with our Car Parks!

Following the decision to offer a series of free parking opportunities across Bedford town centre over the Christmas and New Year period has resulted in a record 94% satisfaction rate among customers.

The decision to extend the offer of two hours free parking at the Queen's Street Car Park throughout the whole of January was welcomed by locals and visitors alike.

Over 190 customers took part in the survey, with the majority stating that they used the multi-storeys for shopping purposes, which means our car parking offer has also helped to support our 'Buy Local' campaign – which encourages shoppers to support Bedford Borough businesses and independent shops.



Let's sort it
Recycle your paper and card



www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling

 **recycle** for Bedford Borough

Bedford's Royal Charter 850th Anniversary Celebrations



Bedford is gearing up to celebrate a special anniversary this year - one that marks a staggering 850 years since King Henry II signed the Royal Charter granting new rights and powers to local people.

One of the lasting legacies of Henry II's reign was the creation of about 150 chartered boroughs throughout the country. The Charter provided certain liberties and independence for Bedford, in exchange for annual taxes.

Bedford's Charter is believed to be the second oldest and as part of the celebrations it is hoped a range of exhibitions and events will give local people and visitors a flavour of life back in 1166 - and the 850 years that followed!

Highlights already announced include an 850 trail at The Higgins

Bedford, a twelfth century village at the Bedford River Festival and a special play, entitled 'Somewhere in England' (The Bedford Play) about the history of Bedford, commissioned by The Harpur Trust.

The Harpur Trust will be marking its own 450th anniversary this year with events and projects (including the play highlighted above), such as a Run and Fun Day at Priory Country Park, an art competition and exhibition at The Higgins Bedford and an 'Orchestra Unwrapped' project involving local schools and the Philharmonia Orchestra, which celebrates 21 years of residency in Bedford this year.

Further anniversaries include the Marston Vale Forest Centre celebrating its 21st year, the 20th Proms in the Park concert taking

place this summer and Charles Wells marking 140 years of brewing in Bedford.

A special commemorative 850th anniversary calendar has been produced featuring many of the events that will be on offer this year and includes images taken around Bedford Borough by local photographers as part of the Bedford Clanger's 'Photo a Day' competition. The Calendar is available from the Higgins Bedford, Number 13 Café, Bedford Borough libraries and the travel and tourism centre at the Bus Station.

2016 certainly promises to be a year to remember!



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

Use Bedford Borough Council's ICT Design & Repro Team



- Posters and Flyers
- Business Cards
- Leaflets
- Letterheads/ Compliment Slips
- Brochures
- Duplicate/Triplicate Carbonless Pads
- Envelopes
- Vinyl banners
- Large Posters (up to A0 size)
- Promotional Items
- Pop Up Display Stands

and much more!
...literally anything you want printing, we can do it!



01234 228154



design@bedford.gov.uk



Bedford Town Centre Visitor Boost

Bedford town centre once again bucked the national trend with a 2 percent increase in town centre footfall in 2015.

2015 saw just over 14 million footfall, which bucked the national trend which saw a downturn 2%. The figures are taken from official statistics collected across the country.

In contrast to national and regional figures which saw footfall numbers fall, Bedford's increase shows that people are choosing the town centre and supporting their local shops and businesses.

2015 was a bumper year with many new, quality independent businesses also choosing Bedford

as their home. These include Seventh Heaven, Gallones, Animal Gallery, Herd, Lost & Found, Smoke Shack, George James Bridal boutique, Pride Kitchens, Épanoui, Délices, GCH Fishmongers, Rogans Books and Gunns Bakery, to name just a few.



New Future for Former School Site



An empty building and former school fields could be transformed under plans which would see the creation of a new public open space alongside homes and care facilities for the elderly.

The former Putnoe Lower School site, in Overdale, has been empty since 2011 when the school relocated. As required by law, the council had to seek consent from the government for the sale of the site for alternative uses, and this was granted for the area to be sold in March 2015.

The plans propose bringing the land back into use and generating funds for education and sport in the area. The Council has been working with McCarthy and Stone, which is seeking planning approval to build new 33 homes for the elderly and 56 extra care units.

Work is ongoing to seek to complete the sale of the land for this scheme to McCarthy and Stone, which was the highest bidder for the site.

The remaining areas of the school site would continue to be owned by Bedford Borough Council, but would enable the following:

- An extension to the grounds of Sunflower House, a specialist home providing short breaks for children with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and sensory impairment.
- An extension to the grounds of 'Overdale Tots' pre-school.
- New public open space on the majority of the area of the former school playing fields.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: "This plan will bring life to the former Putnoe Lower School site, for important uses which I hope will have the support of the local community. The site has been empty for too long, having been subject to delay due to the requirement of seeking government approval for its sale. We are now set to see the land put to important community uses while at the same time generating funds to be reinvested in education in the Borough."

Make a resolution to 'Keep Learning' and increase your mental wellbeing



5 Ways to Wellbeing

'Keep Learning' and boost your feelings of happiness and wellbeing – that's the message being passed down from Bedford Borough Council and its partners as part of the Five Ways to Wellbeing Campaign.

Trying something new, such as learning to play a musical instrument, developing a different skill or even learning to cook a new dish are all easy ways to improve our mental wellbeing and quality of life.

Other ways to 'Keep Learning' are being offered through Bedford Borough's libraries – with a wealth of titles to borrow, workshops running throughout the year and the "Books on Prescription" scheme. Healthwatch Bedford Borough has been working with Bedford Central Library on the national scheme, which is designed to help manage mental wellbeing using cognitive behavioural therapy-based self-help books, written and selected by mental wellbeing experts.

The monthly Five Ways to Wellbeing themes are:

- **Connect:** with the people around you, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours
- **Be Active:** by discovering a physical activity you enjoy that suits your level of mobility and fitness
- **Take Notice:** by being curious and being aware of the world around you and what you are feeling
- **Keep Learning:** by trying something new and setting a challenge you will enjoy achieving
- **Give:** by doing something nice for a friend or a stranger, joining a community group or simple carrying out a random act of kindness, for example.

More information about the Five Ways to Wellbeing can be found at www.bedford.gov.uk (then search for 'Happiness and Wellbeing').

Quit smoking for your loved ones this year

The specialist advisors at Bedfordshire's free Stop Smoking Service are encouraging smokers to quit not only for themselves in 2016, but also for those dearest to them.

New Year is a popular time for smokers to try to quit and residents who seek support from Bedfordshire's Stop Smoking Service are four times more likely to succeed. Once registered you'll be sent a free 'quit kit' which contains a host of support materials including a money saving calculator, a motivational calendar to help you through your first 4 weeks and even a 'tangle', a distraction toy to help keep your hands busy and take your mind off cigarettes! The team will develop a tailored support plan just for you and you'll have one to one sessions with a specialist advisor as well as lots of additional support all along the way.

You can contact Bedfordshire's Stop Smoking Service and register to request support via www.smokefreebedfordshire.co.uk or by calling 0800 013 0553.

We'd love you to like our Facebook page and share your quit journey. Find us at 'quit for them' or follow us on twitter [@healthybedford](https://twitter.com/healthybedford).



Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service

supporting you every step of the way

Call **0800 013 0553**

or search online for Smokefree Bedfordshire



Bedford Borough Council and
Central Bedfordshire Council
working together



Think about what you give to others



Give to others and you will receive – it's an old adage, but a true one.

It's also a way in which you can boost your own feelings of happiness and wellbeing, according to the local 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' initiative. So, what are you waiting for?!

One way of giving is to take part in some local volunteering. There

are a whole host of volunteering opportunities available in Bedford Borough.

For more information, call 01234 213100 or email volunteercentre@yourcvs.org.

There are many ways in which you can 'give' which will look after your wellbeing too. Check in with

a relative, friend or neighbour, run an errand for someone in need or simply pay someone a compliment and you'll be doing your bit and feeling better as a result!

More information about Five Ways to Wellbeing can be found at www.bedford.gov.uk (then search for 'Happiness and Wellbeing').

Bawden by the Sea at The Higgins Bedford



Edward Bawden (1903 – 1989) Brighton Pier, 1958
© The Edward Bawden Estate

Edward Bawden's nostalgic and whimsical depictions of Britain's seaside towns will be displayed for all to see at The Higgins Bedford next month.

From bathing beauties in Bexhill-on-Sea to children's sand castles on Clacton Beach, Bawden's love of the seaside is visible in his prints and advertising material. He treats the sea's inhabitants with equal glee, scattering murderous mermaids, man-sized lobsters and parcel-delivering fish in his commissions for both Fortnum & Mason and Shell.

Probably the most famous and much loved work inspired by the seaside is 'Brighton Pier'. It is the first of Bawden's large linocuts, measuring nearly a metre and half long. It shows his technical ability as the 'master of the linocut' but also his background as a designer - in the way that he takes several notable features from around the city and seamlessly places them in one picture.

The Higgins Bedford has in its collection three preparatory drawings, the linoblocks used to

print it and two final prints, one from the first edition of 1958 and a second from 1977.

Bawden by the Sea, opening on the 13th February, will be a chance to see all the preparatory works as well as the blocks and final prints, offering a rare and fascinating insight into Bawden's working practices.

Bawden by the Sea will run from Saturday 13 February 2016 to Sunday 29 January 2017. Entry is free.



Aged 40-74?
Find out about
your **FREE NHS**
Health Check

*"It's like an MOT
of your health
and it only takes
20 minutes"*

Ask your GP surgery for more
details or search online for
'NHS Health Check Bedfordshire'

**NHS
HEALTH
CHECK**

Helping you prevent

diabetes

heart disease

kidney disease

stroke & dementia



Bedford Borough Council and
Central Bedfordshire Council
working together