

Borough Monthly

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July 2017

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Officer based at Bedford Hospital for victims of domestic abuse

An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is based in Bedford Hospital, as part of a new pilot scheme.

The Hospital IDVA will operate on a 'drop in' basis, allowing access to the service as need arises. This will allow patients to access advice and support directly and enable hospital staff to seek advice from the IDVA in relation to specific patient cases or general domestic abuse related queries.

The IDVA role has been created through partnership working between Bedfordshire Domestic

Abuse Partnership, Bedford Borough Council, Victim Support and Bedford Hospital and has been funded through a successful Better Care Fund.

If you would like to view the Bedfordshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership's website, visit www.bedsdv.org.uk. You can also follow them on twitter [@bedsdv](https://twitter.com/bedsdv).



East West Rail Consultation coming to Bedford

Network Rail is holding a consultation on the East West Rail section between Bicester Village and Bedford.

East West Rail is a project to ultimately connect Oxford and Cambridge by rail, a 'corridor' running across the south of England opening up new routes for regional and cross-country travel.

The consultation on this section will run until the 11 August. You can take part at www.ewrconsultation.co.uk.

For more information, please visit the East West Rail Consortium's website at www.eastwestrail.org.uk

Summer planting ensures a blooming lovely Bedford

Bedford is set to be blooming lovely this summer, with the addition of over 8,000 bedding plants!

Full bloom is expected at a variety of locations including The Embankment, Norse Road Cemetery and outside the Town Hall on St Paul's Square.

At the end of May/early June, all winter bedding plants are removed to allow preparation of the beds prior to summer planting. Most of the plants removed are taken to a local green waste treatment site so they can be processed to create compost.

The planting phase takes about eight days and will result in some colourful displays that last right through the summer.

Varieties used for the floral displays this year include geranium, dahlia, begonia, verbena, lobelia and rhubarb chard.



Mayor officially opens new-look lake café



Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson has cut the ribbon to officially open the newly refurbished Longholme Lake Café in Bedford.

The family-run café is open daily and offers delicious freshly made sandwiches and mouth-watering cakes, as well as ice creams, snacks and drinks.

There are plenty of tables and seats on the front terrace overlooking the lake and in the new courtyard.

Boats are available to members of the public for hire and there are plans to offer bikes for rent too.

The café is operated by Tom Healey and Andreas Doverstav, who have 20 years' hospitality and catering experience.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: *"I congratulate the new café owners on the successful opening of the refurbished Longholme Lake Café. It's a great place for lunch or to*



meet for a coffee and chat. I know it will be well used by the local community and also by visitors to the Embankment and Mill Meadows."

The cafe is open from 8am until 5pm Tuesday to Friday and on Sunday, 8am until 6pm on Saturday, and 10am until 5pm on Monday.

To find out more about the café, please visit www.thelongholme.com.

New service launched to help the homeless in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes

Rough sleepers in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes are being offered help in getting their lives back on track thanks to a partnership between local councils.

As part of their commitment to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping, Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Councils are working in partnership to deliver an outreach service to rough sleepers.

The service, which launched on 26 June, works by providing a combination of outreach support and assessment hubs where people can go to access help.

The new outreach team will work with individuals to prevent or reduce the length of time spent on the streets, while in more complex cases mental health crisis workers will ensure more intensive support is provided.

It's estimated that the service will work with around 700 people in the region over the next two years; targeting not only rough sleepers but also those at risk of becoming rough sleepers, to prevent them moving on to the streets.

Bookings now open for Summer Sports Courses

Children and young people can now sign up to a range of summer holiday sports courses in Bedford Borough.

This year the summer sports programme runs from 24 July to 1 September and is packed full of fun activities for the school holidays, including rowing, tennis, cricket, water sports and much more.

Bedford Borough Council has co-ordinated the activities with local sports clubs, bringing together an innovative programme which gives children and young people the opportunity to try activities that may not be available to them otherwise.

Sessions are open to boys and girls aged from three to 15 years-old. All abilities, including beginners, are welcome.

Full details of all the activities on offer and how to book can be viewed online at www.bedford.gov.uk/summersportscourses.

You can also stay up to date with this programme and many other sports activities by signing up to the Council's e-bulletin. Go to www.bedford.gov.uk and click on the 'Stay Connected' icon at the top of the home page to sign up.



X Factor duo delight youngsters at village school



Children enjoyed a mini X Factor performance at their village school when a duo from the show turned up by surprise.

Thurleigh Lower School was treated to a special visit by singing couple Sharna Bowman and Stephen Elms – aka He Knows, She Knows – who made headlines during the 2016 series of the ITV singing contest when they got engaged in the audition room.

The duo performed an hour-long set in the school hall and used all the professional staging and lighting rigs from their current tour.

Verity Slaughter-Penney, headteacher at the school, said: *"The children threw themselves into the festival mood, joining in with the songs and high-fiving the singers. Everyone had a wonderful time."*

New classroom at Eileen Wade Lower School

Eileen Wade Lower School has had a new classroom installed on site. The new build's contractor is Kier and the architect is Lungfish.

For more information visit www.eileenwadelower.uk.org.



Thinking of You: In Time of Need

Bedfordshire Archives is continuing its series of exhibitions focusing on the people of Bedfordshire with a new free exhibition in the Archives lobby - 'Thinking of You: In Time of Need'.

The exhibition focuses on the experience of evacuees who arrived in the county during the Second World War and the communities that hosted them.

The exhibition looks at both the experience of individual evacuees and the administrative challenges involved in hosting large numbers

of displaced persons, most of them children.

Items on display include evacuation record cards, school log books, instructions for billeting officers, photographs, a schoolboy's diary and correspondence illustrating some of the difficulties that could result when billeting evacuees.

The 'Thinking of You: In Time of Need' exhibition runs until 4 October and can be viewed for free in the lobby area of Bedfordshire Archives, Riverside

Building, Borough Hall. Archives is open on Monday (9.15am-5pm), Tuesday (9am-5pm), Wednesday (9pm-5pm) and Friday (9am-5pm).

Later this year, on Thursday 7 and Saturday 9 September, as part of the national Heritage Open Days weekend, Bedfordshire Archives will be open to the public for guided tours. During these two days a complementary exhibition looking at the history of refugees and migrants in Bedfordshire will be on display in the Council Suite at Borough Hall.



BTNeg2104/13, Evacuees at Bedford Midland Station (Bedfordshire Press)

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Read the books, catch the crooks!

Join the Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge 2017 with Bedford Borough Libraries

This summer there's something peculiar happening at the local library – and that's where the Animal Agents come in!

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to read library books over the long summer holiday season and the theme this year is 'Animal Agents', illustrated by the UK's best-selling children's illustrator Tony Ross. A total of 3251 children joined last year's Summer Reading Challenge: 'The Big Friendly Read'.

From solving the case of the graffiti writing to the strange case of a missing lunch, children will join in the fun with the Animal Agents by reading along. As children read library books on the Summer

Reading Challenge they will receive a host of stickers, some with mysterious smells.

By collecting these clues in their detective folder, young readers can help the Animal Agents to find out what's really been going on behind the scenes!

Children can pick up their detective folder when they join the scheme. Children will need to read 6 library books to collect stickers and a certificate, read 12 library books to collect an Animal Agents zip tag and read 18 library books to collect the Animal Agents medal.

The Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge is taking place at all Bedford Borough Libraries: Bedford Central, Bromham, Kempston, Putnoe and Wootton Library and the Mobile Library.

To find out more about the Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge and other events visit www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries.



JOIN FREE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



ANIMAL AGENTS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2017

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE **THE READING AGENCY**



Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

Funding boost to help Bedford women get active

Women in Bedford are to benefit from a new scheme that aims to boost their participation in sport and physical activity.

Bedford Borough Council and team BEDS&LUTON have successfully secured nearly £10,000 funding to help inspire more women, especially those of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background, into coaching.

The 'REACH into Bedford' project aims to help females aged 16 and over get onto the coaching pathway via a number of roles such as community enablers, activators and leaders within their chosen sport or activity.

The funding is from the Eileen Alexander Legacy Project, which offers financial support to promote opportunities for physical activity for people of all ages in areas local to Bedfordshire.

Figures from the national Active Lives Survey show that 27 per cent of females are currently inactive compared to 24 per cent of males. People from lower socio economic groups are much more likely to be inactive than those from more affluent groups.

Team BEDS&LUTON, the county sports partnership, has received national recognition for their work progressing women's coaching in Luton.

If you have an interest in a certain qualification such as netball, badminton, table tennis, cycling or running and would like to be a role model to help get women in your area more active, please email michelle@teambedsandluton.co.uk to find out more. You can also complete a short survey at www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/forms to share your views on the courses you would like to be offered.



Parklife! Celebrating Love Parks Week: 14 - 23 July

This month locals and visitors alike have been out and about celebrating our open spaces as part of Love Parks Week, which takes place from 14-23 July.

Love Parks Week is a national event aimed at encouraging people to show their green spaces a little bit of love and appreciation.

The campaign, in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy, has been running since 2006 and has grown in momentum ever since; last year 1.4 million participants attended 1,100 events to help mark the week!

Read on to find out just a few reasons why we all love the parks in Bedford Borough.

