

Borough Monthly

Issue 18

May / June 2017



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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Access Bedford host Deaf Day

Access Bedford held its third Deaf Day on Saturday 27 May at the University of Bedfordshire Gateway Building in Bedford.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to come and find out more about Access Bedford, support the deaf community, meet friends and win prizes!

Access Bedford is a local charity that works with the D/deaf and hard of hearing community in order to make Bedford Borough more accessible, run by 7 volunteers. They aim to increase access, social inclusion and improve deaf awareness across the Borough.

Over 14,000 people in Bedford Borough have a moderate, severe or profound hearing impairment, of whom 453 people are registered as deaf or hearing impaired.

40% of D/deaf children and 50% of D/deaf adults will experience mental health problems during their life, compared to 25% of hearing children or adults - due to isolation and problems with communication in accessing services.

Deaf Day brought together 20 organisations with stands and stalls, sharing information about services, access, technology and activities with the local deaf community.

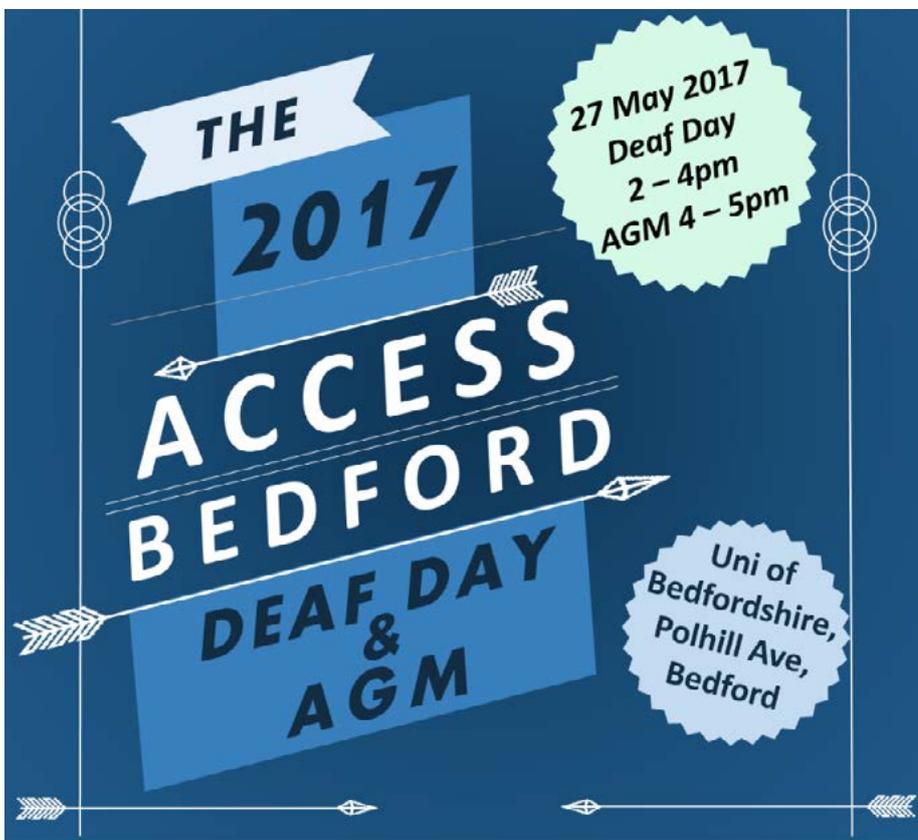
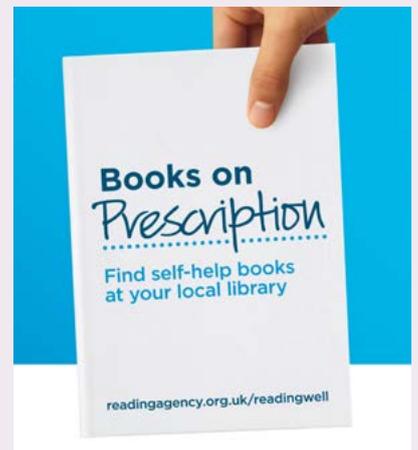
Supporting Mental Health this May



May is officially Mental Health Month and Bedford Borough libraries have been busy supporting Mental Health Awareness Week (8-14 May) and Dementia Awareness Week (14-20 May) by promoting the publications available in the libraries that have been written and selected by experts and recommended by GPs.

The collections are available all year round and include 'Reading Well: Books on Prescription', 'Reading Well: Books on Prescription Dementia' and 'Reading Well: Shelf-Help'.

Find out more about the collections and read some personal stories at the Virtual Library at <http://virtual-library.culturalservices.net>.



With thanks to the University of Bedfordshire for supporting the event



Queen Street Multi-Storey Car Park to be refurbished

Queen Street multi-storey car park (MSCP) will be subject to closures over the coming months as it undergoes refurbishment.

The work will include upgrading the lighting/emergency lighting and the installation of a brand new fire alarm system.

In order for the upgrade to take place, the car park closed for two weeks from Tuesday 2 May, re-opening in stages since Tuesday 16 May.

It is anticipated that the entire car park will be open by mid-July.

To enable Season Ticket holders to continue to park in Bedford town centre during this period,

Queen Street barrier cards will also permit parking in:

- Lurke Street MSCP
Monday- Sunday, 24 Hours
- Allhallows MSCP
Monday-Sunday, 6am-8pm

For further information about the closure please call our Parking Team on 01234 718359, or to find out more about parking in Bedford town centre please visit our [webpage](#).

To keep up to date on the closures please check our [Facebook](#) or [twitter](#).

Dog Control Orders consultation

Dog Control Orders benefit local communities by helping to maintain a clean and safe environment for people to live in and Bedford Borough Council is now consulting with residents on the expansion of Dog Control Orders, including;

- **Dog Exclusion Order**

The effect of the Order is to make it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to permit the dog to enter or remain on any land to which this Order applies.

- **Dogs on Leads Order**

The effect of the Order is to make it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to ensure that a dog is kept on a lead on any land to which the Order applies.

Those committing an offence can be fined up to £1,000.

However, it is proposed to offer a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 as an alternative to prosecution, which would discharge liability for the offence.

To view the consultation, visit http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations/dog_control_orders_2017.aspx

Hard copies are available in all Bedford Borough libraries, Borough Hall and the Customer Contact Centre. You can also write to us at: Consulting Bedford, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

The consultation closes on 31 July 2017. Once the consultation has closed, responses will be considered. The outcome of the consultation will then be reported to the Council's Executive on 20 September 2017.

Did you know?



Over the last eight weeks, Bedford Borough Council's environment officers have collected a total of 695 bags of litter from the highway verges on the Council's busiest and fastest roads.

Items collected include car parts, mattresses, tyres, carpet, fencing, sandbags, pallets and computer parts.

Littering is an environmental crime. You can report it by:

- Using our [Online Form](#).
- Mobile Application: You can report any environmental offences by using [Clean Streets Bedford](#). For further information, to report an offence or to download the App please use the above link.
- Emailing the Environmental Helpdesk: environmentalhelpdesk@bedford.gov.uk.
- Sending us dash cam footage of people littering from their cars (to the email above).
- Calling the Environmental Helpdesk on 01234 718060.

Foster Care Transforms Lives

Fostering Fortnight (16 - 29 May 2017)

**Foster Care
Fortnight**
The Fostering Network

Fostering Fortnight has been taking place between the 16 and 29 May.

'Foster Care Transforms Lives' is the theme this year and the aim of the fortnight has been to raise awareness and encourage more people to consider fostering a child.

Fostering a child can be life changing for children and young people in care and it also has the power to change the lives of foster carers, their families and all those who are involved in the fostering process.

Foster Care Fortnight shares stories of people who have had their lives transformed by foster care, raising the profile of fostering and the need for more foster carers. You can read more here.

Meanwhile events have been taking place to celebrate fostering, including a picnic in the park on Saturday 13 May, where the Circus All Stars provided a circus school!

If you know someone who could offer a young person a home, then please get in touch with the Fostering team on 01234 718718 or email adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk.



Online safety: seeking the views of parents and carers



Bedford Borough Council's Early Help Team are seeking the views of parents and carers on the subject of online safety.

This follows a project which took place last year among secondary schools in Bedford Borough which highlighted that some young people regularly use social media inappropriately and are unaware of the legal and personal implications.

The Early Help Team are in the process of conducting further research which will influence strategies for the future and they need help from parents, carers and professionals.

The surveys are anonymous and can be accessed via www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/socialmedia.

Mayor of Bedford Borough hosts Chinese Economic Delegation



From left to right: Patrick Lyons, Inward Investment Manager at Bedford Borough Council, Anton Rudgalvis, International Trade Adviser at the Department for International Trade, Xu Jin, Minister Counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in the UK, Dave Hodgson, Elected Mayor of Bedford Borough, David Song, Vice Chairman at the UK Chinese Business Association, Cllr Colleen Atkins, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services at Bedford Borough Council.

Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson recently hosted a delegation from the Chinese Embassy, who met with Bedford -based companies to discuss investment opportunities and encourage expansion into the Chinese market.

The delegation, headed by Mr. Xu Jin, Minister Counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in the UK, met with the Mayor, Councillor Colleen Atkins, and the Council's Economic Development team.

Mr. Jin and his team of representatives visited the Mayor's Parlour to learn about the history and culture of the Borough, before receiving a presentation on the local economy; sector company strengths and infrastructure investment including Bedford's role at the centre of the Oxford to Cambridge Innovation Corridor.

Local businesses Map Sciences, Charles Wells and Hybrid Air Vehicles then presented to Mr Jin and his team, who were able to offer opinions and ideas on how they could best grasp opportunities within the vast Chinese market place.

Following discussions the delegation visited Hybrid Air Vehicles in Shed Number 1 of the Cardington Hangars to have a tour of the impressive site and see the largest flying aircraft – the Airlander 10 - outside, before taking a tour of the Charles Wells Brewery and seeing their manufacturing process in action. The Bedford visit was finished with a tour along the River Great Ouse on the John Bunyan Boat.

Harrold Odell Country Park Café reopens

The Café at Harrold Odell Country Park has reopened under new management.

Churchill Catering Ltd are a family catering company who specialise in the development and management of country park cafes and restaurants - from Surrey to Scotland - and also business and leisure catering.

The Café is currently undergoing a refit, which includes a £50,000 investment by the catering company, and there are plans to offer a healthy and traditional menu and serve Lavazza coffee.

So why not pay the café a visit next time you are in the area and see what they have to offer?!





What's On at The Higgins Bedford

The Higgins Bedford is gearing up to host two exciting new exhibitions opening on 6 May. There is free entry to both exhibitions which will run until 17 September 2017.



Rigid Airship R.31 preparing for flight © IWM (Q48023)

Blue Sky Thinking: The Short Brothers' Airships

In the Connections Gallery, 'Blue Sky Thinking' celebrates the centenary of airships being built in Bedfordshire.

Back in 1917 the Short brothers started building R.31, the first of their airships, at the Cardington Sheds. At the same time the brothers set about building homes for workers in the village that still heralds their name today, 'Shortstown'.

Discover the story of three remarkable brothers - Oswald, Eustace and Horace, and their vision for a British airship industry. Visitors are invited to come and understand more about the Zeppelin airship raids of World War One and the impact of early airships on Bedfordshire and the wider world.



Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones (1833-1898) *Cupid Delivering Psyche*, 1967, courtesy of the Trustees of Cecil Higgins Art Gallery

Romance & Rebellion: The Art of the Victorians

Meanwhile, in the Wixamtree Gallery, 'Romance and Rebellion: The Art of the Victorians', draws upon the internationally acclaimed Cecil Higgins Art Gallery Collection in a romp through Victorian art.

No other period in art history has been so full of stylistic extremes from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Decadents and the Aesthetes to the Exquisites.

The exhibition charts the period chronologically and reveals how these styles developed and flourished alongside one another. It features artists including J.M.W. Turner, Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, James McNeill Whistler, Richard Dadd and Frederic Lord Leighton.

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



The Rewrite History Challenge

Creative writers inspired by archived material

Congratulations to Tegan Ingram and Samantha Langley, winners of Bedfordshire Archives' first ever creative writing competition, the 'Rewrite History Challenge'.

The competition was launched in October 2016, encouraging local school students to engage with Bedfordshire's written heritage through the rich source material held in the archives. Entrants were asked to write a short story or poem using a pre-selected archive image or document as inspiration. More than 200 students, from Years 5 to 13 and representing eleven different schools across Bedfordshire, entered the competition. The judges were impressed by the talent and creativity shown by everyone involved.

The Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: *"It's fantastic that so many children and young people took part in this competition, taking inspiration from Bedfordshire's*

written heritage. Congratulations to everyone who took part and well done to the winners on being selected from such a wide field".

The task of selecting two overall winners fell to local children's author, Kate Milner. Kate chose Tegan Ingram of Queensbury Academy in Dunstable as the winner of the Key Stage 2-3 category. Tegan used a First World War military diary as inspiration for a short story set in the trenches, called Muddy Boots. Kate felt that it was *"a very impressive piece of writing for someone of any age"*. Kate particularly liked the fact that *"not everything is spelled out, leaving room for the imagination, which shows a very sophisticated understanding of how narratives work"*.

The Key Stage 4-5 winning entry was by Samantha Langley of Sharnbrook Upper School. Samantha used an early postcard image for

her short story The Ruins of London, whose wartime narrator finds refuge and hope in the ruins of Someries Castle. Kate commented that she loved *"the optimism at the end and the thoughtful intelligence of the writing"*.

Samantha and Tegan each received a £20 National Book Token and Queensbury Academy and Sharnbrook Upper School also received £100 to put towards new books.

The winning and shortlisted entries have been compiled in an anthology, copies of which will be sent out to all those featured. Additional anthologies can be obtained by contacting Clare Davison, Learning Officer at Bedfordshire Archives, on 01234 276023.



BEDFORD'S

BIG HIGH STREET SHOWCASE

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2017

9.30AM TO 4.30PM

*Enjoy some summer fun for all the family
at our Bedford High Street festival!*

LADY K MUSIC & DANCE STAGE

**LOCAL BUSINESSES SHOWCASING SERVICES,
OUTSIDE TRADING & DEMO'S**

**HANDMADE IN BEDFORDSHIRE MARKET
& COMMUNITY STALLS**

RAPTOR FOUNDATION OWL DISPLAY

FACE PAINTING, FUNFAIR RIDES & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

**TRY YOUR HAND AT KAYAKING, TENNIS,
TABLE TENNIS OR SPORTS DAY RACES**

PRACTICE YOUR SWING ON THE INFLATABLE GOLF SHOT

VISIT YOUR LOCAL ARMY RESERVE UNIT 201 SQUADRON

CHILDREN'S CLIMBING WALL



*High Street and Mill Street (from Duke Street) will be closed
to traffic from 6am to 7pm. Diversions will be in place.*

*For Car Parking Information please call 01234 718057
or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/parking*

*Pick up a programme from Council outlets, local retailers, Bedford Library,
The Higgins Bedford and Bedford Corn Exchange*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE: 01234 276918 / EMAIL: ELEANOR.MARCHAM@BEDFORD.GOV.UK
WEB: WWW.BEDFORD.GOV.UK/HIGHSTREETSHOWCASE**

