

Borough Monthly

Issue 1

October 2015

Feed YOUR Bin!



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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Newsflash

£3.5 Million upgrade to our residential homes

The Council has released plans for a £3.5 million upgrade of its residential homes for older people. Residents will benefit from a range of improvements and enhancements following an extensive consultation period. It is proposed that work will start this year and progress through to 2018.



Goldington welcomes new Iceland store



Award winning frozen food retailer Iceland has opened a major new store in Church Lane, Bedford.

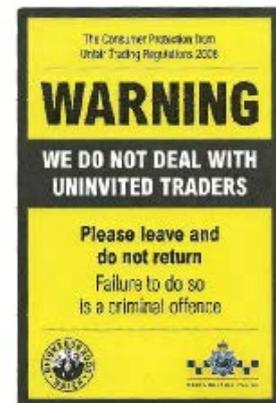
The store was delivered by Bedford Borough Council's development partner Coplan Estates and is part of a successful regeneration project which has turned this previously underutilised District Centre into a bustling local hub.

Crack down on Cold Callers

A number of residents in Bedford Borough have recently been victim to a spate of 'cold calling', a practice whereby 'builders' or 'roofing specialists' have tried to pressure residents into agreeing to have works carried out on their home.

This practice can be considered illegal under current consumer protection legislation. To report an incident please contact Bedfordshire Police on 101, or for further information please contact Environmental Health & Trading Standards at Bedford Borough Council on 01234 718099 or the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

To obtain an 'Uninvited Trader Warning' sticker for your front door, please contact Lynne Arch, Neighbourhood Watch administrator, on 01234 842043.



Guilty Fly-Tipper pays costs to the Council



A local fly-tipper who was found to have been dumping unauthorised waste in Biddenham back in March 2014 was recently ordered to pay costs totalling £1,516 after pleading guilty at Bedford Magistrate's Court.

Neil Faulkner, of Cardington, was investigated by Enforcement Officers after large items were found dumped on Bromham Road. During the investigation, Council Officers also discovered that Mr Faulkner had created a false Facebook page offering waste collection services.

2015 exam results

52% of Year 11 pupils received 5 or more A*-C GCSE's (including English and Mathematics) this year, while 42% of A Level pupils achieved one or more A*-A grades.



Together Let's Sort It!

Bedford Borough Council is driving up recycling rates across the borough with a new campaign called 'Let's Sort It'.

The Let's Sort It campaign is a simple but effective campaign designed to educate residents about the common household items that can be recycled and which bin they should be placed in.

The artwork features a 'happy' bin that has been 'well fed' - with items including:

- **Plastics** – shampoo bottles, bleach, margarine tubs, food trays, sauce bottles
- **Paper and card** – newspapers, magazines, greetings cards, toilet roll tubes

- **Aerosol cans** – deodorant, hairspray and shaving foam
- **Tins and cans** – fizzy drinks, soup and baked beans tins

On average, 738 bins are rejected through our kerbside collections every month as a result of contamination, so making yourself aware of what goes in each bin can make a big difference to the Borough. Simply recycling your unwanted paper could contribute to millions of pounds worth of savings!

For further details on what can be recycled in the orange bin can be found on our website: www.bedford.gov.uk/mybins. Let's sort it - together!



 **recycle** for Bedford Borough

Winter 2016 Brochure out NOW!

Visit www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk to download your copy

Bedford **Corn Exchange**



Further THI Properties completed on the High Street

Bedford's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Project is pleased to announce the completion of grant funded works at three further properties on Bedford High Street. Work at 51 High Street has now concluded, with the final touches added to the restored early 20th Century granite and bronze shop front. Better yet, the unit fronting the High Street is again occupied by Gunns' Bakery – famous for being the home of the 'Bedfordshire Clanger'. The rest of the building has been brought back into use with two new flats on the upper floors and a new commercial unit in Ram Yard, called The Clay Pipe. It was named this because the space had previously housed a pipe making workshop when the whole building was occupied by Luddington's tobacconists.

A little further up the High Street, the works have also just completed at 99 High Street and 101 High Street. This pair of buildings has undergone a real transformation, with work that has turned back the clock and reinstated the buildings' original appearance, with elegant stone columns, a pair of handsome new shop fronts, beautifully refurbished sash windows and cleaned and repointed brickwork. 99 High Street will soon be occupied by new tenant Chopstix noodle bar and 101 High Street is in negotiations to find a new tenant.

For more information on successfully completed THI projects visit:
www.bedford.gov.uk/bedfordhighstreet



H
 The Higgins
 BEDFORD

'A unique opportunity to see all ten of Bedford's Turners together for the first time.'

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

J.M.W. TURNER
 & THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR

The Higgins Bedford, Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD
 Call us on 01234 718618
 or email thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk
 join in www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/join_in/friends
 website www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk

Free Entry
 Saturday 10th October 2015
 to Sunday 10th April 2016



Council relaunches 'Apply Anytime' webpage for Social Workers

Are you driven by a desire to positively change children's lives? Bedford Borough Council is seeking social workers who would like to work in a service that is determined to make a difference. The Council has re-launched their 'apply any time' webpage which outlines what the Council has to offer an experienced social worker.

The re-launched page promotes a new career progression scheme and an easier route to apply for vacant posts. It contains information about Bedford, what it's like working for Bedford Borough and the opportunities for



Karen Siggers and Sarah Hourigan, Bedford Borough Council Social Workers

social workers to join at all levels. Individuals can literally apply any time and their application will be assessed within a week. If suitable, individuals will be invited to interview and, if successful, offered a post with the service.

The Council is on a fast moving improvement journey and will launch the Bedford Social Work Academy later in the year, which will see 10 social workers make the transition from University to frontline, under the supervision of two experienced practitioners.

If you would like an informal discussion about any of these opportunities, please contact the Recruitment Team on 01234 228081.

To view the re-launched webpage visit www.bedford.gov.uk (then click on 'Jobs and Careers', 'Social Work Opportunities').

Just Turn Up

Bedford Borough Council's 'Just Turn Up' Programme offers free sporting events designed to offer affordable, flexible and equal opportunities for people to become more active.



Activities include Football, Zumba, Cross Fit, Tennis, Badminton, Boxing, Cricket, Basketball, Skating and Netball to name a few.

For more information contact Robert Lindsay at Bedford Borough Council on 01234 718825 or email robert.lindsay@bedford.gov.uk.

New Domestic and Sexual Abuse Website launches



Anyone seeking advice about domestic and sexual abuse can now access a new user-friendly website aimed at helping victims, survivors and professionals thanks to the Bedfordshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership.*

The website is simple and easy to use across a variety of media and

includes a monthly blog; the first issue focuses on recognising male victims and the barriers which stop men disclosing domestic abuse. The website also has a 'hide my visit' button for visitors to use.

For more information, visit www.bedsdv.org.uk.



*The Bedfordshire Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership brings together the main statutory and voluntary agencies which help to provide and improve services in relation to domestic abuse and sexual abuse across Bedfordshire, and is a shared provision between Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council.

Be 4 x more likely to quit this Stoptober!



Last year over 250,000 people across England and Wales successfully quit smoking thanks to Stoptober, the biggest mass participation 28-day stop smoking challenge from Public Health England, which takes place every October.

If you or someone you know is looking to quit smoking there has never been a better time to make the change – quitting with Smoke Free Bedfordshire means that you are 4 x more likely to quit.

Smoke Free Bedfordshire offers a friendly, approachable service that looks to support smokers every step of the way, from referral through to success.

It's quick and easy to refer to the service and leave your details. Within a week you will receive a call to book a one to one session at a convenient place and time.

During a 30 minute chat, your advisor will ask questions about your smoking habits and routines in order to tailor a plan specific to your needs. A carbon monoxide reading will then be taken and a 'quit date' will likely be discussed.

Clients of Smokefree Bedfordshire can expect up to 12 weeks of support with regular meetings and carbon monoxide readings to track progress. The 12 week support period can also be extended for clients who meet certain eligibility criteria, along with additional support offered to expectant mums trying to quit.

For free, confidential advice on stopping smoking and to order a free Quit Kit, call 0800 013 0553, select option 2 or go to www.smokefreebedfordshire.co.uk.



Planning to quit smoking this Stoptober?



Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service
supporting you every step of the way

You're 4x more likely to succeed

Quit with us!

QUIT WITH US



Search online for Smokefree Bedfordshire
or call 0800 013 0553



Bedford Borough Council and
Central Bedfordshire Council
working together

Stay well this winter with the Flu Vaccine

Bedford Borough Council is reminding people to get vaccinated against Flu to help them stay fit and healthy over the winter and to protect some of our most vulnerable residents.

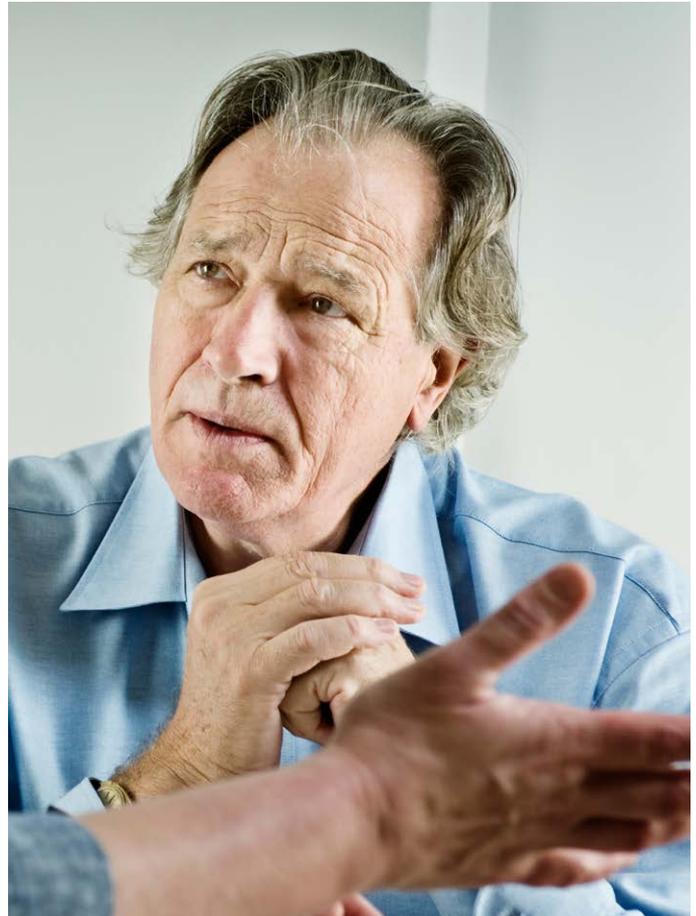
Influenza - commonly known as flu - is a highly infectious viral illness. Symptoms of flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, body aches and fatigue.

Vulnerable populations are more susceptible to developing complications such as chest infections, infections of the tonsils, ears and sinuses, meningitis, and encephalitis (infection of the brain), which can be fatal.

Last year 34,165 people in Bedford Borough received a free flu vaccination, but another 23,879 who were eligible did not. 1,091 Bedford Borough residents were admitted to hospital with flu-related complications, with a cost to the health service of £4 million. Among those admitted, 203 died as a result of flu-related complications.

Much of the ill health caused by flu can be avoided by receiving the vaccine.

The vaccine is safe and effective, and can reduce the chances of getting flu and its complications by 70%. It reduces the risk of death from flu by 80%.



If you belong to one of these groups; speak to your GP to book a vaccination appointment, or check with your local pharmacy as they may also provide free flu vaccinations. Frontline health care and social care workers should be offered a flu vaccination by their employer. Family members of those people in eligible groups are also urged to talk to their GP or pharmacy about getting vaccinated.

The flu vaccine contains three commonly circulating flu strains and provides full protection against these strains. It is important to have a vaccination every winter as the virus is constantly changing.

Anyone in doubt about whether they qualify for a free vaccination should contact their GP.

For more information on the flu vaccination, visit: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/flu-influenza-vaccine.aspx>

The flu vaccine is available **FREE** to:

- **Those aged 65 years and over**
- **Those aged six months to 65 years with a serious medical condition such as:**
 - **Respiratory, Heart, Kidney, Liver or Neurological disease**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Immunosuppression**
 - **Absence or dysfunction of the spleen**
- **Pregnant women**
- **All two, three and four year olds**
- **All children of school years 1 and 2**
- **Those in long stay residential care or residential homes**
- **Unpaid carers**



Bedford River Festival

16th & 17th July 2016



Do you have a business, product or service you want to promote to a local and regional audience of over 250,000 people?

Below are some of the exciting ways you can participate in the 2016 Bedford River Festival...

Trading Space & Promotional Activity

Choose from a wide variety of options trading directly across the festival site.

Sponsorship

Enhance your business and services with our tailor made sponsorship packages.

Community Festival Parade

Be it a decorated float, band or on foot, help launch the 2016 festival in style as well as collecting for local charities.

Dragon boats

You provide a team of 16 to 20 paddlers, we provide the rest, for a fun packed day on the river.

Mooring

If you want to moor at the festival, please contact us for further details - book early as places are limited.

Raft Races

Build your own raft, and enter your team to race down the river, supporting local charities.

Trade Packs, Sponsorship, Information & Application Forms available NOW!

Call 01234 718044 or download from www.bedfordevents.co.uk