

Borough Monthly

Issue 35

January 2019

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Increased Night time Shelter for Bedford's Rough Sleepers



Twenty overnight beds are now available to rough sleepers in our Borough.

Working in partnership with SMART, who run the Prebend Day Centre and extended outreach services, the Council is providing twenty overnight beds which are available every night until 31 March.

These beds are available by referral only, are managed by street outreach teams, and anyone being supported by the Outreach Services is able to register for a bed each night. People who are sleeping rough are encouraged to attend the Prebend Day centre to receive support from outreach teams, which enables them to access the winter beds.

If you see someone sleeping rough, you can let the outreach teams know by reporting it through the national rough sleeping report website www.streetlink.org.uk. This will ensure that individuals are contacted by outreach teams each day.

Following a bid by the Council to the Government's Rough Sleeper Initiative fund, Bedford Borough Council has been able to expand its provision for those rough sleeping and has introduced a number of initiatives, including these overnight beds.

Outreach teams have already supported 12 people off the streets and into long-term accommodation. A number of rough sleepers have also been supported into temporary accommodation including 8 people moved off the streets and into accommodation provided by our partners 'The Kings Arms Project', with intense support to find employment and long-term accommodation.

This is in addition to the well-established severe winter provision, run by the Salvation Army and supported by Bedford Borough Council. This shelter opens when the temperatures are forecast below freezing for three or more consecutive nights. This year the shelter is at the Salvation Army outreach centre on Kennedy Road, off Elstow Road Bedford and works in partnership with the 20 bed provision.

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adults Services and Operational Housing said *"Having these beds open every night over the winter will allow the Council and our partners to provide more support to people who are sleeping rough. Our aim is not just to ensure that individuals have shelter for the night, but to support people to find long-term accommodation and employment so can they move onwards and upwards."*

Adoption in Bedford Borough

You don't have to live in Bedford to adopt a Bedford Borough Child

Start your adoption journey with us today



Give us a call today

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adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk

www.bedford.gov.uk/adoption



Council Steps in to Protect Bus Users from Unacceptable Cuts

Bedford Borough Council has acted swiftly to protect local bus users from Stagecoach cuts described by Mayor Dave Hodgson as 'unacceptable'.

Stagecoach has announced changes to local bus timetables starting from 30th December 2018 which will lead to disruption and delays, particularly for those travelling from Cotton End and Shortstown.

The service 71/72 will no longer run along London Road, which will impact passengers in Shortstown and Cotton End. The 71/72 will convert to an extended 9A/9B and run down Mile Road and Elstow Road after serving Shortstown.

These changes mean that residents in Cotton End and Shortstown who are registered with the London Road Surgery would be forced to catch two buses or find an alternative way to travel to see their GP or attend health appointments.

The Council is providing a shuttle bus for residents from these villages to fill the gap caused by these cuts, until a long term solution is found.

Not only is the 71/72 route changing, the frequency of the service is also reducing, which means passengers travelling between Shortstown and the town centre will have to wait longer to catch the bus.

Other changes by Stagecoach will affect the 51 bus service between Rushden and Oakley, through to Bedford. However, following contact from the Council Grant Palmer has agreed to make changes to its 25 service which will reinstate services to Sharnbrook, Odell, Harrold, Carlton, and Pavenham. In addition, in some cases, this will see bus services to and from Bedford town centre improve.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "After months of unacceptable timetable performance, Stagecoach are now proposing major cuts which would have a harmful effect on vulnerable members of our community. This is unacceptable.

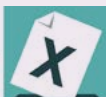
It is simply intolerable that Cotton End and Shortstown residents registered with the London Road Surgery should be cut off from a direct route to their GP by these cuts. Hence we're stepping in to provide a shuttle bus until a long term solution is found. I urge Stagecoach to reverse the changes and reinstate the services.

Meanwhile, we're pleased that residents in villages served by the number 51 will now be protected from what would have been an extremely detrimental reduction in service."

Have you registered to vote yet?

In May, there will be elections for the Mayor, all 40 Councillors and for Parish Councils. It's quick and easy to register, taking just a few minutes. Register online today at www.bedford.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



Winter Updates

With a cold nights ahead to find out when our gritting teams are heading out.

You can visit <http://apps.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates/> for updates. We will also post updates on facebook on twitter.



Report It

Remember, it's easy to report things to us via our website like a missed bin, fly tipping, or a pothole. Find out more here <https://bit.ly/2HgAhT3>.

Try Something New this New Year

Bedford Borough Council's 'Over 70s' programme has returned this New Year.

These gentle exercise classes and activities are a great opportunity to keep moving, try something different, and meet some new people.


There are a range of exercise classes for the over 70s, including chair-based fitness Pilates, table tennis, badminton, and stretch and balance classes.

These classes are well-established at Bedford Central Library, and Bedford International Athletic Stadium, with a new session coming to John Bunyan Sports and Fitness from Tuesday 8 January.


There is no need to book in advance, and the sessions cost £4 each which includes a tea or coffee afterwards. All equipment is provided, participants are just asked to wear comfortable clothing and footwear, and bring a drink.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said "It couldn't be easier to give one of these sessions a try, just go along for some gentle exercise and maybe try something new. All abilities are welcome."

To find out more about these classes, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/over70s or pick up a flyer at Bedford Central Library.



Over 70s Gentle Exercise Classes and Chair-based Fitness Pilates




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Darts Masters at Bedford Corn Exchange

Friday 8 February, 7.30 pm

Legendary darts ace Phil 'The Power' Taylor will be the star attraction when the Darts Masters returns in 2019. Sixteen times World Champion Taylor, who is widely regarded as the greatest player ever to pick up a dart, will appear alongside other arrows aces: two times World Champion Glen Durrant, entertaining former pro turned premier pundit Wayne Mardle and top female stars Corrine Hammond, of Australia, and Milton Keynes based Fallon Sherrock. 'I'm really looking forward to this event' said Taylor, who retired following the 2018 World Championship final.

For more information or to book tickets, please visit www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01234 718044.

OUTing the Past Festival

**Festival of LGBT History at The Higgins Bedford
Saturday 16 February, 11am till 4pm**

**Keynote Speaker: Stuart Milk – Global LGBT Rights Activist,
Veteran Campaigner and Nephew of Harvey Milk**

February marks the beginning of LGBT History Month and the theme this year is Peace, Reconciliation and Activism. As part of LGBT History Month, The Higgins Bedford is very excited to be a hub venue for the OUTing the Past Festival for the second year running.

From 11am till 4pm at The Higgins Bedford there will be stall holders with information on LGBT History, as well as LGBT rights, support and activism. Confirmed stalls include Schools Out UK, Q Youth Bedford and the Terrence Higgins Trust.

At 11.30am Stuart Milk, co-founder of the Harvey Milk Foundation, veteran campaigner and LGBT human rights activist will

speaking about his work and continuing the work of his uncle.

In 2009, Stuart successfully led the campaign for the establishment of the now annual Harvey Milk Day state holiday in California, and he accepted the highest civilian honour in the US, the Medal of Freedom, on behalf of his uncle from President Obama. Stuart Milk has worked alongside hundreds of youth and grass roots activists.

The day continues with a dynamic range of speakers, with talks on the hidden histories of Victorian activists, the history of sex education in the UK, trans-rights activism and finally the mythology of mermaids. Lunch will also be provided.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher said *“For the second year in row, The Higgins Bedford is a hub venue for the OUTing the Past Festival. The nationwide festival is going to towns and cities across the UK and Ireland, and we are delighted that it is returning to our local museum and art gallery.”*

OUTing The Past Festival is free to attend. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Booking via thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk or on 01234 718618. Further programme details are available at www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk.

Could you be a Reablement Support Worker?

Reablement is about providing personal care to help people regain skills they may have lost due to an accident or poor health, increasing their confidence and independence.

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Edward Bawden: Home and Abroad

9 February 2019 to 26 January 2020 at The Higgins Bedford
Edward Bawden Gallery, Free Entry

British artist and designer Edward Bawden's work (1903-1989) is the focus of the new 'Home and Abroad' exhibition at The Higgins Bedford.

This exhibition focuses on how Bawden's immediate surroundings and overseas travels influenced his art.

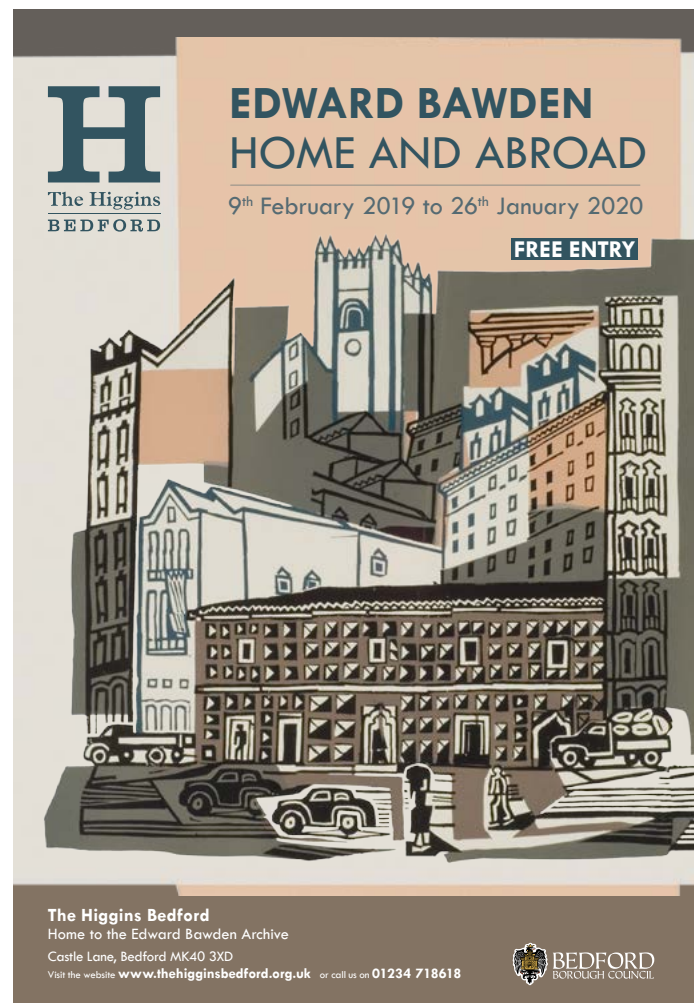
Bawden often chose home subjects which included the villages, churches and country lanes of his native rural Essex. London, where Bawden spent much of his working life, was another inspiration. He celebrated its landmarks and monuments, its parks and gardens, and its bridges and stations. Liverpool Street Station was the subject of one of his earliest copper engravings, and it re-appears in Bawden's monumental Liverpool Street Station linocut (1960), with its intricate wrought iron ceiling which in his view was 'one of the wonders of London'.

Bawden embarked on his first trip abroad to Italy aged 22, an experience which he recalled, 'gave me the biggest shock of my life'. He returned there during the Second World War, while serving as an Official War Artist, a role which also took him to many parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Bawden's wartime observations and experiences influenced his artistic style and technique. It gave him a new visual repertoire, which he continued to use in his post-war work and left him with a taste for adventure, which meant many more trips abroad.

While teaching in Canada (1949-50), log cabins, coniferous forests and jagged mountain tops also featured in Bawden's work. A 1962 Portugal visit resulted in 'Edward Bawden In Portugal', a lithograph series of Portuguese towns which were printed in Motif magazine. Bawden used few colours and a mixture of collage, linocut and drawing to create these stunning and original compositions.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said "Edward Bawden donated the contents of his studio to the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery during the 1980s. This exhibition in the heart of the town centre is a great opportunity to see and experience his work, and is completely free to visit."




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The Higgins
BEDFORD

**EDWARD BAWDEN
HOME AND ABROAD**

9th February 2019 to 26th January 2020

FREE ENTRY

The Higgins Bedford
Home to the Edward Bawden Archive
Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD
Visit the website www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk or call us on 01234 718618

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Shared Lives Bedford

Would you like to work from home and be paid to make a difference to someone's life?

Shared Lives Bedford is looking for people to provide a family environment which can help someone who needs extra support to get the best out of life.

Shared Lives Carers in Bedford open their homes to support people from the age of 16, with learning disabilities.

Previous care experiences is not necessary as shared lives carers, undergo an assessment and training programme. Many carers provide Shared Lives in addition to their current employment.

You can make a real difference and transform someone's life.

For more information call the Shared Lives Bedford team on 01234 228560 or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/sharedlives.



It's not too late to have your flu jab!



Did you know you can transfer the flu virus to someone you look after?

Public Health are urging people in Bedfordshire to have the flu jab well before winter and say it is especially important for those at risk of more serious health complications. Even if we don't suffer from the effects of flu ourselves we can still pass on the virus those around us.

Catch it - Bin it - Kill it - Remember to stop the spread of germs - use a tissue and wash your hands thoroughly.

Free Flu jabs - Remember carers are entitled to a free flu jab if they are in receipt of the carers allowance for looking after vulnerable adult or children.

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