

# Borough Monthly

**Issue 38**

May 2019

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**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# Council bid for Prebend Street relief road funding

The Council has submitted a bid for £15m of government funding to help reduce congestion at the Prebend Street / Midland Road roundabout.

Working with Homes England,

the Council have developed the plan since submitting an expression of interest last year, and have now submitted the bid. A new relief road would link the bottom of Ashburnham Road with

Commercial Road West, reducing the number of cars queuing along Prebend Street and Midland Road, particularly at rush hour, while also helping to improve air quality in the area.

## Parking Meter Cash Thefts in Bedford



Thieves have broken into a number of parking meters in the Ampthill Road area stealing hundreds of pounds in recent weeks.

The crooks drilled holes into the meters in the early hours of the morning and emptied the cash boxes and caused significant damage resulting in the meters being out of action.

Many such crimes have taken place across the Borough recently and have cost the taxpayer huge sums in lost revenue and repairing the damaged

machines. If you know any information relating to this spate of thefts, please contact the Police or the Council on 01234 718398

## Consultation on Public Space Protection Orders

The Council has been consulting on the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

In 2016 two PSPOs were introduced in Bedford Borough: restricting cycling in the pedestrianised area of the town centre from 9am to 6pm, and dog control orders for various areas of the Borough.

These Orders are set to expire later this year, so watch this space!

## Over £380,000 Funding Success for Rough Sleeper Services

The Council has successfully secured £383,323 in funding to continue to deliver additional support services for those sleeping rough.

Additional services to support rough sleepers were announced last year, including more outreach workers, 44 more units of accommodation, more emergency beds available over winter, and a specific Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator post.

The Council will continue to provide these services for another year.

## Works begin on Manton Lane



Improvement works are set to begin on Manton Lane as part of Transporting Bedford 2020; an £18 million project to cut

traffic congestion and improve journeys across the town.

Work is taking place to make improvements to the operation of the existing traffic signals at the junction of Brickhill Drive/Manton Lane, install three-way traffic lights at the junction with Bedford Modern School and widen the road to ease the flow of traffic on Manton Lane.

During term time, works will be restricted to between 9.30am - 3.30pm which will be extended during the school holidays to 8am-6pm. This phase of works is expected to be completed by late Autumn. Further works to install a footbridge over Manton Lane, and wider improvement works around the Manton Lane/Clapham Road and Paula Radcliffe Way/Great Ouse Way roundabouts will follow at a later date.

# Another successful haul for Rivercare

Around 150 volunteers helped to clean up the River Great Ouse and the surrounding area at the Council's last Rivercare event.

Staff from the local branch of MacDonalds were among the attendees and brought free drinks for participants. The Star Club also kept volunteers going with much needed refreshments.

This was just some of the haul from the river and its banks;

- **107 bags of litter**
- **2 knives safely collected and handed in to the police**

- **4 bicycles and 1 motorcycle pulled from river**
- **2 prams and 1 shopping trolley pulled from river**

Following the huge success of Rivercare back in 2018, the Council prepared for this year's event by ordering brand new equipment to support even more community clean-up events and projects in the future.

If anyone would like to build on this success and wishes to organise a community clean-up themselves in Bedford or the surrounding villages, they can do so by getting in touch with the Volunteering Team at [volunteering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bedford.gov.uk).

# Bedford's Embankment is blooming!



With riots of colour in the spring sunshine, this season's planting is reaching its peak on Bedford's beautiful Embankment!

The Embankment has long been known as the '*Jewel in the Crown*' of our town centre, with thousands of bulbs and bedding plants including tulips, wallflowers, pansies and forget-me-nots all in full bloom along the riverside.

Later this month the spring planting will be removed, to get ready for the summer display, which will be planted in June.

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# Bedford schools awarded the Music Mark Membership



Six Bedford Borough schools have been recognised by Bedford Music Hub for their contribution to music education and awarded the 'Music Mark Membership'.

The schools were presented with their certificates at a ceremony hosted by Bedford School.

A Bedford Borough Council Spokesperson said; *"It's an honour to recognise the commitment in providing high quality music education to children and young people in our borough."*

*"Music can help set a child up for life. Not only is it important in itself, but it can also support learning across a range of subjects as well as aid social and emotional development."*

Bedford Music Hub is funded by Arts Council England and is a member of Music Mark, a national membership organisation, subject association and charity that believes in the fundamental right of all children and young people to experience a high-quality music education, in and out of their schools.

The schools being the first to receive this official recognition by the Music Hub are Biddenham International School and Sports College, Goldington Academy, Putnoe Primary, Cauldwell Primary, Springfield Primary and Wilstead Primary. For further details about Bedford Music Hub and its music offer to children and young people contact [music@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:music@bedford.gov.uk).

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## The Wish: hundreds of children to attend orchestral concerts in Bedford, Dunstable, Luton and Milton Keynes

Children from schools across four localities have been attending performances of 'The Wish', where they'll get a chance to meet a composer and take part in the concert while listening to professional orchestra Sinfonia Verdi.

The Wish is an interactive orchestral piece that introduces children to instruments in a vivid way. Written by John K. Miles and presented by Claire Henry, the new piece is very participatory, with elements of theatre and singing.

The aim of the project is to inspire more children to learn to play an instrument.

Several advanced young musicians from the local

areas joined Sinfonia Verdi on stage, gaining experience of performing alongside professional players while acting as role models for the young audiences.

In advance of the tour, Claire Henry and John K Miles visited more than 30 primary schools to help prepare children for the concert experience.

More information about The Wish, including photos and films, can be seen on the Orchestras Live website: [www.orchestraslive.org.uk/featured-projects/the-wish](http://www.orchestraslive.org.uk/featured-projects/the-wish)

This project is produced by Orchestras Live in partnership with the Music Education Hubs for Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, together with Sinfonia Verdi.



# The Journey from Bunyan to the Brickworks Exhibition



The Journey from Bunyan to the Brickworks explores the journeys of pride, inspiration and hope made by Bunyan who was imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, alongside the difficult journeys made by those who came to Bedford

after the Second World War to work at The London Brick Company.

Do you have any memories of working at the brickworks? Or do you know of anyone who worked at the brickworks? The Higgins Bedford invites you to share your Brickworks memories at Pride, Inspiration, Hope: Bedfordshire Brickworks Day on Saturday 25 May when the museum will be sharing photographs, memories, stories and songs associated with the brickworks.

Many people have found inspiration in the life story of John Bunyan, who remained steadfast to his beliefs in spite of persecution and imprisonment. Many have been inspired by his most famous published work, The Pilgrim's Progress, which charts the story from despair to hope through faith.

A large 'stained-glass' effect window, in the style of the stunning windows in the Bunyan Meeting

church forms the centre-piece of the exhibition. Films, recordings and objects collected from the community help to explore the stories of individuals that worked at the brickworks.

Bedfordshire Brickworks Day will include talks, activities and an interactive discussion panel where brickworks memories will be contributed to The Higgins' Wall of Inspiration. There will also be folk music with local musicians in partnership with Invisible Folk.

Karen Fryc of The Bedford Chronicles, who helped to develop the exhibition said, *"I am delighted that we have been able to bring this project to life, as the huge impact and lasting legacy which the brickyards created changed the landscape of Bedford forever. Our town has much to celebrate today because of the journeys made here 65 years ago".*

Tom Perrett, Manager for Libraries and Culture at Bedford Borough Council said *"This is sure to be a fascinating exhibition, exploring the stories of the individuals who came to work and made new lives in Bedford. These memories and stories are a key part of the history of our area, and what make it what it is today."*

The exhibition is the result of a collaborative Heritage Lottery funded project between John Bunyan Museum and the Bedford Chronicles.

## 'Art Activitea' and 'Brushstrokes' Art Display

*Created by those living with dementia, recovering from strokes, and their carers*

The Higgins Bedford is hosting an incredible display of artworks created by people living with dementia, those recovering from strokes, and their carers.

Two local groups have been meeting weekly at The Higgins Bedford and are showcasing their work in this exciting new display.

'Art-Activitea', run by Tibbs Dementia Foundation, offers a variety of creative activities, alongside support, good company and refreshments.

'Brushstrokes', a group supported by The Stroke Association and the NHS, has encouraged participants to use painting and drawing to aid recovery from strokes and has highlighted the importance of supporting each other and togetherness.

Tom Perrett, Manager for Libraries and Culture

said *"This display is really special, bringing to life the experiences of people living with dementia, recovering from strokes, and their carers through art".*

*"The artworks on display range from watercolours of local scenes to 3D and multi-media work. Each piece presents the unique individuality of the artist and their experiences with dementia or stroke recovery."*

This display runs from the 1 April until 30 September and is free to visit.

The Higgins Bedford has been working in collaboration with The Stroke Association, NHS, Tibbs Dementia Foundation and members of the public to present the art works in this display, which is part of a wider Wellbeing Project generously funded by the Harpur Trust.

# Make a date and join the Race for Life in Bedford

Bedford locals are being encouraged to make a date and join Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.

This year, for the first time, Cancer Research UK is inviting everyone in the area – women, men and children – to join the event.

There are events for people of all ages and abilities, all taking place at Priory Country Park on Saturday 22 June and Sunday 23 June.

Courtney Culverhouse, Cancer Research UK's Bedford Event Organiser, said: "Our Race for Life events are fun, colourful, emotional and uplifting. They help people with cancer by raising money for research, including clinical trials which give patients in Bedford access to the latest treatments.

"You don't have to be sporty to take part. You don't need to train or compete against anyone else. All you need to do is go to the Race for Life website, pick an event, sign up and then have fun raising money in whatever way you like."

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is an inspiring series of 5k, 10k, Pretty Muddy

and Pretty Muddy Kids events which raise millions of pounds every year to help beat cancer by funding crucial research.

She added: *"Our Race for Life events have been women-only since they started, over 25 years ago. But we now feel the time is right to open them up so that everyone – women, men and children – has the chance to participate together."*

*"One in two people in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer, at some point during their lifetime. Sadly, this means nearly everyone is touched by the disease, either directly or through a loved one or friend."*

Thanks to everyone who raises money, Cancer Research UK is able to fund research to fight 200 different types of cancer. The good news is more people are surviving the disease than ever before. Cancer survival in the UK has doubled since the early 1970s and Cancer Research UK's work has been at the heart of that progress.

To enter Race for Life today visit <https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org>, or call 0300 123 0770.





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