

News Central

The magazine from Central Bedfordshire
Council for everyone living in our area

Issue 4 - June 2009

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**Central
Bedfordshire**

Welcome!

Welcome to the June edition of News Central magazine, bringing news and useful information about Central Bedfordshire to your door every month. In this issue:

Central Bedfordshire primary school children have been broadening their horizons by learning about life 'Down Under' through a pioneering exchange programme.

Increasing numbers of parents and pupils are taking the healthy option of walking to school, and a new 'Park & Stride' scheme is leading the way in reducing congestion on our roads, while 'Recycling Week' is another opportunity for us all to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill.

Finding traders you can trust is important for everyone in the current climate.

This month, our community focus features the towns of Ampthill and Dunstable – two very different places that have exciting plans for the summer and beyond. Turn to the centre pages to find out more.

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine, and we welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

Tell us what you think!

Email newscentral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Cover: Park & Stride to Flitwick schools

Election results

Your new Central Bedfordshire Council comes into being this month, following the elections on Thursday 4 June 2009.

Sixty-six councillors representing 28 wards across Central Bedfordshire are being elected to serve a two-year term ending in May 2011.

The elections (which include European and some town council seats), were taking place as News Central went to press, so we'll bring you full details of your new Central Bedfordshire Council in the July magazine.

You can see a full round-up of the results- and find out who will be representing your area- by visiting our website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or calling in at one of our Central Bedfordshire's Customer Service Centres.

Customer Service Centres

Ampthill – Woburn Street (former Magistrates Building)

Biggleswade – Saffron Road (former Magistrates Building now Town Council offices)

Dunstable – High Street North (Council offices)

Houghton Regis – Bedford Square (opens in July)

Leighton Buzzard – Bossard House, West Street

Shefford – Priory House, Chicksands (Council offices)

Opening hours may vary slightly between locations, but all centres are open between 9.30am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Closer to our communities

Central Bedfordshire Council is bringing a landmark change in how public services are delivered.

Our vision is about bringing local government closer to your community, so it's vital that we work with the 71 town and parish Councils in Central Bedfordshire.

The first Central Bedfordshire Town and Parish Council Conference was held at Priory House, Chicksands, in April to strengthen links and discuss plans and aspirations for the future.

More than 100 town and parish representatives took the opportunity to find out about the new council, meet

our management team and talk about how we can work better together for the benefit of central Bedfordshire residents.

Sizzling summertime?

Weather forecasters are predicting a long, hot summer, which means many people will be enjoying barbeques and picnics over the next few months.

Why not visit one of the ten Farmer's Markets in Central Bedfordshire to find all the ingredients you need for an outdoor feast? You'll find the finest local foods, including sausages, home-made bread,

succulent strawberries and fresh salad vegetables.

'Tastes of Bedfordshire' is a campaign run by Central Bedfordshire Council to support the local economy and food produced in the county.

Visit www.tastesofbedfordshire.co.uk to find out more about Farmers' Markets and local producers, plus where to go to find local produce on the menu.



Local traders you can trust

Finding a trader you can trust to do a good job and give value for money is more important than ever in the current economic climate.

That's why Central Bedfordshire Council is expanding the successful Trading Standards Approved (TSA) scheme to boost consumer confidence in local businesses that have high standards.

Approved businesses have been checked by Trading Standards officers and have agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme.

Shoppers and consumers can check to see which businesses are members of the scheme before buying goods and

services. The distinctive yellow flag logo also tells you who is part of the scheme.

Originally, the TSA scheme was only open to the motor trade and home improvement firms, but now any business in the Central Bedfordshire area can apply. Members range from builders and gardeners to funeral directors and solar-heating suppliers.

The first new member of the Central Bedfordshire TSA scheme is Hawke and Trowel Plastering and Property Maintenance of Dunstable - joining 72 existing members.

Sole trader Jon Reed, set up his business five years ago after training as a professional plasterer, and has built up a good reputation for his work plastering and renovating properties across a wide area. His business is named after the tools of the trade.



Dunstable plasterer Jon Reed receives his Trading Standards Approved scheme certificate from Sandra Moore- who leads Central Bedfordshire's Trading Standards team



Jon says:

"I joined the Trading Standards Approved scheme because I wanted accreditation for my business, that I can tell customers about when they ask me for a quote. There are a lot of substandard contractors out there and you need to have something that sets you apart from."

Benefits for businesses joining the scheme include independent recognition of their standards, promotion on the TSA list on the Central Bedfordshire website. A membership certificate and use of the scheme's yellow flag logo.

Any business in Central Bedfordshire can apply to join Trading Standards Approved. To find out more, contact Trading Standards on 0300 300 8000 or e-mail customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

For a full list of members, call 01234 718660 or visit Central Bedfordshire's website and search for 'Trader approval schemes'



The start of 'Park & Stride' at Flitwickin May was celebrated by giving out healthy snacks and water to parents and children

Park & Stride to school

More and more parents and pupils in Central Bedfordshire are staying healthy by walking to school.

'Park & Stride' has been launched at three Flitwick schools as a new way to reduce congestion and improve safety at the school gate.

Parents who normally drive their children to school can park at a local car park and walk, (or let their children walk) the last part of the journey to and from school.

Staff and governors at Flitwick Lower School, Templefield Lower School and Woodland Middle School worked with Central Bedfordshire Council and Tesco to develop the pioneering scheme in response to parents' concerns.

Central Bedfordshire school travel adviser Nick Shaw has been working closely with schools across the area to encourage children and families to walk to school rather than use the car- and many pupils are already taking the healthy option.

Nick says

"Walking to school is important because it gives children some exercise and makes them more alert for lessons. Walking also reduces congestion and improves children's safety and the air quality around the school gate.

"Some primary schools have 'walking buses' to take children to school,



but not everyone lives within walking distance This scheme is an ideal solution for families who have to use the car."

To find out more, contact Nick Shaw, School Travel Advisor on 0300 300 8000



visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Another chapter for libraries



Central Bedfordshire Council is putting libraries at the heart of our communities in an aim to provide a wide range of learning and fun for all ages.

Sandy Library is the latest building to be refurbished as a vibrant community space with much more space for books, computers and activities.

Major improvements include a new roof and walled courtyard, a remodelled entrance area, a community meeting room, toilets with disabled access and new furniture, shelving and lighting.

The library is now three times its original size with one-and-a-half times the number of books, twice as many computers and more display space.

Houghton Regis Library will be the flagship of the new Bedford Square community building when it is completed in this summer, and Dunstable Library is next on the list for refurbishment.

Why not take another look at your local library? Call 0300 300 8060 for more information or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and search for 'Libraries'

Healthy action for young people

Central Bedfordshire youth group 'Twister' is running a poster competition to promote healthy eating and lifestyles among young people and their families.

Pupils of all ages are being invited to design a poster, and the winners' work will be displayed across Central Bedfordshire as part of a 'healthy action' campaign this summer.

If you want to enter, design your poster on white A4 paper. It can include pictures, writing or even a slogan: just remember it needs to be catchy and clear, promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

Write your name, address, school and a contact telephone number on the back of your poster and send it by Monday 29 June to: Twister Youth Group, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory

House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ.

Entries will be split into three age groups covering lower, middle and upper schools. The winner of each group will receive a £25 HMV gift voucher, with £5 HMV vouchers for the runners-up.

For more information, contact Katy Stafferton, children and youth participation officer, on 01462 611007.

From Down-Under to Dunstable

Young pen-pals from opposite sides of the world found they had lots in common when they finally met in Central Bedfordshire in April.



Six children from New South Wales, Australia, visited Lark Rise Lower School in Dunstable earlier this term as part of a pioneering exchange programme to share cultural and educational experiences.

The Gerogery Public School pupils, aged between six and ten, made the epic trip from their remote rural homesteads—where kangaroos, koalas, deadly spiders and snakes are commonplace – and were amazed how green the grass is here!

The link was set up by Marcus Ray, advanced skills teacher at Lark Rise Lower School, and Stephen Broomfield, head teacher at Gerogery Public School and the children have been exchanging letters and learning about each others' lives for the last two years.

As well as sharing lessons at Lark Rise, the children enjoyed visits to Dunstable, Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, The Roald Dahl Museum, Bletchley Park, and Waddesdon Manor, plus sightseeing trips to London and Windsor Castle. Chiltern Gateway Centre provided a special day of nature trails, science and history activities, including circus skills and kite-flying, making the most of the open spaces.

Marcus Ray, teacher at Lark Rise said: "The emotions of seeing pen-pals for the first time were amazing. The children bonded so well, it was like they always meant to be friends. The faces and smiles

have said so much about the relationships and friendships that have been built".

Shaelee Reith, aged 12, from Gerogery Public School, said:

"I finally got to meet my friend Edele and we got on really well. We've learnt a lot about England and visited some great places... I love that the grass is so green here."

Pen-pals Gerogery pupil Shaelee Reith, and Lark Rise pupil Edele Honour



visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Community focus

on the places where you live in Central Bedfordshire

Celebrating old and new in Ampthill

The ancient market town of Ampthill is celebrating its historic royal connections with several special events this year, while encouraging modern-day residents to take pride in their community and support local businesses.

Henry VIII often hunted deer at Ampthill and brought most of his wives to the 15th Century castle that once stood within Ampthill Park. This year is the 500th anniversary of his accession and first marriage to the young Katherine (or Catherine) of Aragon, who was later

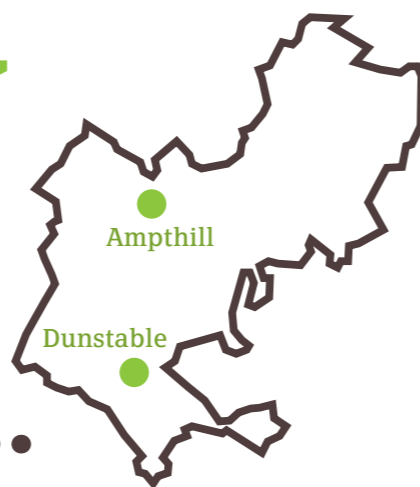
confined to the castle during her marriage annulment proceedings at Dunstable Priory.

An 18th Century stone cross, known as Katherine's Cross, marks the castle site, and has recently been renovated by Ampthill Town Council with funding from the Landfill Communities Fund.

The town council is also planning to build a new visitors' centre in the park, providing historical information, a meeting room, toilets, refreshments and a courtyard picnic area. This will link to a heritage trail to draw visitors into the town.

- Ampthill has many active community groups who are working together to improve the town and mark its history:
- Local people have volunteered to support a new 'Pride in Ampthill' campaign by cleaning up neglected areas and planting flowers to improve their town.
- The first 'Ampthill Park Proms' will make the most of the park setting on Saturday 27 June, with Ampthill Concert Orchestra, the town band and a brass quintet performing stirring prom favourites for picnickers, with a firework finale.

Historic Ampthill has a distinctive mix of independent shops



- Ampthill's popular 'Gala Day' follows on Sunday 28 June, with hundreds of children and young people and a Salsa band leading the parade to the park for an afternoon of entertainment that will include displays, dance, live music, stalls, animals, fairground rides, bars and food.
- This year's 'Aragon Day History Festival' on Saturday 25 July will include an opening ceremony at Katherine's Cross, a procession in period costume (led by two young people dressed as King Henry and Katherine), and a Tudor Fayre at Ampthill Farmers' Market.

Chris Hayes, chairman of the Ampthill Festival Committee, said:

"Ampthill community events are very well supported by local people and we are very lucky to have Ampthill Park which is a lovely setting – whatever the weather!"

For more details visit www.ampthilltowncouncil.org.uk

Aragon Day organisers wear Tudor costume to commemorate Queen Katherine



Town at the crossroads

Dunstable is the oldest charter town in Central Bedfordshire and is set at an important crossroads, with the A5 running directly through centre. The population of around 35,000 is set to grow significantly over the next decade, with thousands of new homes being built in the area.

This expansion brings an opportunity to transform the town centre, which has many attractive historic buildings and park- but suffers from traffic congestion and declining trade.

A masterplan to regenerate the town centre is being drawn up by Central Bedfordshire Council working in partnership with Dunstable Town Council, and supported by design planning and sustainability consultants EDAA.



David Ashlee, the Clerk of Dunstable Town Council, says:

"The master planning process to regenerate the centre of Dunstable is an important initiative that will hopefully attract major capital investment into the town. We want local people to tell us what they think the town centre needs."



Regeneration of the town centre has already begun with the opening of the successful Grove Theatre complex, new housing and plans to rebuild Dunstable College.

The proposed A5-M1 Northern Bypass, Woodside Industrial estate connection and the Luton-Dunstable BusWay will help to relieve congestion and make the town centre more accessible to people from Luton and Houghton Regis by public transport.

Local residents are being invited to contribute their ideas for improving the town centre. 16,000 postcards have been sent to every household in Dunstable, and a public exhibition is planned for late summer.

You can keep up-to-date on the masterplan progress at www.dunstablemasterplan.info

For more information, contact Dunstable Town Council on 01582 513000

Dunstable Town Council organises a number of entertainment events throughout the year, including the forthcoming 'Victorian History Day' on 18 July at Priory Gardens, complete with Victorian stalls and crafts, a quack doctor, street entertainers and much more.



visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Green light for town centre

People living and working in Leighton Buzzard are celebrating the completion of a scheme to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in their busy town.

Launched last year, the traffic-calming scheme involved replacing most traffic lights in the town with roundabouts and zebra crossings, and creating 20-mph zones to improve safety. Roads and paths within the new zone were resurfaced, street furniture re-painted and trees

and shrubs planted to improve the street scene. Central Bedfordshire Council took ownership of the scheme on 1 April 2009, from the former Bedfordshire County Council, and will be monitoring traffic flow and pedestrian movement over the next few months to see how well it is working.

Basil Jackson, Assistant Director for Highways and Transport for Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "We would like to thank

motorists, residents and businesses for bearing with us whilst we carried out this significant work. We have made some major improvements within the town centre, and we hope that everyone is pleased with the end result".



Doing what comes naturally

When he was much, much younger, Steve Halton failed to take the advice of his teacher on the subject of future employment. When he told his teacher that he wanted to work in the countryside and with wildlife, he was told 'there's no future in that kind of work!'

Luckily, Steve persevered, and he now works with Central Bedfordshire Council's Countryside Access Team to bring children, families and local communities closer to nature. Steve also leads guided walks, and works with landowners and parish councils to look after and improve rights of way and green spaces.

In his spare time, Steve works as a volunteer with a range of wildlife and conservation organisations in Bedfordshire, and is a trustee for the county branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

His many hobbies include sketching, cycling, kayaking and playing the guitar, and he has found he can use some of them to support his work.

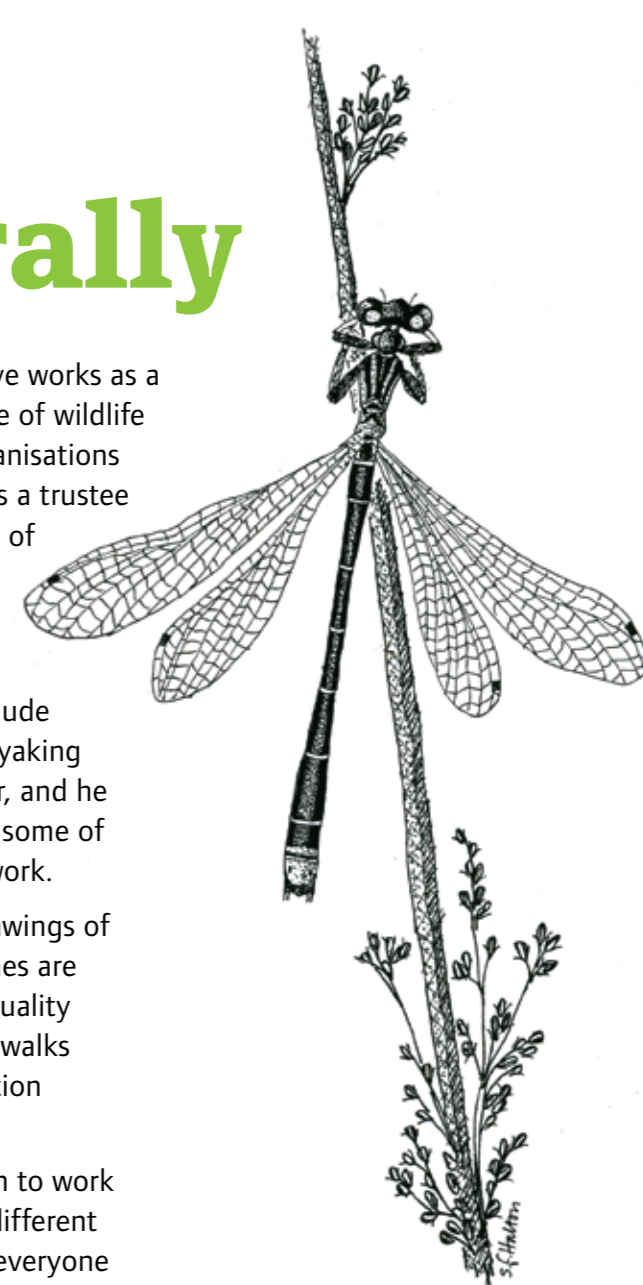
A gifted artist, his drawings of wildlife and local scenes are well-known as high-quality illustrations for many walks leaflets and conservation publications.

Steve says: "I am keen to work with people from all different backgrounds to help everyone enjoy what we have in this lovely county. I am also keen on cycling, and would like to promote healthier lifestyles by arranging guided cycle rides for families and others to enjoy."

Asked about his favourite parts of Bedfordshire, he says: "Well, all of it really! The chalk downlands for their dramatic scenery and flowers; the Greensand Ridge

for its rolling landscapes, woodlands, heathlands and beautiful villages - particularly around the Old Warden and Ickwell area; and the Ouse for its quiet river and stone cottages.

"There aren't many areas where you can't listen to birdsong on a quiet walk in beautiful woodlands or watch the sparkling reflections of a river within just a few minutes from town- and that's just one of the many charms of Bedfordshire."



Bedfordshire Highways - making it happen

Central Bedfordshire Council will be busy working to improve various roads in Central Bedfordshire over the coming months.

We are committed to keeping Central Bedfordshire's roads in the best possible condition, and are working closely with our partners, Amey (Bedfordshire Highways) to carry out essential maintenance work, including resurfacing, bridge-strengthening and street lighting improvements.

As part of our 'Safer Routes for Schools' programme, we will also be making safety improvements

outside five schools to encourage greener and safer modes of transport, such as walking and cycling.

Where are we making improvements?

'Safer Routes to School' schemes at Ashton St Peter Lower School, Five Oaks Middle School, (including Caddington Village School), Kingsmoor Lower School, Fulbrook Middle School and Harlington Lower and Upper Schools.

Resurfacing roads in Langford and Henlow, Biggleswade and South-East Bedfordshire.

Street-lighting improvements in Leighton Buzzard.

Strengthening bridges in Biggleswade, Maulden and Houghton Conquest.



Steve Halton looks for a good sketching spot alongside the River Ivel in Langford.

Contact steve.halton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

How you can help us? If you see any road damage, you can report it to Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways Helpdesk on 0300 300 8049

Let's waste less

'Recycle Week' runs from 22 – 28 June, and this year's theme is 'Let's waste less': encouraging people to try something new to cut back the waste they produce.

This means recycling more everyday items that can go in the kerbside collection (such as plastic food packaging, paper, cardboard, drinks cartons and worn-out textiles) as well as minimising food waste, composting at home or using re-usable shopping bags.

Recycling officers will be visiting markets around Central Bedfordshire during Recycle Week to talk to residents about what

they can do to waste less. We'll be helping shoppers go greener with 'carrier bag amnesties', waste free lunches, and food waste reduction tips.

It has never been easier to recycle in Central Bedfordshire now that you can put plastic food packaging, aluminium foil, tetrapak cartons and worn-out clothing in the kerbside recycling collections, alongside paper, cardboard, tins, cans and plastic bottles.

There are still some items that we can't collect, but this doesn't mean they can't be recycled or re-used in some way. Here are some ideas:

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled at local recycling sites, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), or reused as storage containers or when making jam.

Batteries can be recycled at HWRCs or donated to charities to help them raise money. www.simplydrop.co.uk will recycle most household batteries using prepaid envelopes.

Garden waste can be collected from the kerbside, taken to your local HWRC or put in a home compost bin

Good-quality clothing can be taken to charity shops or put in charity bag collections or clothing

banks at local recycling sites and HWRC

Household items such as beds, wardrobes and furniture can be re-used. Organisations like Preen Furniture Bank or Noah Enterprise offer a collection service in Central Bedfordshire.

To find out more about recycling visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk, or call the Recycling team on 0300 300 8000

Find out how to waste less during Recycle Week (22-28 June):

Monday 22 June
St George's, Toddington
9am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 23 June
St George's Toddington,
9am - 4.30pm

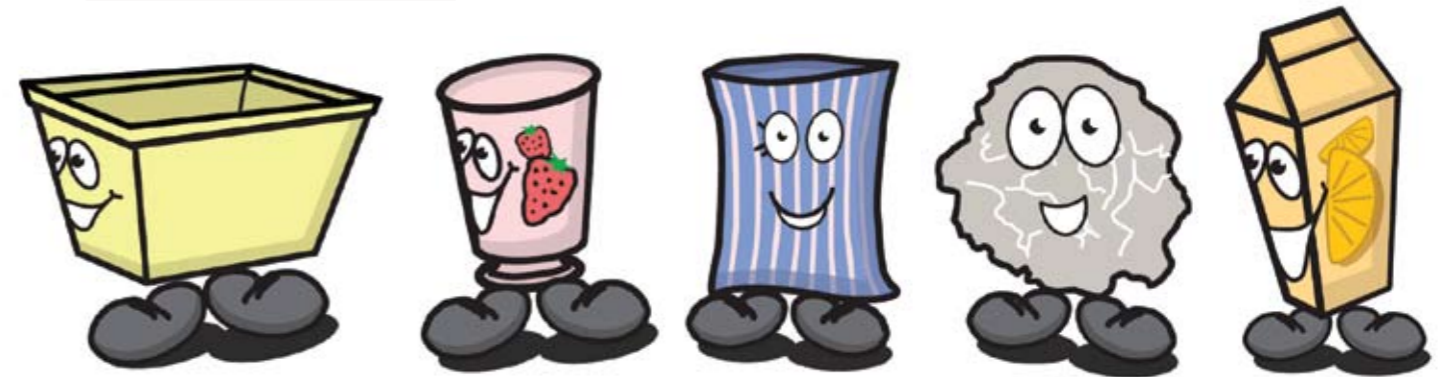
Thursday 25 June
Amphill Market,
8am - 3pm

Friday 26 June
Shefford Market,
8am - 2.30pm

Flitwick Market,
8am- 3pm

Sandy Market,
8am - 3pm

Some of the items you can now recycle



what's on...

Open gardens

Beeston Open Gardens Day

Sunday 14 June, 2pm

Fun for all the family: nine open gardens, sunflower competition, plants, raffle, tea and cakes, children's corner.

Proceeds to local charities.

Entry £3, children under 13 free.

The Manor House, Stevington

Sunday 14 June,
12 noon – 5pm

A magnificent four-and-a-half acre garden for all seasons with an extensive collection of climbing wisterias, roses and clematis.

The National Garden Scheme

Entry £4.50, children free.

Call 01234 822064 or visit www.kathybrowngardnen.com

Southill Park and Glebe House, Cardington

Sunday 28 June,
1.30pm -5pm

A rare chance to see the sunken yew garden, rose garden and water feature at Glebe House, plus mature trees and shrubs, herbaceous borders, roses, wild garden and conservatory of Southill Park.

British Red Cross

Entry £3.50. Visit www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens

Annual Garden Fete

St. Nicholas Church gardens,
Barton-le-Clay MK45 4LA

Saturday 27th June,
2.00pm-4pm

Side shows and stalls for all ages, music, flying bears, raffle, teas, barbecue.

Ample parking and wheelchair access. Details on 01582 881288

Theatres

The Pied Piper

Friday 26 June, 7pm and
Saturday 27 June, 2pm and
7.00pm

Leighton Buzzard Children's Theatre

A family musical performed by the LBCT Mini Theatre youngsters aged 5-9 years, with costume, song and dance.

In aid of Cancer Research

Tickets - Adults £6.00,
Conc. £5.00

Leighton Buzzard Theatre,
Lake St, Leighton Buzzard,
LU7 1RX

Box Office: 01582 18800 or www.leightonbuzzardtheatre.co.uk

Theatre Tour

Saturday 27 June, 10.30am

Theatre tours are just £2 per person: please reserve your place in advance and pay cash on the day. The tour will give you access to the stage and behind the scenes of the theatre.

Grove Theatre, Grove Park,
Dunstable, LU5 4GP

Box Office: 01582 602080 or www.grovetheatre.co.uk

Family History Day

Houghton Regis Village Green

Saturday 27 June,
11am - 4pm

Free help tracing your family history and identifying interesting finds.

Gundog displays, chainsaw carving, traditional crafts, guided walks, music, refreshments, and much more

Classic Car Show

Saturday 13 June, 2.30pm

Special event including Saturday Story with classic cars from Faux's Hall to Vauxhall

Entry £6 including tea/coffee and cake.

Priory House Heritage Centre,
Dunstable.

Further details 01582 890270.

Library events

Flitwick Library

Monday 29 June, 2.30pm

Weird and wonderful weddings
Marion Maule looks at wedding customs and traditions from around the world. Bring your own wedding photo or other wedding memorabilia.

Entry £1. A 'Good Afternoon' event supported by Flitwick Town Council.

To find out about more library events around Central Bedfordshire, call 0300 300 8060, or visit our Virtual Library at www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk.



A-Z of Central Bedfordshire services

For general enquiries, call 0300 300 8000

Service	Mid Beds	South Beds
A		
Abandoned / End of life vehicles	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Access to Childrens Services Records	0300 300 8094	
Adoption and Fostering	0300 300 8090	
Adult Education	0808 100 3140	
Albion Archaeology (Commercial Service Provider)	0300 300 8141	
Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Advice	0300 300 8091	
Arts Development	0300 300 8096	
Automated Payments	0300 300 8030	0300 300 8630
B		
Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service	01234 228833	
Bedfordshire Music	0300 300 8102	
Benefit Fraud Hotline	0300 300 8022	
Biggleswade Recreation Centre	01767 315651	
Births, Deaths, Marriages	0300 300 8089	
Blue Badge Scheme	0300 300 8035	
Bogus ? Phone Us !	08454 040506	
Building Control (general enquiries)	0300 300 8635	
Building Control (Inspection Hotline)	0300 300 8116	
Bulky Waste Collection	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
C		
Carers Helpline	0300 300 8036	
Children with Disabilities	0300 300 8097	
Cemeteries	01234 353701	
Choice Based Lettings	0300 300 8697	
Commons and Village Greens	0300 300 8084	
Community Development	0300 300 8117	
Community Grant Aid	0300 300 8637	
Community Safety	0300 300 8040	
Concerns about your child's school	0300 300 8105	
Concessionary Bus Passes	0300 300 8041	0300 300 8641
Conservation	0300 300 8692	
Consumer Advice	08454 040506	
ContactPoint	0300 300 8118	
Contaminated Land	0300 300 8642	0300 300 8643
Coroner's Office	0300 300 8089	
Council Housing	0300 300 8007	
Council Housing Repairs	0800 0740263	
Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery, Housing Benefit Overpayment	0300 300 8011	0300 300 8611

Service	Mid Beds	South Beds
Council Tax Direct Debit Hotline	0300 300 8012	
Country Parks and/ Countryside Sites	0300 300 8085	
Country Walks	0300 300 8085	
D		
Dangerous Structures / Buildings	0300 300 8690	
Deaf and Hearing Impairment	0300 300 8115	
Dog Warden Service	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Domestic Violence	0300 300 8103	
E		
Economic Growth / Development	0300 300 8644	
Elections and Electoral Registration	0300 300 8008	
Emergency Out of Hours Service (eg Repairs, Homelessness, Noise Nuisance)	0300 300 8098	
Environmental Health - general enquiries	0300 300 8642	0300 300 8643
F		
Family History and Genealogy	01234 228833	
Flytipping	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Food Safety Advice and Enforcement	0300 300 8642	0300 300 8643
Footpaths and Bridleways	0300 300 8085	
Free School Meals	01234 228948	
G		
Garages - Council owned	0300 300 8686	
General enquiries	0300 300 8000	
Grass cutting	0300 300 8631	0300 3008632
H		
High Hedges	0300 300 8692	
Highways	0300 300 8049	
Home Care Service	0300 300 8087	
Homelessness	0300 300 8650	
I		
Inform 0-19 (Parents and Carers)	0300 300 8119	
L		
Land Charges	0300 300 8052	
Learning Disability	0300 300 8100	
Leisure Centres		
• Dunstable Leisure Centre	01582 608107	
• Flitwick Leisure Centre	0300 300 8045	
• Houghton Regis Leisure Centre	01582 866141	

The South Bedfordshire District Council enquiry line (01582 472222) is closing soon. Please call **Central Bedfordshire** on **0300 300 8000** where our customer service advisers will be able to help you.

Service	Mid Beds	South Beds
• Sandy Sports & Community Centre	0300 300 8075	
• Saxon Pool & Leisure Centre (Biggleswade)	0300 300 8076	
• Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre	01525 375765	
Libraries and Library Services		
• Amptill Library	0300 300 8053	
• Barton Library	0300 300 8054	
• Biggleswade Library	0300 300 8055	
• Library Dunstable	0300 300 8056	
• Flitwick Library	0300 300 8057	
• General enquiries	0300 300 8060	
• Houghton Regis	0300 300 8058	
• Leighton Buzzard	0300 300 8059	
• Library Link Service	0300 300 8061	
• Mobile Library	0300 300 8062	
• Pottton Library	0300 300 8063	
• Renewals	0300 300 8064	
• Sandy Library	0300 300 8065	
• Schools service	0300 300 8066	
• Shefford Library	0300 300 8067	
• Stotfold Library	0300 300 8068	
• Toddington Library	0300 300 8069	
Licensing (taxis/ private hire)	0300 300 8647	
Listed Buildings	0300 300 8692	0300 300 8670
Local Development Framework (LDF)	0300 300 8000	0300 300 8071
M		
Minerals and Waste Applications and Policy	0300 300 8693	
N		
Nationality Checking	0300 300 8089	
Noise nuisance	0300 300 8642	0300 300 8670
Nurseries, Playgroups	0300 300 8100	
O		
Occupational Therapy	0300 300 8050	
Older Peoples Team	0300 300 8033	
Older Persons Housing and Careline Services	0300 300 8632	
P		
Parent Partnership	0300 300 8088	
Parking	0300 300 8005	
Pavements	0300 300 8049	
Physical Disability	0300 300 8124	
Planning	0300 300 8692	0300 300 8670
Planning Enforcement	0300 300 8121	
Play Ranger	0300 300 8072	

Service	Mid Beds	South Beds
Pollution (air quality, water quality, land contamination)	0300 300 8642	0300 300 8643
Potholes	0300 300 8049	
Private Sector Housing Standards, Grants and Advice	0300 300 8700	
Public Rights of Way	0300 300 8085	
Recreational Open Space and Natural Play	0300 300 8671	
R		
Recruitment Applications	0300 300 8073	
Recycling	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Revenues and Benefits Customer Accounts	0300 300 8010	0300 300 8610
Road Safety	0300 300 8074	
Road Salting	0300 300 8049	
S		
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	0300 300 8122	
School Transport	0300 300 8133	
Schools Admissions	01234 228140	
Social Services Emergency Duty Team	0300 300 8123	
Special Educational Needs	0300 300 8128	
Street Cleaning	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Street Naming and Numbering	0300 300 8678	
Student Awards	01234 718400	
T		
Tastes of Bedfordshire	0300 300 8079	
Theatres		
• Dunstable Grove Theatre	01582 602080	
• Leighton Buzzard Theatre Box Office	0300 300 8125	
• Leighton Buzzard theatre Administration Office	0300 300 8130	
Tourism	0300 300 8139	
Trading Standards (business to business)	0300 300 8136	
Trees and Landscapes	0300 300 8692	
W		
Waste Collection	0300 300 8631	0300 300 8632
Waste Permits	0300 300 8080	
Welfare Rights	0300 300 8112	
Whistleblower Fraud Hotline	0800 587 8277	
Y		
Youth Offending Service	01234 276400	
Youth Participation	0300 300 8681	
Youth Service	0300 300 8082	



Central Bedfordshire in contact



on the telephone...

0300 300 8000



by email...

customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



on the web...

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Alternatively, you can write to:

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House, Monks Walk,
Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ.

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