

Welcome!

Tell us what you think

We want to hear what you think of your local services and how we can make them better for everyone in Central Bedfordshire - so this issue of News Central highlights plenty of opportunities to let us have your views.

The Big Care Debate is about looking at how adult care and support is provided and will affect everyone, while Bedfordshire LINK gives you the chance to influence local health and social care services.

Local Democracy Week (12-17 October) gives young people the chance to find out more

about how Central Bedfordshire Council works and to give us their ideas. It also features the launch of our Children's Plan, which was created with the help of thousands of young people, who contributed their views on what is important to them.

We know from previous consultations that you are very concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour, so we have worked with partners like the Police. This is helping to reduce crime by 11% in the area and helping you to feel safer on our streets.



Also in this issue, we're helping you to cut costs by saving energy, and our focus is on the communities of Houghton Regis and Caddington.

We hope you enjoy the magazine and - don't forget - we want to hear from you!

Cllr Tricia Turner
Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council

A very happy 100th birthday!

Houghton Conquest Lower School has been at the heart of the community for 100 years, and the whole village joined in the centenary celebrations- along with pupils and staff- past and present.

A special birthday party was held in July with dancing, music and singing from the new school choir, Houghton Hoots, plus an exhibition tracing the school's long history.

Friends of the school ran a fair in the grounds, including a demonstration about birds of prey, and the village horticultural society organised a sunflower competition for pupils.

Headteacher Catherine McCarthy said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the hundredth year of the school as a whole village. We are still a traditional school within a rural setting, but with a modern

and creative curriculum enhanced with 21st century technology and offering childcare at our early years centre from 8am to 6pm"

Parish councillor Paul Rolfe said: "The whole event, encouraged inter-generational learning whilst celebrating as a community the success of our village school. It made the new generation proud of their connection to this living history".

The parish council contributed to the event by creating a new annual award for the pupil who has shown the greatest community spirit.

Visit the school website at www.houghtonconquest.beds.sch.uk



Houghton Conquest Lower School's oldest former pupil, Mrs Dorothy Brightman, aged 89, who still lives in the village, was invited to cut a special cake together with the school's youngest pupil, Zsuzsanna Csabai, aged four

Do something incredible today...

Bedfordshire has a shortage of foster carers who are able to look after teenagers - could you do this worthwhile job?

Why not come and find out more at our open evening on Thursday 29 October? You can drop in and see us between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Unit 5, Franklin Court, Stannard Way, Priory Business Park, Bedford, MK44 3JZ. The Youth Care team will be there to answer any questions you may have, and you will also be able to meet

a foster carer and a teenager who is being looked after. Light refreshments will be provided.

As a youth care foster carer you will receive extensive training and a high level of support, as well as a weekly fee of £385 plus an allowance of up to £237 per week for the young person.

If you have experience of working with young people (or you're unable to attend the open evening) and want to find out more, call us on 0800 218 2002.



Get on board for global enterprise

Our area is taking part in a worldwide celebration of enterprise next month to help people unleash their innovative ideas and turn them into reality.

Central Bedfordshire Council is compiling a programme of events and activities to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week from 16-22 November 2009, and we would like to hear from you about your plans.

You may be thinking of starting up a new business or social

enterprise, or developing enterprising ideas at your workplace, school, college or in the community.

If you are planning an event or activity- large or small- or have a business idea and want to get in touch with like-minded people, we can help.



Contact Garth McKenzie at Central Bedfordshire Council on 01234 228568, or email garth.mckenzie@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Need some ideas? Check out www.gew.org.uk Find out more about what's happening locally in the next edition of News Central.

Your magazine

News Central is produced by the communications team at Central Bedfordshire Council.

It is delivered to every household in the area by Royal Mail, so may be accompanied by unrelated leaflets or flyers.

Tell us what you think!

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine each month, and we welcome your comments or suggestions for future editions. Email newscentral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk, or use the contact details on the back cover to get in touch.

Council meetings

For details about Central Bedfordshire Council meetings, call 0300 300 8000 or visit our website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Residents discuss community safety with Central Bedfordshire Councillor Dennis Gale (left), who represents Flitwick

Play your part in making our communities feel safer

Crime has fallen by 11% as a result of your local councils, police, fire and rescue, probation and health services working together to make Bedfordshire an even safer place.

The drop shows crime such as burglary, robbery and violence is much lower than people think, and Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership is really helping to improve public safety.

A new 'Confidence' campaign has been launched countywide to show how public services are pulling together to make sure people not only are safer- but feel safer too.

It features police officers, street rangers and cleaners, community nurses and fire fighters, who are dedicated to looking after local residents and building safer communities.

Councillor David McVicar, Central Bedfordshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, says:

"Community safety partnerships are assessed on how they perform and improve public services. A new measure looks at how 'confident' or 'safe' people feel, as we know the actual amount of crime happening in our towns and villages is much lower than people perceive.

"A positive assessment could bring extra Government cash for councils to put into

community safety, housing, recreational facilities and the environment. We hope Central Bedfordshire residents will take some comfort from knowing these people are there to help them."

Feel the force

School children in Central Bedfordshire will get the chance to learn essential safety skills in a fun way through a new scheme called 'Central Safety Force'.

During October, 600 children aged nine or ten from 15 schools in Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis will take part in games and scenarios to test their awareness of dangers and skills needed to deal with everyday emergencies.

The activities, covering crime, personal safety, health, and first-aid, will be provided by police, fire, health and council officers. The school with the highest score will be awarded the Central Safety Force Cup.

Cllr David McVicar visits Biggleswade where the Community Safety Group is working with local police to combat speeding and prevent vehicle crime



Meet the people who are working to make you safer...

Finding solutions to local problems

Community safety forums in Central Bedfordshire's towns and villages are helping to create safer communities by bringing residents together with uniformed officers, council staff and councillors to find solutions to local problems.

Four community safety forums have been launched over the past two years to cover Amptill (including the villages of Millbrook, Clophill and Maulden), Biggleswade, Sandy and Beeston, and another is planned for the Downside area of Dunstable.

The local forums work together to tackle common concerns such as anti-social behaviour, home security, speeding cars, and dog fouling. They also highlight good things that are going on in the area, and how local people can play their part.

They are co-ordinated by Central Bedfordshire Council in partnership with town and parish councils, Police, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Neighbourhood Watch, Aragon Housing, the fire service and other local agencies.

Councillor David McVicar, says: **"Our community safety**

forums are a great way for people to play their part in making their neighbourhoods safer. We want our residents to feel safe and be proud of their communities, and we can achieve far more by working together."

Keeping the burglars at bay

Steppingley villagers have set up their own Neighbourhood Watch scheme with the support of their local community safety forum.

A special community safety event was held in the village hall recently to advise concerned residents about keeping their homes safe and secure.

Central Bedfordshire's community safety team, members of Amptill Community Safety Group, local Police Community Support Officers, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and fire service officers were on hand

to give useful crime prevention and home safety advice to householders.

John Plummer, Chair of Amptill Community Safety Group, said: "We are a new group and have found that working together and communicating with each other is the key to improving community safety."

Steppingley Parish Councillor Melissa Jordan said: "Having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a good idea for the village as it encourages people to look after each other and supports our community spirit."

You can join your local forum to find out what's happening in your area. For details, call Central Bedfordshire Council's community safety team on 0300 300 4225.

Steppingley residents find out how to keep safe and secure at a community safety event in the village hall





Central Bedfordshire has recently invested £5 million to upgrade Bedford Square Centre in Houghton Regis, helping to revitalise the town and give local people better, more convenient services

Community focus

on the places where you live in Central Bedfordshire

Houghton Regis has grown rapidly to become a busy town over the last 50 years, but the historic settlement has kept its village atmosphere and community spirit.



Houghton Regis' Royal Manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and its oldest building, All Saints Parish Church, dates back to the 13th Century. The seven-acre village green hosts an Easter egg hunt, an annual carnival, a medieval fayre, and Christmas celebrations

New housing estates and shopping centres were built at Tithe Farm and Parkside in the 1960s and 1970s,

All Saints Parish Church at Houghton Regis (left) and jousting on the village green (right)

and the town has been expanding ever since. It has several industrial areas and lots of open space for sport and recreation. The thriving town centre offers a wide range of goods, and is pedestrian-friendly.

Houghton Regis Town Council looks after parks and recreation in the town, and is developing a new sports pavilion in Moore Crescent to support the Houghton Regis Bowls Club and football clubs. Earlier this year, a popular skate park was built on Tithe Farm recreation ground.

The town council is working with Central Bedfordshire Council to refurbish children's

play areas on Tithe Farm and The Green, establish an allotment site and improve the condition of pavements along routes to school.

The new Bedford Square Centre opened in September 2009 and includes a new larger library, new customer service centre, new public conveniences and a refurbished community centre. A new NHS health treatment centre will also be opening on the site later this year.

The library has an area for children with bright furniture, a space for teenagers, and a community meeting room. As well as an extensive range of books and other materials for all ages to borrow, it offers free access to computers with free internet access and a 'homework' club.



A village that really cares

Caddington residents have formed a new support network for their village. Launched in September, CaddingtonCare offers free, friendly help to anyone living in the village.

The village has really pulled together to get the group going, with scores of residents donating time and a huge array of local talents as a bank of volunteers.

The volunteers can tackle anything you might ask of a neighbour- a lift to a doctor's appointment or the shops, collecting prescriptions and library books, dog walking or practical help like changing a light bulb or mending a fuse.

They cannot undertake any services best left to qualified professionals, but they will try to signpost callers to other sources of help if needed.

The scheme is particularly useful for people who do not have their

family living nearby, or whose own neighbours are away during the day. It also suits people of any age who need a bit of extra help while recuperating, those living on their own or larger households needing an extra pair of hands.

Any Caddington resident can call the Caddington Care mobile phone number, which is widely advertised locally. A volunteer will answer and match the request with a volunteer who can help. The help is free (except for costs like petrol or parking), but users may make donations if they wish.

Many residents have said it is reassuring to have the help available and some have said that they will call up for 'a bit of company and a chat over a cuppa'.

Central Bedfordshire currently has 24 care schemes set up through Beds Rural Communities Charity (BRCC). All volunteers are Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked.

For more information about the groups in Central Bedfordshire, or to find out more about setting one up in your village, contact Justine Hunt, BRCC Good Neighbour and Village Care Scheme Network Coordinator. Call 01234 832648 or email justineh@bedsrcc.org.uk

Visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Let's save energy and the environment

Central Bedfordshire Council is taking action on climate change - and is leading the way by reducing its own carbon footprint, whilst also working hard to help our residents reduce their own.

We are developing our new climate change strategy which recognises that we need to set an example for our community and partners by measuring our CO2 emissions and taking steps to cut them.

The Council's work to cut the energy it uses for fuel, light and heating, as well as indirect emissions from goods and services, has already won the support of the national Carbon Trust to help us meet our targets.

But we need your help to make your household more energy efficient - to save money as well as the environment.

Free home energy report to help you save cash

Central Bedfordshire Council has joined forces with the Energy Saving Trust to help households in the area save up to £300 a year on fuel bills by becoming more energy efficient.

Funded by the Government, the Energy Saving Trust provides free, impartial, expert advice on saving energy, and offers grants or discounts towards installing energy saving measures.

Letters are being sent to all Central Bedfordshire residents offering a free, impartial home energy report that will show how you can save money on fuel bills.

The personalised report will measure how energy efficient your home is on a scale of A-G, and will give practical advice on how you can improve your home's energy rating through free or low-cost energy saving measures.

Residents who complete the home energy check by post or online by Friday 27 November will be entered into a free prize draw to

win a solar-powered charger (to use with an MP3 player, mobile phone or digital camera).

Complete your energy check online and find out more at energysavingtrust.org.uk, or call the Energy Saving Trust's free helpline on 0800 512 012

Community challenge

We want to find Central Bedfordshire's greenest community so we've invited local groups to take part in an energy efficiency contest this autumn.

Community groups in Leighton Buzzard, Flitwick, Clophill and Flitton, and Greenfield are among those areas taking on the challenge. To help them be more energy efficient, they have been issued with energy-saving meters to measure how much energy they use over the month.

Residents are logging their electricity and gas meter readings onto Zap Carbon- an innovative new website which will measure their carbon-cutting.

Visit www.zapcarbon.com to find out how you can become more energy-efficient.

The community that is the most energy efficient over the month will win a small grant to help them make their area even greener, and will also be named 'Central Bedfordshire's Biggest Carbon Cutters 2009'.

It's Energy Saving Week from 19-23 October, 2009, so here are some top tips to reduce your energy bill by £130 and save 602 kg of CO2*

Boil as much water as you need

Potential saving £10
(29kg CO2)

Turn off lights when you leave a room

Potential saving £10
(23kg CO2)

Fit energy saving lightbulbs

Potential saving £40
(172kg CO2)

Switch off appliances on standby

Potential saving £30
(133kg CO2)

Wash laundry at 30°C

Potential saving £10
(45kg CO2)

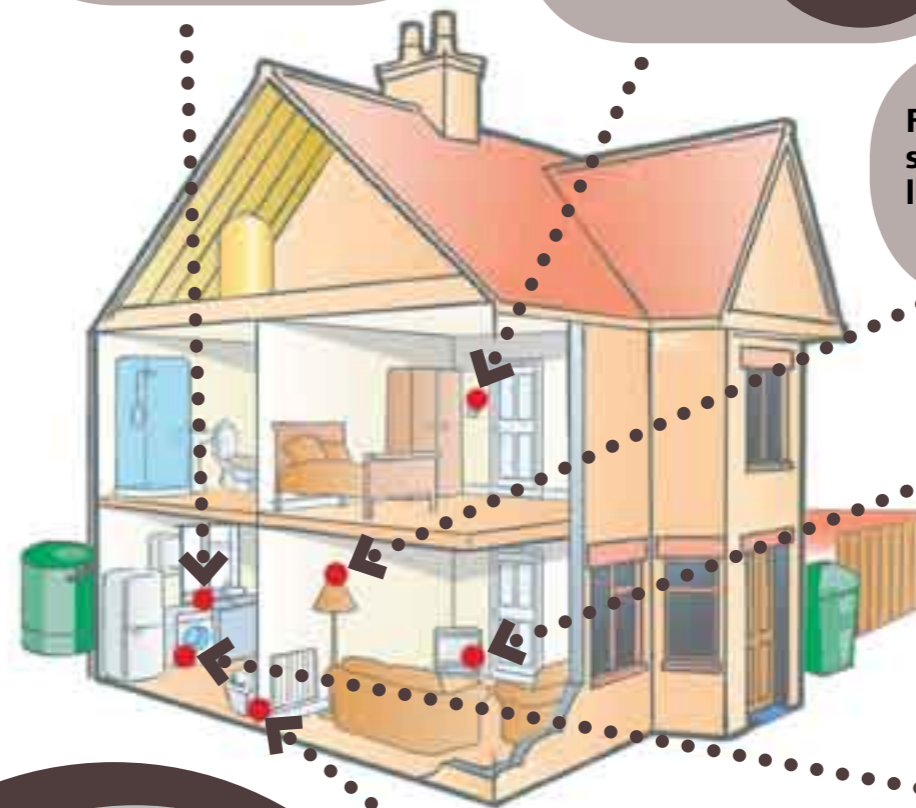
Turn down your heating by 1°C

Potential saving £30
(200kg CO2)

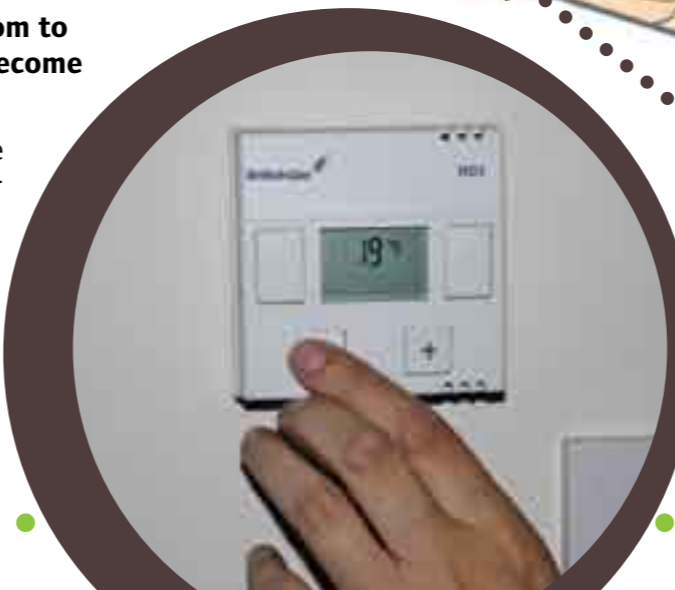
For more information about making your community greener, call Stephen Mooring on 01234 228796, or email stephen.mooring@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Did you know?

It's estimated that each household in Central Bedfordshire produces over six tonnes of CO2 a year: we could reduce this dramatically by taking simple energy saving measures - saving over £13 million on energy bills, as well as reducing our carbon footprint.



(*estimated by the Energy Saving Trust)



Visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Hands up to have your say

Children and young people living in Central Bedfordshire will be finding out how their new council is run and voicing their own opinions during this year's Local Democracy Week (12-17 October).

Local Democracy Week is a national campaign to promote democracy and

community participation, supported by the Local Government Association, British Youth Council, The Electoral Commission and UK Youth Parliament.

Central Bedfordshire Council is celebrating the week with an expanded programme of activities with young

people and councillors together in schools and council offices.

The idea is to give young people the opportunity to see how the new council works, an insight into the role of a councillor, and a chance to have their say on issues that are important to them.

OCTOBER

My Local Democracy Week planner

Monday 12 - Middle Schools Challenge

Join my middle school team for a day at the council's Priory House offices for a some fun challenges about local democracy and politics

Which middle school will be crowned this year's champions?

Tuesday 13 - Take Your Councillor to School Day

Show my local councillor round our school (lower, middle or upper), meet my friends, then chat about what councillors do and what's important for young people

Wednesday 14 - Political Speed Dating

Sounds like fun! A speedy way for young people and councillors to share our ideas through a series of three minute discussions held in the evening at Priory House, Chicksands.

At the end, the best ideas will be turned into action.

Thursday 15 - Upper Schools Challenge

New! Now upper schools have their own challenge of competing in teams at the council's Priory Offices to find out who knows the most about democracy and politics!

Who will be the first Upper School champions?

Friday 16 - Children's Plan launch

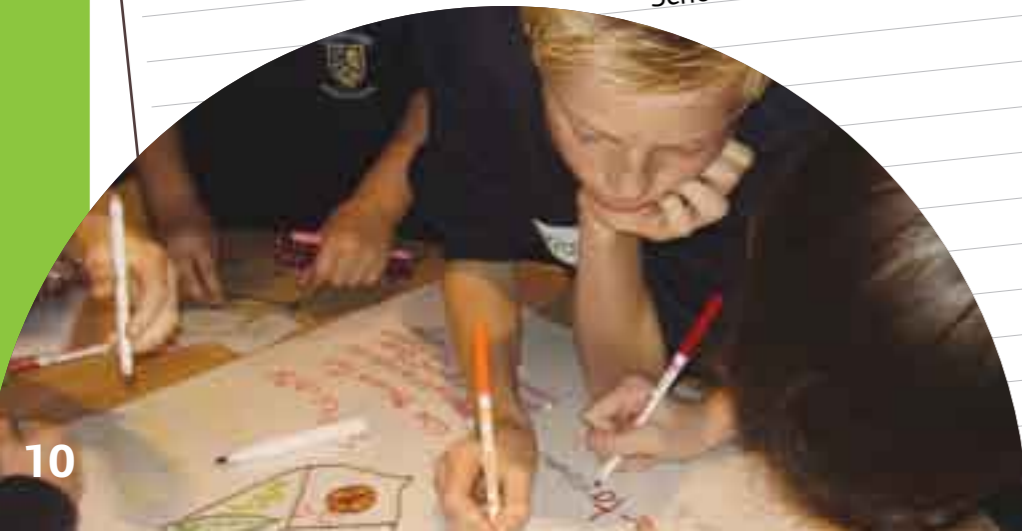
Cool! We have our own Children's Plan setting out what our new Central Bedfordshire Council is going to do for us through the new Children's Trust.

Scary but exciting... the launch gives us a chance to tell everyone what's important for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire using the DVD we helped to make.



For more information about the Children's Plan, call Karen Oellermann on 0300 300 5265, or email karen.oellermann@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

For more information about Local Democracy Week, call Katy Stafferton on 01462 611008 or email katy.stafferton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Shape your health and social care services

Bedfordshire LINK (Local Involvement Network) is a growing network of individuals and groups who work together to improve local health and social care services.

LINK gives residents a more influential, local voice by asking people what they think of local health and social care services and how they can be improved. Members of LINK can choose how much they want to get involved - from spending a few minutes completing a survey, attending occasional meetings or events to becoming a trained representative and joining an advisory group.

100th LINK member

Local resident, Maureen Lambert, (pictured above) has become the 100th member to sign up to the Bedfordshire LINK.

Maureen's daughter was brain damaged at birth and has mild learning disabilities. Her parents have been supporting her 24-hours a day suffering sleep deprivation and all the anxiety that goes with caring for a disabled child who only went into residential care at the age of 37.

Although she was moved by social services to a private home two years ago, the retired couple constantly ask themselves: 'What will happen to her when we are no longer here to care?'



Maureen says:

"We are trying to get our daughter into suitable residential care and a settled life before we get much older - then we can relax."

Her advice to fellow carers is:

"Never give up on finding the right care for your loved one. Don't ever lose your voice, there is support out there for you."

If you are interested in joining LINK, contact the LINK Support Team on 01582 733418, or visit the website at www.bedfordshirelink.org.uk

Join the BIG care debate

Central Bedfordshire Council is determined to improve the quality of life of everybody living in the area, and is encouraging residents to get involved in the Government's 'Big Care Debate' about reforming adult care and support in England.

Care and support helps people do everyday things like living in their own homes, working, shopping and caring for their family, which most of us take for granted. Everyone will be affected by the proposed changes; people who care for friends and family, people who use the care and support system and all of us who pay for care and support through taxes.

The Government's Green Paper, Shaping the Future of Care Together, spells out a vision to build a national care service that is fair, simple and affordable for all, and that safeguards the well being of carers. It sets out the options for reforming social care, and how the new system could be organised and paid for.

How can you get involved?

The consultation period runs until 13 November 2009 and seeks your views on a number of questions. You can respond online or come along to one of two workshops organised by Central Bedfordshire Council:

- 14 October at 6pm at the Community Fire station in Dunstable

- 16 October at 10am at Priory House, Chicksands

Central Bedfordshire Council will collate all the comments from the workshops and respond to the Government on behalf of residents. We will also use your comments to improve and modernise existing adult social care services.

More information about the Green Paper and the Big Care Debate and consultation events can be found on our website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

A consultation questionnaire is also available on the our website



Visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

what's on...

Changing spots with leopards



Caroline Leonard has worked in local government for over 35 years. For the last six years, she has been Project Officer for the Europe Team in Economic Growth, and finds helping people very rewarding.

She explains: "We bring in about £1 million of European money each year to fund projects to help the disabled, disadvantaged and long-term unemployed on

the pathway towards employment, so it's a worthwhile job."

Like many people, Caroline loves animals, but as well as having the usual domestic pets, she has also worked with more interesting species, including rare leopards.

She says: **"I am an animal nut. I've been a veterinary nurse, a dog obedience and agility trainer, an owl flyer and horse owner, groom, shoveller and trailer driver... but once I met the leopards, I was hooked!"**

The Santago Rare Leopard Breeding Project in Hertfordshire was started by Pete James over 25 years ago to breed the rarest of all leopards, the clouded leopard, which is very shy, and normally nocturnal.

Pete also successfully bred snow leopards, Persian leopards and black leopards, known as Panthers, which is notoriously

difficult in captivity. His dream was that some of the descendents of his leopards would eventually be released back into their natural habitat.

Caroline says: "Over the years, I have helped hand rear Sadie, the Persian leopard, and have been inside the enclosure with Tamar the puma. I have hand-fed all of the leopards and still have all my fingers- just! I have built up a special relationship with them over the years. It's still a magical experience to interact with them".

Sadly, Pete died last year and the Santago project will be closing this autumn, so homes have been found for all the animals- which means Caroline is looking for a new project... such as bathing elephants or tickling tigers!



Caroline Leonard gets close to a rare leopard

Making homes safer



Central Bedfordshire Council is hosting a county-wide Neighbourhood Watch conference on 24 October as part of the Home Office's 'Making Homes Safer' initiative.

The event will highlight the work of Neighbourhood Watch and promote the benefits of partnership working with other community safety partners.

For more details, contact Tony Howells, Chair of the Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, on 01582 881611 or email t.howellso8@btinternet.com

We can only highlight a few of the events coming up in Central Bedfordshire. Find out more at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk (under 'tourism' in the leisure and culture section), your local library or customer service centre.

Black History Month

October will see services across the Central Bedfordshire Council come together to host a wide range of events designed to inform, inspire, educate and entertain local people about all aspects of Black history.

Residents from Black, Asian and mixed heritage communities can pinpoint where they are from on maps of the world at their local library, which will then be combined with others from the area to form a mural to be displayed at the new library at Bedford Square, Houghton Regis.

Pupils will be taking part in African music workshops to learn about the influence of Black history on song writing.

A playlist of influential, traditional, ground breaking and modern Black and Asian artists will be available to listen to on Central Bedfordshire Council's website.

Caribbean storyteller MC Coco Pre will tell stories of Caribbean folklore and other creatures for young children and their parents or carers at three local children's centres.

The celebrations will culminate with music, storytelling and workshops at Redbourne Upper School on Wednesday 28 October, 2pm - 7pm

The full programme of events for Black History Month can be found at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Other events...

Wheelie Wednesday
14 October, 12.30pm-1.30pm
Market Cross, Leighton Buzzard
GoCycle at lunch time
www.gocycleleightoninlslade.org

Real Craft Fair
18 October, 10am-4pm
Woburn Village Hall, MK17 9QD
Craft fair featuring hand-made goods www.supportbritishhandmadecrafts.co.uk

A cappella singing
An open evening with Phoenix Chorus
Tuesday 20 October
7.30pm- 10.15pm
Potton Lower School, Everton Road, Potton SG19 2PB

Feed the Birds Day
25 October, 10am-4pm
RSPB, The Lodge Nature Reserve, Sandy, SG19 2DL

A fun open day with activities for all the family, including making bird cake and bird ringing (weather dependent). Free entry and car parking

Halloween for children
31 October, 1pm-3pm
RSPB, The Lodge Nature Reserve, Sandy, SG19 2DL

A Halloween walk with prizes for the best costume and carved pumpkin.
Adults free, children £3,
RSPB Wildlife Explorers £2

If you have an event in Central Bedfordshire you would like to publicise, please email brief details at least six weeks in advance to tourism@centralbedfordshire.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 Children's Services Records | 0300 300 8094 | |
| Adoption and Fostering | 0300 300 8090 | |
| Adult Education | 0808 100 3140 | |
| Adult & Community Learning | 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 Energy and Recycling (BEaR) team | 0300 300 8034 | |
| 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 | |
| Cemeteries | 01234 353701 | |
| Children with Disabilities | 0300 300 8097 | |
| Child Protection | 0300 300 8149 | |
| 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 8000 | |
| 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 |

| Service | Mid Beds | South Beds |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Coroner's Office | | 0300 300 8143 |
| 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 |
| 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 300 8632 |
| 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) - Children's Centres | | 0300 300 8119 |
| L | | |
| Land Charges | | 0300 300 8052 |
| Learning Disability | | 0300 300 8100 |

0300 numbers are charged at the same rate as 01 or 02 numbers. If you have 'free' local calls within your telephone package, 0300 numbers are included.

| Service | Mid Beds | South Beds |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Leisure Centres | | |
| • Dunstable Leisure Centre | 01582 608107 | |
| • Flitwick Leisure Centre | 0300 300 8045 | |
| • Houghton Regis Leisure Centre | 01582 866141 | |
| • Sandy Sports & Community Centre | 0300 300 8075 | |
| • Saxon Pool & Leisure Centre (Biggleswade) | 0300 300 8076 | |
| • Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre | 01525 375765 | |
| Libraries and Library Services | | |
| • Ampt Hill 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 (taxi/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 8144 |
| Noise nuisance | 0300 300 8642 | 0300 300 8643 |
| 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 8146 |
| P | | |
| Parent Partnership | | 0300 300 8088 |
| Parking | | 0300 300 8005 |
| Pavements | | 0300 300 8049 |
| Physical Disability | | 0300 300 8124 |

| Service | Mid Beds | South Beds |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Planning | 0300 300 8692 | 0300 300 8670 |
| Planning Enforcement | | 0300 300 8121 |
| Play Ranger | | 0300 300 8072 |
| 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 718120 |
| 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 Support 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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