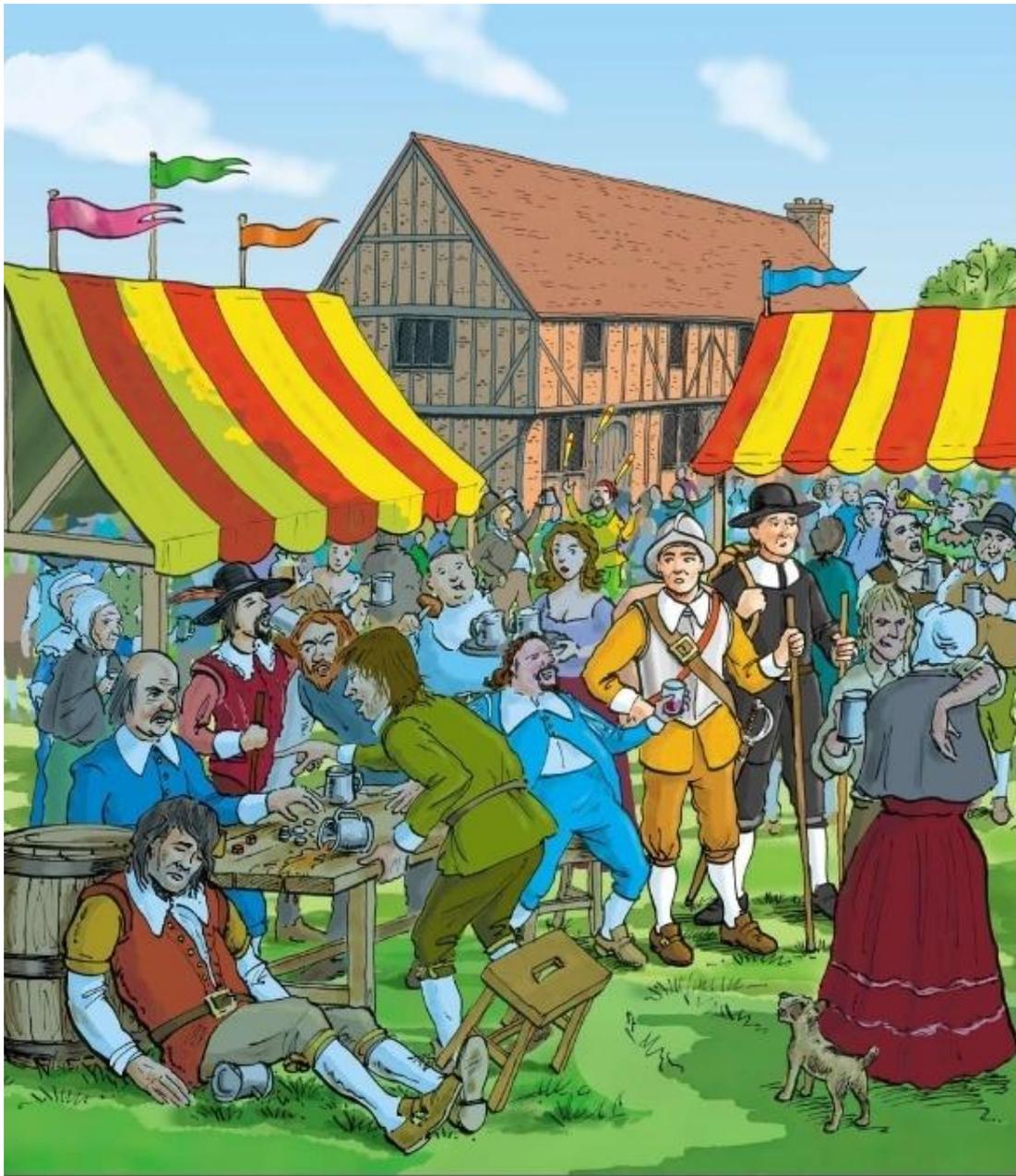


Elstow Parish Council



Picture; Copyright Alasdair Bright 2021

Magazine Autumn 2021

Editorial

Hello, I have been talked in to editing this, Elstow Parish Council's magazine. I hope that you will like the new format and find something of interest in it.

The Parish Council would like this to be a publication that Elstow residents want to read. So we are asking for ideas - what, beside the Parish and Borough Councillors' news, would you like to see included?

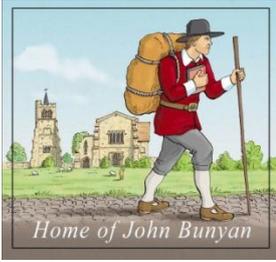
Do you run a group, or an organisation of some sort, that you would like to have listed, or perhaps even featured here?

Maybe you would like to try your hand at writing an article? If so, then please have a go.

Please send your ideas and contributions to me.

We are, initially, aiming to publish twice a year - Autumn and Spring but, if we have sufficient material to justify more frequent editions, may do so.

Clive Arnold,
Curator, Moot Hall, Elstow
Clive.Arnold@bedford.gov.uk



ELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council have resumed face-to-face meetings, which all residents are welcome to attend. It is really important for the Council to hear from you and to have your input on local matters. We meet monthly and the dates of upcoming meetings are posted on our notice boards. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 7th September at 7pm, in the Playing Fields Hall, when we will consider a range of local matters. There will also be a Police representative attending, so do come along to raise any questions with them.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

At the May meeting, Jon Miles was elected as Chair to the Parish Council, and Lloyd Allison as Vice Chair. The Council expressed their very grateful thanks to Sue Anderson who had served as Council Chair for over 10 years, alongside Tony Hare as Vice Chair.

LOCAL PLAN 2040 CONSULTATION

This was the main focus of our most recent meeting. It is imperative that awareness is raised in Elstow, given that the focus of this document is to allocate housing and employment development locally up to 2040. Following our detailed discussion, we published a leaflet for all residents.

We are now in the process of collating a detailed response, to outline the importance of safeguarding Elstow as a rural parish that has suffered so many challenges since the building of the bypass.

Further information can be found at: www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan-review/

Please remember to respond to the consultation by 5pm on Friday 3rd September.

OTHER LOCAL MATTERS

We would like to thank all the residents who took the time to engage in our recent important consultations:

East West Rail – the Parish Council submitted a response and it was great to have residents respond to our leaflet on the consultation, to hear your thoughts on the proposals.

Boundary Commission Review for Borough Wards – this was a very important consultation, on which the Parish Council spent considerable time, working with other local parishes, to enable support for a cohesive response – i.e. that Elstow must remain fully in the same rural ward. We submitted a robust response to this consultation and would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond.

Community Safety cameras update – the Parish Council received an overwhelmingly positive response to the information outlining proposals to have cameras at the entrances to the village. Following on from the many feedback comments received, the Council have explored potential additional locations, to broaden the coverage area. These options have been pursued, prices for further coverage received and reviewed by the Council. Councillors support the principle of installing safety cameras and will shortly be in a position to appoint a contractor for the works.

Christmas lighting. Over recent month, we have been looking at ways to bring festive decorations to Elstow. We are pleased to confirm that there will be some lighting placed along Abbeyfields, as well as along the High Street. If the feedback is positive, this will be done annually.

HIGHWAYS SAFETY IN ELSTOW

£10,000 awarded to the Parish Council for further Average Speed Cameras

We are delighted to report that the Parish Council were awarded £10,000, by Bedfordshire's Police Commissioner's fund, to assist with local highways safety improvement projects. That award is entirely due to a terrific piece of report writing by our Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council's allocation of £20,000 towards this project, together with £1,500 from the Borough Councillor's Ward Fund, plus the Police Commissioner's funding will allow a strong case to be presented to Bedford Borough Council to install additional speed cameras to Elstow.

Following on from the Bedfordshire Police grant, monies awarded to assist with local highways safety improvement projects, we are now discussing with the Borough Council Highways Officers to find the most cost effective options to improve safety.

The Parish Council will continue to have the Vehicle Activated Signs deployed, as these provide regular reminder to everyone of their speed through the village.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The best way to contact the Parish Council is to email Lizzie, the Parish Clerk at lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com or on 771702. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 7th September at 7pm, with the meeting taking place at Elstow Playing Field, as always all residents are most welcome to attend.

POLICE ACTION IN ELSTOW

The Local Police team are planning a morning of action in Elstow on the 1st September. This will take place in Elstow between 0900-1230. This will be a chance for the team to meet with and engage with the residents of Elstow, to identify their concerns and look to deal with these or signpost to the relevant agency that can.

There will be a number of officers deployed in Elstow throughout the morning, but there will be Officers basing themselves at the shops / Dr's surgery.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN ELSTOW

It is really important that if anyone sees anti-social behaviour, of any description, in the village that it is reported to the Police, who will then be able to take action. It is even better if you can send this information on to the Police at the time of the issue, as there are a number of local Police Officers supporting Elstow who are able to, and want to, assist Elstow residents. Whether this is: noisy cars; racing round roundabout; disturbances at the bus shelter; damage being caused to vehicles or property or; someone on an scooter - please do take action. **All intelligence is very helpful and really important.**

The best way to do this is via the telephone - 101 or through the Police website www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report or via social media.

Sign up to Beds Alert – Beds Police’s two-way messaging system - to get updates and useful information about areas of policing and crime prevention bespoke to your needs and interests. www.bedsalert.co.uk/

<https://twitter.com/NorthBedsPolice>

ELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL’S WEBSITE; elstowparishcouncil.gov.uk

Be an active member of your local community - it is your civic right to attend and observe our meeting - the dates and venues are always posted on the website. But our website is another way for you to know what is going on and to communicate your views. You can;

- Read the minutes of our council meetings
- Subscribe to our newsletter and get automatic updates by email.
- Get useful information.
- Read the Agenda for upcoming meetings
- Get the latest Planning Applications
- Communicate your views and concerns

Do please visit the site and bookmark it on your computer, laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

Winner of CPRE's 2021 Living Countryside award.



The Abbey Fields Roundabout Group undertook the care of all 5 roundabouts on the Abbeyfields estate and planted shrubs, trees and flowers.

The group also recently created a picnic area on the Abbeyfields Moor, with trees, picnic tables and a planter

box - thus providing a place for people to rest when walking.

The Group felt strongly that, during the pandemic lockdowns, they made a difference by giving the community hope and care.

The judges praised the way in which the community has engaged with the project and for the different themes on the roundabouts.



Registered Charity No. – 1020327

Hi

We are Elstow's Pre-School- "The Ladybirds". We have been running (term time only) since 1991, in the Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship Hall, High Street, Elstow.

We are registered to provide childcare for children from 2 years up to 5 years of age. This year, we will have been running for 30 years and would have been planning various events to celebrate but, unfortunately, Covid has put a hold on any celebrations. Hopefully, when we start the new term in September, things will have settled down enough for us to finally be able to celebrate: our 30 years of achievements; our staff and; the memories of the many children who have passed through our doors. If not, we'll celebrate at the 40-year mark instead! LOL

We welcome enquiries from prospective parents and can be contacted via email on elstowladybirds@gmail.com or telephone 01234 343080 (24hr answerphone)

Would you like to try a gentle, leisurely sport?

Then why not come along to our Short Mat Bowls club?

We meet at Elstow Playing Field hall, in Wilstead road, on

Wednesday evenings, at 7-30pm, from 8th Sept to the end of April.

There is also a Thurs afternoon session, that runs all year, and which starts at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome - young and old. We can lend you the bowls - all you need initially are flat soled shoes (or slippers).

We like to think we are a friendly group, so come and join us for a taster and a cuppa. Hopefully, you will enjoy the afternoon, or evening - So, come on, give it a try.

For more information, give David a ring on 01234 854489 or Margaret on 01234 349028





ELSTOW MOOT HALL

2021

Celebrating 70 years of being a Museum



Moot Hall has - at last - re-opened! We are no longer changing admission fees but are asking, if people enjoy their visit, that they leave a donation that reflects what they feel their visit was worth.

We are looking into the possibility of recruiting more volunteers, so that we can open on some weekday mornings and are currently trying to assess if there is sufficient visitor demand.

This year is the 70th anniversary of Moot Hall being open as a museum of 17th century life and John Bunyan. To celebrate this, in partnership with the Parish and Borough Councils, we have been working on several projects:

1. Moot Hall has been re-wired and new electric heating installed - which should make it more usable during the winter, for functions and events.
2. The old sign on the green, despite all Clive's attempts to restore it over the past two years, continued to deteriorate and so needed to be replaced. A new illustration of Vanity Fayre (see front cover of this magazine) was commissioned from Bedford artist Alasdair Bright. This, with his 'Pilgrim' illustration on the other side, was installed on the green a few weeks ago.
3. Southill Estate kindly gave us permission to erect new signs in Bumpy Lane, directing people to Bunyan's birthplace. Southill also donated a new pole for these signs. Alasdair Bright adapted his 'Pilgrim' illustration (for free) - so that the signs would be colourful and eye-catching. Local farmer David Hall was erecting a new tractor gateway into his field there so, at the same time, he kindly installed the post for our signs and formed an entrance for pedestrians. He has also left a strip of land at the edge of the

field, for use as a path to the birth site. Many thanks are due to David and his son.

4. Google maps were asked to label Bunyan's birthplace on their on-line map. This has now been done and they have also marked the route to it, from Bumpy Lane.
5. An information board is about to be installed at the actual birthplace, next to the birthplace commemorative stone. Again, we have to thank Southill and the Halls for giving us their permission. The idea is to reward those hardy pilgrims who have to walk the 600 metres, into the field at 'Bunyan's End,' with some information of how everything Bunyan achieved started from the lowly cottage that used to stand on this site.

New Pilgrim's Progress Film



The new, animated, film of John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress", which had its UK premier in Bedford just before Covid, is now available to watch, for free, on You Tube;
youtube.com/watch?v=ksu-zTG9HHg



VILLAGE CCTV CAMERAS



You will have seen recently, in a leaflet delivered to every household in the village, that the Parish Council has been discussing the possibility of installing CCTV cameras to cover the whole village.

This system is not designed to snoop on residents but to deter crime in and around where you live.

The system *cannot* look into where you live; it will *not* snoop on you!

The CCTV will be a *closed* system - meaning that there are no operatives, like you might have seen, in crime dramas on television, calling up the police in seconds.....



Instead, this system will record activities on the streets, in and around the village on a closed circuit.

It does not need anyone to operate it but, if there is crime or disturbance, then the police will ask permission of the Parish Council to view just that part of the film.

We all want to live in a safer neighbourhood.

Bedford Borough Councillor Tim Hill's Report

Car Thefts on Abbeyfields – This year, there have been several car thefts on the Abbeyfields estate, mainly in the early hours of the morning. I notified the Community Police team. If any residents see anything suspicious, please, please, please report it immediately, via phone on 101 or on-line at:

www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report#df8341ab

Deep pothole on Bunyan's Mead footpath – I have asked BPHA to quickly repair a deep hole in the pedestrian area outside the front door of 36, Bunyan's Mead, Elstow.

I asked for it to be done quickly, as it was a severe danger to the elderly residents.

Overgrown path on Abbeyfields Moor - I reported the walkway off the John Bunyan Way after local residents contacted me. The Council have cut back the greenery and residents can now enjoy a walk along this green space.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Bayham Close - The ASB that is still taking place on a regular basis, partly from the care home in Bayham Close, is completely unacceptable. Several pieces of work are underway to resolve the issues - it isn't an overnight job and most aspects are necessarily confidential.

E-Scooters on public land are illegal - Did you know that it is illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter in public places – i.e. either on the roads or on footpaths. You may legally only ride them on private land. If you are caught riding one illegally, you could receive six points on your license, be fined £300 and have your scooter seized.

SPEED CAMERAS

Speeding cars are blight in Elstow, just as they are in many villages. We have three main places where speeding is a common problem; Progress Way, Abbeyfields and Wilstead Road.

Wilstead Road, after many years of lobbying has what are known as Variable Speed cameras - there are two cameras, one at each end of the road, and they measure the speed of any vehicle travelling along that stretch of road.



So, when travelling along that road, do remember that it is 30mph *limit* - all the way along that road. If a vehicle goes over that limit it will be photographed and its owner sent a letter. A fine will be imposed and points put on the driver's licence.



Here are the 2021 monthly figures for the cameras;

In January, 15 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit - one car was travelling at 60mph!

In February, there was just one speeder and in March, 5 speeders, one travelling at 41 mph.

In May, there were 70 speeders and in April 28.

Your Parish Council knows how annoying and potentially dangerous speeding cars are.

Yes, would be nice to have enforcement cameras on all of those other roads that are used as racing circuits.. But the cost of 2 cameras is £83k - a staggering sum of money that the Parish Council has to find and we would not be able to get any from the cash-strapped Borough Council.



We will get there but it will take time!

Elstow Cricket Club

(Local club for Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow & surrounding areas)



Another successful season has come to an end, culminating in Elstow Fest on the bank holiday Sunday - with cricket, a band, face painting & Festival-like celebrations.

Our end of season party followed the last Sunday league game of the season and, whilst there was no silverware this year, we had some great cup runs, including 3 semi finals in the mid-week cup competitions.

The Sunday 1st XI was always challenging for promotion & the Saturday teams were competitive all season. Unfortunately the 1st XI couldn't defend their league title from 2019. The Sunday 2nd XI completed their first full season in the Beds League & had some fantastic results for such a young side. Who knows, we may have a Saturday or Sunday 3rd team next season.

All our youth teams had some successes. Teams playing at Under 15 and U13, 2 more at U11 & U9's. We also ran a successful 'All Stars' Programme although the good old English weather did affect a couple of sessions.

As well as the cricket, we hosted Ladies Day & Vice Presidents' Day when the club said 'Thank you' to all the supporters & helpers - two fantastic days, with lots of families in attendance, enjoying the cricket, tea & cake, barbeque, gin bar & drinks from the Pigeon Toe Inn.

During the winter, we will host indoor coaching for all our youth age groups & we have 3 adult teams playing in the Bedfordshire Indoor Cricket league.

We now hand over to Elstow Abbey Football Club for the autumn & winter but will return in April 22 for pre-season nets.

Please keep an eye out on Social Media for news & upcoming events.

Matt Stevens

07811 105822

Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship.

Like everyone else, our normal routines at Elstow Bunyan have been severely disrupted by Covid since March 2019.

Following the Government's lifting of restrictions, we held our first Sunday gathering in the building on 1st August 2021. It was a joy to be able to gather together again, and sing in the building! We were pleasantly surprised by the number of folks who joined us.

We are continuing to meet weekly. All are welcome for our 11am Service. We haven't yet decided when we will recommence servicing refreshments after the service, but we have a meeting at the beginning of September to review the situation. Visit our website <http://bunyanelstow.weebly.com> for up to date information about Coffee Mornings, Tots Time and other events in the building.

Brian Addington

A very special Christmas at Elstow

An exciting new event is being held in and around Elstow Abbey on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th November: The Affinity Traditional Market.

There will be Santa in the church, stalls and, fingers crossed, a mini fun fair in the car park of the Red Lion.

The Affinity magazine team are professional event organisers who make very magical show.

More details will be published on the village website; Elstow.Weebly.com.

John Bunyan's Bedford

Have you seen the new website, created by the Bunyan Round Table Group, which aims to promote Bedford as a tourist location?

BRG are aiming to market Bedford as the home of our world famous author John Bunyan - in much the same way that Stratford is marketed as Shakespeare's home. You may already have seen the 'Bedford' signs, on all the roads leading into Bedford, now have the caption 'John Bunyan Country'.

BunyanBedford.Weebly.com/

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help older or disabled people in Elstow to fill in forms, access services and support, learn what help is available to them. Her services are free and she can visit you at home.



Are you caring for someone?

- If you are helping someone with their personal care, such as bathing, dressing or night-time support, you may be eligible for a non-means tested weekly allowance called Attendance Allowance, paid by the DWP. I can help you to apply.
- You may also be able to claim an NHS Carer's Grant to help you deal with stress or health issues.
- **Carers in Bedfordshire** offers support and runs a range of courses and activities for carers. Sign up for their free quarterly magazine and learn more about their services via www.carersinbeds.org.uk or telephone 0300 111 1919.

Are you supporting someone with dementia?

- Bedford has an excellent charity – **Tibbs Dementia Foundation** – offering a wide range of support for people with dementia and their family carers. You can attend separately and together for cognitive, physical, emotional support and overall wellbeing. To sign up for their weekly email newsletter; contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk or telephone 01234 210993 (10am-1pm).
- **Bedfordshire Dementia Intensive Support Service (DISS)** Run by the NHS to provide specialist support to those living with dementia and their carers. It operates 9am-8pm 24/7, year-round and provides urgent response.
- Contact 07880 078843 or elft.diss@nhs.net
- **Blue Badges.** Did you know that people with dementia may be eligible for a Disabled Parking Badge? I can help you to apply.

Need home adaptations but can't afford to pay?

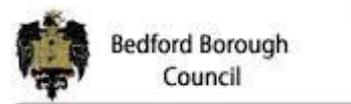
Disabled Facilities Grants may be available if you need essential adaptations such as showers, ramps, stair lifts or wider doorways. These grants are means tested.

Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?

We have a range of handy gadgets to distribute free of charge to people who may be struggling to manage, including a jar opener; button hook and zip puller; automatic night light; 'Good Grips' potato peeler; half step; handy reacher; extra-long shoe horn or seat belt helper. Just call and ask for the item you would like.



**Contact your Village Agent on
Freephone 0800 039 1234** *This is an
Answerphone service, so please be ready to
leave your name, address & telephone number. We aim to call you back within 48 hours.*



Local Contact Information

Elstow Parish Council

Chairman	Jon Miles	Bunyan's Mead	0770 987 9245
Vice Chair	Lloyd Allison	Wigram Close	0778 974 1933
Councillor	Sue Anderson	Wilstead Road	0787 632 5567
Councillor	Allison Clooney	Hillesden Av	0787 665 4146
Councillor	Richard Fitzmaurice		0790 351 1104
Councillor	Tony Hare	Abbeyfields	01234 358883
Councillor	Helen Konstantinos	Abbeyfields	0758 378 1383
Councillor	Jacque Manners		0797 121 6014
Councillor	Benita Wignall	Pear Tree View	0780 920 0324
Parish Clerk	Lizzie Barnicoat		01234 771702
	Lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com		

Other Organisations

Abbey Church Andrene Kerr-Wilson	Elstow.Abbey.org.uk ChurchWarden@Elstow-Abbey.org.uk
Bedford Borough Council	Bedford.gov.uk 267422
Borough Cllr for Elstow	Tim.Hill@Bedford.gov.uk 0791 0100 240
Bunyan Christian Fellowship Brian Addington	BunyanElstow.weebly.com 216080
Elstow Parish Council	ElstowParishCouncil.gov.uk
Elstow Playing Field	Margaret Hinson 349028
Elstow Village website- Picture and History archives	Elstow.weebly.com
Local Police - Phone 101	Kerry.Jones5324@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk Facebook.com/NorthBedsPoliceRural/?ref=py_c
John Bunyan's Bedford	BunyansBedford.weebly.com
Moot Hall	MootHall.weebly.com Moot.hall@bedford.gov.uk
Village agent	0800 039 1234