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July 2026 Issue: 561



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Dear Readers

July offers our village residents a classic English Summer experience.

Seasonal community events such as Village Fun Days, Fetes, a Horticultural show and exhibition cricket are all advertised in this SCAN. July also offers lush walks and cycling routes throughout North Buckinghamshire with the wild flowers and fauna all on display if you look carefully.

Some of our walking groups post their rambles here, and the Historical Society of Sherington is even offering their North Crawley compatriots an Historical walk around Sherington on July 21st. A guided walk around Olney is being offered by the Cowper and Newton Museum, which is just down the road. There's plenty going on there www.cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk

And there's even a Sausage and Mash Supper in Chicheley, my favourite dish.

Whatever you're doing this July, have a lovely Summer break and we'll meet again in September for the next edition.

See you when you're older!

Mike



Gary Lee at the Chequers, dishing up a free Pig and Beef Roast for the whole village

DISCLAIMER

The Scan magazine is a monthly publication which is distributed to the villages of Sherington, Chicheley, Astwood, North Crawley & Hardmead. The cost of producing this magazine is offset by the payment of advertising fees & occasional donations from past and present readers. Advertisements are accepted on the understanding that descriptions of goods and services are fair & accurate. Scan magazine cannot accept responsibility for claims made by advertisements appearing in its publication.

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SCAN 561 - JULY 2026

Deadline: Copy for September
18TH AUGUST

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Views expressed in SCAN are those of the contributors and not necessarily shared by the editor or the treasurer.

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Local Village Magazine



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DEAR FRIENDS

This month we reach the Turning of the Year with the celebration of Midsummer on 21st June. It's not a particularly welcome thought as I write this epistle in mid-May!

I'm probably not the only one, after so many unseasonally cold days in May, who is hoping for a Flaming June to enfold us with warm sun and balmy evenings...

This month the sun's energy is at its strongest and it can be light until well after nine or ten at night when we reach the solstice (between to 20th-21st) with the shortest night and the longest day. It's a popular month for weddings for obvious reasons!

The blousy fullness of trees and hedges are often luminous with insects and birds may be well into their second brood towards the end of the month. It feels right somehow to clebrate and praise God for the gift of Creation in all it's glorious diversity.

Apart from the many pre-Christian rituals and traditions, such as gathering Mistletoe on Midsummer's Eve, there are many days in June where the church remembers and celebrates saints and Christian martyrs.



This year we observe the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth on 1st, followed by the feast of Corpus Christi on 4th. This latter is a day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion, instituted in 1264 by Pope Urban IV to celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is usually observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday after which point we move to the liturgical period called Ordinary Time and the seasonal colour is green.

Among others we have Thomas Ken, remembered on 8th, a cleric born in Berkhamsted in 1637 who is well known for his hymn writing. He was also Bishop of Bath and Wells.

St Columba, born in Gartan, Ireland in 521AD and associated with the island of Iona is celebrated on 9th; St Barnabas the is named on the 11th; Evelyn Underhill 1875-1941, theologian and mystic writer is named on 15th. Perhaps one of the most significant saint's day is 24th June when the church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist; cousin of Jesus and Preparer of The Way...

At the end, on 29th , we have the festival of St Peter the Apostle and St Paul.

Altogether a venerable crowd of some older and some more modern Christians who have in one way or another lived out their lives as faithful servants and followers of Christ, to the benefit of many whose later spiritual journeys have been blessed, down through the centuries by their works, words and deeds.

I will end this letter with some beautiful words by Thomas Ken; his widely sung doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER: 18TH AUGUST

SCAN Services for July 2026

5th July
10.30am - 'Something Different' Family Friendly
St Laud's, Sherington

12th July
9.30am - Holy Communion at St Firmin's North Crawley

19th July
9.30am - Holy Communion at St Lauds Sherington
4pm - Evensong St Firmin's, North Crawley

26th July
11am - Holy Communion at St Lawrences, Chicheley

4th July - Coffee morning - St Lauds 10-12
18th July - Monthly Breakfast Club, St Laud's Sherington 8.30-10.30

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available upon request.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER: 18TH AUGUST

From the SCAN Parish Registers

Funerals

Cynthia Penman
10th June 2026
Service at St Laud's Sherington

May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

Weddings

Andrew Turner and Ashley De Souza
23rd May 2026
St Lawrence's Church, Chicheley

In your goodness Lord watch over these couples you have joined in the covenant of marriage.

Cynthia Penman

Cynthia died peacefully on 17 May, aged 91. Her family are very grateful to all those of you who supported her and showed great kindness to her during these last few years.
Thank you for your prayers, and for all your cards and messages of support - very encouraging and helpful.

Bob Penman

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER: 18TH AUGUST

Astwood & Hardmead

Fellow Astwoodians and Hardmeaders,

Summer has arrived in earnest and the gardens are blooming and everywhere you look there are signs of the hard work and care that make our villages such special places to live.

Ready for the Judges!

As this edition goes to print, we are eagerly awaiting the visit from the judges of Buckinghamshire's Best Kept Village competition.

Over recent weeks an army of volunteers has been hard at work cleaning, painting, planting, weeding, litter-picking and cutting back overgrown foliage. The transformation has been remarkable, and the village is looking absolutely splendid.



A huge thank you goes to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, plants, paintbrushes, tools and enthusiasm. From the colourful wheelbarrow displays to the bug hotels that have appeared around the village, the community spirit on show has been truly inspiring.

Now all we can do is wait and hope that the judges see our villages through the same affectionate eyes that we do. Whatever the outcome, we should be enormously proud of what has been achieved together.

Coffee, Cake and Community

Our recent Coffee Morning and Plant Sale was another great success, bringing villagers together over tea, coffee, cake and plenty of gardening advice. Thank you to everyone who donated plants, baked cakes, helped organise the event or simply came along to support it, we raised £381 for the village hall.

If you've never been before, why not make it a resolution to join us? Coffee Mornings are held on the second Sunday of every month and are a wonderful opportunity to catch up with neighbours, welcome new residents, browse our community library and enjoy a slice of homemade cake (strictly in the interests of community cohesion, of course).

Village BBQ

As I write this, ticket sales for the Village BBQ are going extremely well and we are all keeping our fingers firmly crossed for good weather. By the time you read this, the event will hopefully be a happy memory of good food, good company and perhaps even a little sunshine. Thank you in advance to everyone who helped organise, volunteer and support what has become one of the highlights of the village calendar.



Nature Matters

One of the themes that has emerged strongly in our community this year is the importance of encouraging wildlife and biodiversity throughout our villages. Thank you to everyone who has helped create bug hotels, planted pollinator-friendly flowers, maintained the beautiful wheelbarrow displays and generally made our green spaces more welcoming for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

As we go to print we are looking at the possibility of holding a screening of the National Emergency Briefing in the village hall. The presentation explores how communities like ours can prepare for future challenges and build resilience while protecting the things we value most. More information will follow if there is sufficient interest, further details here: **www.nebriefing.org**

Please continue watering the wheelbarrow planters near your homes during the warmer months, particularly during dry spells. A little attention goes a long way and helps keep the village looking vibrant throughout the summer.



Astwood & Hardmead

If you're looking for a small project, why not think about how you could encourage more nature into your own garden? Whether it's leaving a patch of grass to grow a little longer, planting wildflowers, putting up a bird box or creating a small pond, every contribution helps.

Sunflower Competition

A reminder that our Sunflower Competition is well underway.

Whether your sunflower is growing proudly in a pot or reaching for the sky in the garden, keep nurturing it through the summer. Judging will take place in September and there will be a prize for the tallest sunflower, along with the admiration and respect of the entire village — which, let's be honest, is the real prize.

Looking Ahead

There are plenty of events in the pipeline for the coming months:

• Quiz Night in the village hall – Thursday 25th September

• Scarecrow Trail – October

It's time to start dusting off those creative ideas and planning your scarecrow designs. Whether you favour traditional farming characters, famous faces or something wonderfully eccentric, we look forward to seeing the village transformed.

• Disco Bingo – Tuesday 13th October

A brand-new event combining bingo, music and a healthy amount of silliness. More details will follow via WhatsApp and village notices.

• Bucks Owl and Raptor Group

We are hoping to welcome the Bucks Owl and Raptor Group for an autumn talk. Further details will be announced soon, but it promises to be a fascinating event for anyone interested in local wildlife.

Community Ideas

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Open Evening and contributed suggestions for future events and activities. We are currently working through the many excellent ideas received and hope to share feedback and plans in the coming months.

It's encouraging to see so many people willing to contribute ideas and help shape village life. As always, new volunteers and fresh suggestions are warmly welcomed.

Parish Council Meetings

For anyone interested in local matters, Parish Council meetings continue to be held regularly and residents are encouraged to attend. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found here: **https://astwoodandhardmead-pc.gov.uk/**

As summer continues, we hope you find time to enjoy everything that makes village life so special: long evenings in the garden, walks through the countryside, conversations over coffee, and the simple pleasure of seeing sunflowers grow a little taller each week.

Until next time, keep watering those wheelbarrows and may your sunflowers reach for the stars!

Cheerio for now,

Greenfinch

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Chicheley

A few weeks ago, as we were travelling towards North Crawley, we caught up with a slowly moving van with its hazard lights flashing denoting it was a highway repair vehicle. We had already noticed much white paint on the road surface and, as we passed the van, saw a man walking in front of it painting around on the many cracks in the road. In Mid-June, the road was closed for repairs to be carried out; this has now been completed. The extensive areas repaired show just how poor the road surface had become. The highways department receive a much stick from motorists complaining about the state of our roads, particularly potholes, so for a change it is good to be able to give them some praise for doing a thorough job of repair. People do seem to become very upset when roads are closed to allow this sort of work to be done but just have to curb their impatience.

I have nothing in particular to report on about June so will move on to future events.

Forthcoming Events

The next Chich Chats will be held from 10.30 a.m. until noon on Tuesday July 14th. and Tuesday August 11th.in the village hall. If you feel like a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and good conversation, please call in.

Saturday, July 11th. Sausage and mash supper in Chicheley Village Hall. Please note the start time which will be 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. The charge for the supper will be £12 for adults with concessions for children. To book your place, please contact David or Felicity on 01234 391371.

The feast of St. Lawrence, the patron saint of Chicheley Church, will be commemorated on **Sunday August 9th. at 11a.m.** with a short service in church followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Saturday, September 12th. a quiz in aid of Chicheley Church will be held in the Village Hall. Details are on the poster in this magazine.

Saturday, October 10th. The Harvest Supper will be held in Chicheley Village Hall.

Chicheley

One hundred years ago, in July 1926 the village school in Chicheley was closed. This was reported in the vestry minutes written by the Reverend Easson and confirmed by details we have seen in the school logbook.

The village which had earlier in the century a population of around 300 but by 1926 had declined to around 220 with that decline continuing up to today when I estimate the population to be around 120.

The children who still lived in the village at this time were to be transported daily to the school in Sherington though in later years this changed to Newport Pagnell. Amongst Mr. Easson's other comments was his complaint at the very low attendance at the service of Evensong on a Sunday, which he blamed on people staying at home to listen to their wireless sets.

The challenge for me, and for you, is how can you tie those two facts together with how we live today. I am writing this on the day that our Prime Minister has announced that children up to the age of sixteen will have restricted use of what is known as social media. This is a political decision that recognises the huge advances in technology that have taken place over the preceding 100 years.

If you use some of that technology today, you can go back to 1926 and look at photographs, read books about life then and find other information which to us will probably seem very simple and rather quaint. If in another hundred years' time, the inhabitants of Chicheley, when looking through copies of SCAN magazine, look back at us what will they conclude about our lives?

That is all for now until September, so have an enjoyable summer.

David

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WANTED!

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SCAN PCC IS THE BODY WHICH OVERSEES ALL 3 SCAN PARISH CHURCHES.

Due to retirement we are in need of someone to take on the role of Treasurer.

If you would like to help the parish and community please call me, David Blamires (01234) 391 770

I will be delighted to tell you more about it.

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin - July 2026

Hi everyone! Hope you are all enjoying the mixed weather we have been having this spring and hopefully getting out in the sunshine and fresh air to enjoy our beautiful village and surrounding countryside.

I thought for this bulletin I would focus on the traffic situation in the village. As you are aware we collect the speed data from the SIDS (speed indicator devices) that are located at the entrances to the village, so below is a summary of some of the key statistics.

Some good news to start with, the SID on Folly Lane shows that 99% of cars coming through are going below 30mph with an average of 147 cars per day. 88% of cars going through the High Street Central SID (the one at the top of Folly Lane) are also going at under 30mph with an average of 1,494 cars per day.

The High Street East SID (entrance to village from Cranfield) shows an average of 43% of cars going under 30mph but 57% are going over 30mph, that's over 772 cars a day that are entering our village from Cranfield at a dangerous speed.

Unfortunately, the worst speeding seems to be on Chicheley Road, with 65% of the cars going over 30mph (over 420 cars a day) when they go past the SID which is particularly worrying as it is located past the entrance to Orchard Way so creates high risk for chances of an accident.

We haven't been able to download any data from the Brook End SID as it is still in process of being repaired. We are looking into quotes to get it repaired so hopefully it will be back up & running soon. We have had someone from Milton Keynes Highways visit the village to assess the traffic situation and I will update you when we receive a report.

North Crawley

The preparations for the Fun Day are moving along nicely, hopefully you will all have seen the posters that are up around the village and the poster in the scan and have booked the dates in your diary.

Events that are booked include the Pony Rides, bouncy castle and Hog Roast that we have year after year as well as some new exciting events such as Bungee Run, 16ft Football Darts and Basketball Shootout. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Appeal for St Firmin's Church Summer Fete

We are in need of donations for the St Firmin's Church Summer Fete - 4th July

Any donations of BricABrac, and full, in date bottles of any kind for the bottle tombola, can be left with Anna Shotton at 14 High Street.

We will need on the day - plants for the plant stall and cakes/produce for the cake stall and refreshments.

Please help with donations if you can and get in touch with Malcolm Rose, Ann Kearney or Anna Shotton.

Any volunteers to help man stalls on the day, also welcome.

Sherington

https://www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington/

June Event 16th June Members' Picnic

Members and guests enjoyed the Society's Annual Picnic at Yew Tree Farm, hosted by Diana and Richard Morgan. The house, first built in 1595 was registered as a Grade 2 Listed Building in 1984.

On the evening the weather was fine, the gardens looked magnificent, the tables of food and drink were overflowing. Lively conversations took place in many rooms and as guests wandered around the gardens.

This was a very nice opportunity to catch up with Society members and friends.

21st July - A guided Walk around Sherington (with North Crawley Historical Society)

We look forward to hosting the members and friends of the North Crawley Historical Society for a guided walk around the village.

This circular walk will be led by Tony & Madeline Pilcher – starting from the Village Hall Car Park at 7:00pm. Tony is the newly elected Chair of the Historical Society.

"Newcomers" to Sherington are welcome to join. This event will take about 90 minutes.

July Challenge:- See if you can spot the farmhouse built in the Year of American Independence.



15th September - Archiving our Photo Collections - Meeting at the Village Hall

We will be working with our large collection of photos – to try to put names to the faces, and group by category/ location/ event – in order to improve the accessibility of the archive materials.

Refreshments will be served. More detail be in the September SCAN.

Stonepits Copse – An Update on the Community Biodiversity Project

The Biodiversity Project is a key part of the Neighbourhood Plan - supported by the Parish Council.

https://www.sherington-pc.gov.uk/index.php/home/leisure/stonepits-copse/



In mid-June 2026 the Copse was VERY GREEN – the trees look healthy, the vegetation at ground level is thriving, with a lot of wild nettles, and cleavers (sticky weed). The two 'dead hedges' were covered in wild foliage (camouflaged). The footpaths had been recently mowed and the tracks were easy to follow. The number of birds are increasing year on year. The cherry trees are loaded with small fruit.

Spotted 17th July 2019 by the then Parish Council Chairman Will Bush, and reported on SPC website.

"This morning it was great for butterflies. In order of abundance: Hedge Brown (Gatekeeper), Marbled White, Large White, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell. The numbers of Hedge Brown and Marbled White are a testament to the wild nature of the site. Also a Brown Hawker (dragonfly).

Quiet for birds, just Whitethroats, Blue & Great Tits. Highlight were Greenfinches in display song flight."

Please take time out and walk down to Stonepits Copse on a warm sunny day in July to see for yourself how the site has evolved. How many species of butterfly you can spot.

To help with species identification there are apps available for your phone, or the following website. **https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly**



Sherington School Update – A Busy and Joyful Term

Our recent May Day event was a great success, and we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported and attended. The children thoroughly enjoyed dancing around the Maypole, proudly performing their traditional dances with smiles on their faces. It was a truly special occasion that brought our community together.

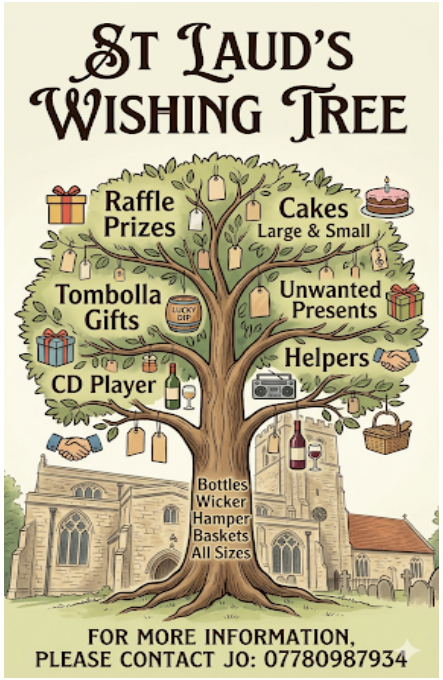
We are incredibly grateful to our hardworking PFTA, who have organised and supported numerous events throughout the year. One of their inspiring initiatives has been the challenge to raise £20.26 in 2026. Our children have embraced this enthusiastically, taking on a wide range of personal challenges. These have included running stalls at the May Day celebrations, climbing mountains in Wales, completing reading challenges, organising bake sales, and setting their own physical goals. Thanks to their energy and determination, an amazing £3000 has been raised – a fantastic achievement!



This half term is just as busy. We are looking forward to our upcoming Sports Day, transition days to support our children moving on to their next stages, and, in the final week, a special treat for the whole school – a free trip to Gulliver's Land, which we know will be hugely exciting for everyone.

As the end of the school year approaches, we also prepare to say a fond farewell to our Year 2 children. While we will be sad to see them leave, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to their next schools.





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Associate Priest	The Reverend Pam Fielding 4, Griggs Orchard	01908 616763
LLM (Licenced Law Minister)	Professor John Fielding	01908 616763
SCAN Churches Administrator	Anna Shotton (contactscanparish@gmail.com)	07812 011239
Church Website	www.scanparish.co.uk	

Churchwardens

St Lauds, Sherington	Mrs Helen Brewis, Coney Grey, Gun Lane	07850 678065
St Firmin, North Crawley	Mrs Janice Freeman 2, Church Walk	01234 391350
	Mr Malcolm Rose 5, High St	01234 391785
St Lawrence, Chicheley	Mrs F Robertson, Brickyard Cottage	01234 391371
	Mrs Judith Duncombe	01234 714615

Olney Ward Councillors Peter Geary, Debbie Whitworth and Keith McLean

Headteacher Sherington CoE school	Mrs Emma Wallace, Executive Head	01908 610470
Headteacher North Crawley CoE school	Mrs Emma Wallace, Executive Head	01234 391282

Chairs of Councils or Parish meetings

Astwood and Hardmead		
Chicheley	Mr Chris Tarrant, Chicheley House	07980 712558
Sherington	Michael Noakes-Burns (michaelnokes@sherington-pc.gov.uk)	07726 663656
North Crawley	Mr Derek Harpur (derekharpur@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk)	07941 350296

Secretaries of church committees

Chicheley	Mrs Christine Girard, Newgate Cottage	07951 991617

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SCAN Publisher	Mike Richardson. 1, The Stables, Dollars Grove Farm, North Crawley MK16 9HW	07557 680845
Printed by	White Hart Press, 58A York Street, Bedford MK40 3RL	01234 270465

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Saturday 12th July

7pm

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Netting trip

Sunday 19th July

Meet at the knoll at 2.30pm

Bring yourselves and your best behaviour!

There will be a collection bucket for Willen hospice,

suggested £2 per child donation



in memory of Phil Smith

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 18th July

2pm - 4pm

St Lauds Church

BBQ + Raffle + Games

Cakes, refreshments and lots more





NCCC

PRESIDENTS DAY

SUMMER FAYRE

10AM SUNDAY JULY 5

★ FOOD & DRINK ★ GAMES ★ STALLS

★ BOUNCY CASTLE ★ TOMBOLA.

- GAMES TOKENS & WRISTBANDS AVAILALE TO PURCHASE
- ALL DAY BBQ
- CHEESE PLATTERS AND DRINKS PACKAGES AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER

EXHIBITION T20 CRICKET MATCH IN THE AFTERNOON

2020 NCCC 100 YEARS

FAIR STALLS 10AM - 2PM

LOCATION : NORTH CRAWLEY RECREATION GROUND - MK16 9LH



Tea Coffee

North Crawley - Weekly Coffee Morning! -

Are you on maternity leave - do you work from home or part time or retired?

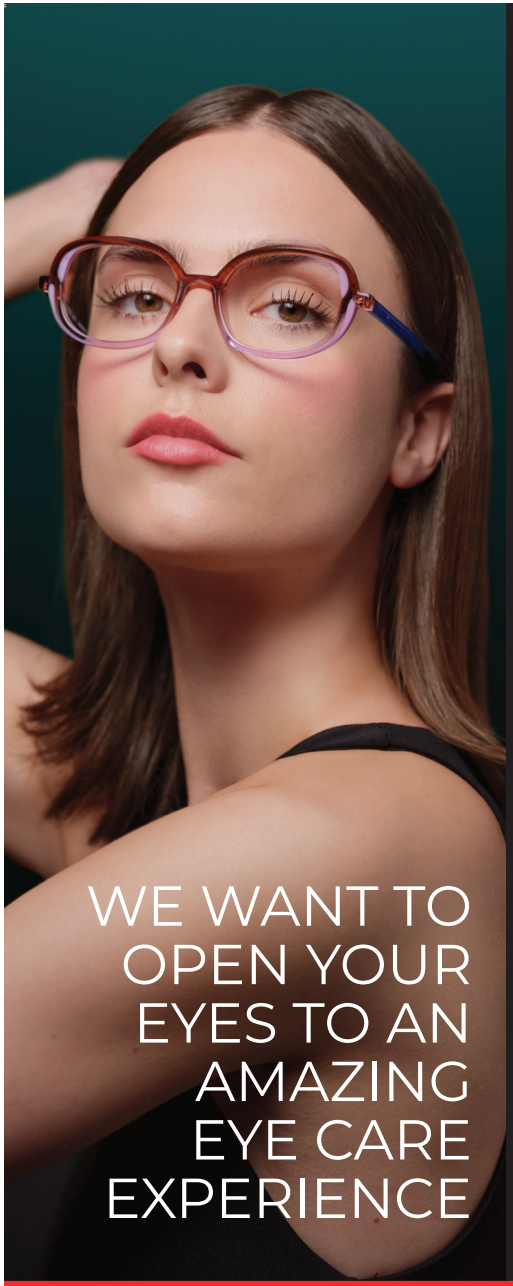
Did you know the village has a weekly coffee morning?

Running every Tuesday 10.30-12 now in St Firmin' s Church

£2 for unlimited tea/coffee and biscuits.

This is a well attended coffee morning but they are always looking for new people to pop along for a drink and a chat.

Babies very welcome



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Thumbsticks Walkers

Sherington Thumbstick Walk

July 5th 2026 for a 10am start

This is an easy walk through the Ouzel Valley of just under 4 miles on public footpaths.

Car park, Newport Road MK6 3EP (off H7), this is where the walk starts and finishes. We will be at The Knoll, Sherington at 9:30 should someone require a lift. Or please ring 07860 370558

Walk cancelled if heavy rain at the time.



North Beds Ramblers Walk every Saturday:

Please note change of start time for afternoon walks - Summer start 13:30.

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approx. 12 miles.

Or try our "Ramble" on first Saturday morning each month - slightly shorter, slower pace. For the summer we are introducing evening walks starting at 7pm.

July Walks

2nd Evening, Biddenham, 4.5 miles

4th am "Ramble", Stagsden 5 miles, pm Stagsden, 6.5 miles, Birthday walk No 7

11th am Ravensden – three walks available, 8.6, 6 and 4.5 miles

16th Evening, Maulden Woods, 5 miles

18th pm Riseley, 7.5 miles,

25th am Fotheringhay, 12 miles, pm Woburn Sands, 6.5 miles

30th Evening, Mowsbury Park, 5 miles

Contact: Margaret Sawyer 07780 933 729 Facebook: North Beds Ramblers
For our latest walks program visit: https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire

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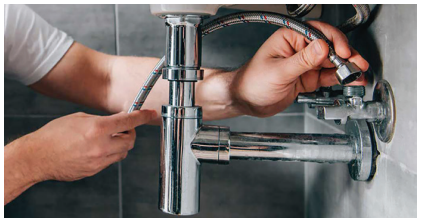



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This approach has resulted in thousands of five-star reviews and patients travelling far and wide to visit Hearing Health Hub for their audiology needs. Thank you to everyone who has trusted us with their hearing health.

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Steve

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