

# Borough Monthly

Issue 12

November 2016



**Six new classrooms  
for Ursula Taylor...**

▶ *find out more on page 6*



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## In this issue...

Blue Badge fraud  
found guilty

▶ See page 2

Crackdown on Tenancy  
Fraud in Bedford Borough

▶ see page 3

Bedfordshire Archives 850th  
Anniversary exhibition

▶ see page 4

Takeover Day at  
The Higgins Bedford

▶ see page 6

# Officers join forces with Bedfordshire Police for Operation Langtoft

Do you know where you can go in Bedford Borough to report hate crime?

Council officers have been working with Bedfordshire Police on a three day assignment named 'Operation Langtoft'.

It was an opportunity to inform people that, in addition to the Police

Headquarters, the borough hosts two centres where people can report such crimes; MIND BLMK in Woburn Road and Citizens Advice in St Paul's Square.

People can also report any hate crime incidents online via True Vision at [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk).



# Winter is coming!



The winter weather is drawing in and the nights are getting longer.

So don't forget that you can keep up to date with the Council's efforts to keep the borough moving if and when severe winter weather arrives, by following @grittertweets. The dedicated Twitter account provides updates on road conditions and gritting runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - [twitter.com/grittertweets](https://twitter.com/grittertweets).

Alternatively, our winter maintenance web page is updated daily with information on public transport, adult transport, bin collections and gritting. Visit [www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates).

The Council has procured 2,300 tonnes of gritting salt, in case of a cold snap!

# Blue Badge fraud found guilty

A man who fraudulently used his mother's blue badge, and then pretended to be her in the hope of escaping court has been ordered to pay £569.

Billy Taylor, of St Oswald's Road, Blackburn was found guilty of blue badge fraud in Bedford Town Centre.

A Civil Enforcement Officer patrolling Costin Street, Bedford

took note of Mr Taylor's car, which was parked on double yellow lines displaying an expired Blue Badge.

When Mr Taylor and his passenger returned to the car they refused to surrender the blue badge for inspection and left the scene.

Following enquiries made by Council Investigators, an email was received purporting to be written by

the Badge holder, giving an alibi for her son's actions.

During a formal interview, Mr Taylor fully admitted that he had used his mother's disability badge to park and admitted to writing the email.

Mr Taylor was found guilty of three counts of fraud, and one of failing to hand a Blue Badge over to a Civil Enforcement Officer for inspection.

# League 2 title for the Bedford & Kempston 'No Limits' Football Team

The Bedford & Kempston No Limits Football Team have successfully secured the League 2 top spot, following an impressive season during which the team racked up an amazing 98 points from 52 games.

No Limits is a 3 year Sport England funded project organised and delivered by the Council's Sports Development Team, which aims to create more sustainable opportunities for people with a disability to take part in sport and physical activity across Bedfordshire.

From a small team of only four players, the group has now grown into three teams playing across the three different ability divisions in the league.



# Crackdown on Tenancy Fraud in Bedford Borough

Bedford Borough Council and bpha are asking for help to identify tenancy fraud across Bedford Borough.

Tenancy Fraud is an issue that impacts widely across the local community - not only does it reduce the availability of social housing properties within the borough, it also impacts on other issues such as homelessness and people living in poor conditions.

Housing tenancy fraud involves council or housing association homes being illegally sublet or people lying about their circumstances to get a tenancy.

The Council aims to increase the number of Social Housing properties available in the Borough by taking action against those deliberately and

dishonestly abusing the system for their own gain.

To tackle this problem Bedford Borough Council's Fraud Investigation Service has embarked on a joint working programme with bpha to investigate social housing fraud within the Borough.

Since the initiative started last year, 21 properties have been repossessed as a result of tenancy fraud cases - meaning more properties are available for those in need of social housing. In addition, four criminal prosecutions and five cautions have been taken against those involved in tenancy fraud.

In order for the Council to be able to identify potential offences, we are asking residents to be vigilant and aware of the risks.

If you suspect that someone may have lied on their application for housing, may have abandoned their property, or may be subletting their home please contact the Investigations Team by emailing [fraud@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:fraud@bedford.gov.uk) and reporting your concerns. All calls/information provided will be handled in the strictest confidence.

You can also report any suspicions to bpha in confidence on 0330 100 0272 or email [info@bpha.org.uk](mailto:info@bpha.org.uk).



# 5000 crocuses for Purple 4 Polio

This month The Rotary Clubs of Kempston and Bedford De Parys have been working with Bedford Borough Council to raise awareness of the Purple4Polio campaign.

In support of the campaign, the Rotary Clubs of Kempston and Bedford De Parys will plant 5000 purple crocus bulbs, sourced by the Royal Horticultural Society, on the first roundabout on the Great Ouse Way, west of the Clapham roundabout (the junction of the A6 and the Great Ouse Way).

The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio, with its colour representing the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised.

For over 30 years, Rotary and its members have been committed to fighting the disease across the world. The amount of polio-endemic countries has dropped from 125 to just two, with over 2.5 billion children receiving vaccinations thanks to the help of Rotary.

The Purple4Polio campaign is part of a final push to raise £1bn that will ensure that all children are vaccinated against polio and eradicate the disease entirely by 2019.

Find out more here about the campaign here; [www.rotarygbi.org/what-we-do/purple4polio/](http://www.rotarygbi.org/what-we-do/purple4polio/)

Purple4Polio

## Bedfordshire Archives 850th Anniversary exhibition

To commemorate the 850th anniversary of Bedford's oldest royal charter, Bedfordshire Archives is presenting a small exhibition on the history of Bedford Borough.

The exhibition looks at the establishment of the Borough and its desire for independence from the Crown, representations of the Borough Coats of Arms, town growth and Mayoral activity in the early twentieth-century.

'Bedford 850 Years' provides a rare opportunity to see one of the oldest documents held by Bedfordshire Archives and the earliest surviving record of Bedford Borough; the royal charter of 1166 granted by Henry II. Also on display is the second oldest charter in our collection, which was granted by Henry III in 1227. This charter features a remarkable intact royal seal.

Featuring maps, photographs, a Mayoral scrapbook and early handwritten documents, the

exhibition reveals ways in which the town's status has evolved over time. Another highlight of the exhibition is the 'Black Book of Bedford' (1562-1650), which contains three sets of by-laws governing life in Bedford. These rules give an unrivalled insight into the times, covering areas such as the 'clean keeping of butchers row' (the Shambles), the keeping

of animals, and the conduct of officials in the council chamber.

The exhibition runs until 4 January 2017 and can be viewed for free in the lobby area of Bedfordshire Archives, Riverside Building, Borough Hall. The Archives is open on Monday (9.15am-5pm), Tuesday (9am-5pm), Wednesday (9pm-5pm) and Friday (9am-5pm).



BorBA2/1, Confirmation of the Borough's ancient (left) and modern (right) Coats of Arms by Clarenceux King of Arms, 7 June 1566. c: Bedfordshire Archives & Records Service

# Bedfordshire Archives student short story competition



Bedfordshire Archives Service is launching an exciting creative writing competition for local students.

The competition is free to enter and is open to all Year 5 to Year 13 students studying in Bedfordshire.

To help inspire pieces of creative writing, a number of historical sources have been selected which have been compiled into an information pack to download.

All students need to do is pick one of the sources for their age group and use it in a short story of no more than 500 words, or a poem of no more than 20 lines.

The content of the piece is up to the writer but it must refer to the relevant source in some way.

Two finalists will be chosen from each of the four Key Stages and there will be two overall winners,

one from Key Stages 2 and 3 and another from Key Stages 4 and 5.

Winners will receive £20 in book tokens and a further £100 in tokens for their school.

The top 20 stories and poems will be compiled into an anthology which will be available to purchase from the Bedfordshire Archives Service.

Children's author and illustrator Kate Milner, winner of the 2016 Victoria & Albert Museum Student Illustration Award, will judge the eight finalists and decide on the two winning pieces.

The deadline for entries is 10 February 2017 and winners will be announced in April 2017.

Further information, including teacher packs containing the archive sources, are available [here](#).

## Check your body is winter ready with a free health 'MOT'

Residents aged 40 to 74 are being encouraged to have a free 'health MOT' to check they are fit for the coming winter and beyond.

Free NHS Health Checks are available to the over 40s not currently diagnosed with a long-term condition like diabetes or high blood pressure.

The 20 minute check assesses your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and dementia – conditions that can often be prevented.

Your risk is calculated by taking measurements such as your height, weight and cholesterol level and asking questions about your lifestyle and family medical history.

Taking this information also means that you can be offered personalised advice on how to reduce your risk of developing conditions.

If eligible, your local GP surgery will invite you for an NHS Health Check once every five years, but you don't have to wait for an invite – you can also contact your GP surgery to find out more about how to make an appointment.

For more information, visit [www.healthcheck.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcheck.nhs.uk).



## A date for your diaries!

### The Christmas Lights Switch On

This year the annual Christmas Lights Switch On will be taking place on Thursday 24 November at 7pm along the Embankment.

The lights are always spectacular, so wrap up warm, bring the family along and be amazed at the dazzling celebration of seasonal fire and light set to festive music!

To celebrate the start of late night shopping in the town, a number of car parks in Bedford town centre (Allhallows, Lurke Street, River Street and Queen Street) are offering free parking from 5.30pm on the day.

For more information about the lights switch on, call 01234 718044 or email [events@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:events@bedford.gov.uk).



# Six new classrooms for Ursula Taylor



The Ursula Taylor Church of England School is expanding to include six new classrooms.

The expansion is to accommodate Year 5 and 6 children, which will allow the school to provide the space and facilities necessary for children to complete their primary education at the school, from September 2017.

This project is part of Bedford Borough Council's School Capital Investment plan, which has allocated

£48million in funding to provide high quality new facilities and ensure we can offer enough school places for local families. It will also enable us to deliver the transition to a primary school and secondary school education system.

Further information about Ursula Taylor Church of England School can be found at: [www.ursulataylor.school.co.uk](http://www.ursulataylor.school.co.uk).

## Takeover Day at The Higgins Bedford



This month The Higgins Bedford celebrated children and young people and their contributions to the museum - by letting them takeover for a few days!

On 18 November, national 'Takeover Day' saw museums, galleries and arts organisations across England taken over by children and teenagers as 'Kids in Museums' teamed up with Arts Council England to help place

young people at the heart of these organisations.

The Higgins Bedford invited 13 to 18 year old volunteers to run the museum for Takeover Day and the next two days, with support from staff and volunteers.

To find out more about Takeover Day visit [kidsinmuseums.org.uk/takeoverday/](http://kidsinmuseums.org.uk/takeoverday/) or follow [@takeovermuseums](https://twitter.com/takeovermuseums) on Twitter.