

THE DAILY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

**AUTUMN SUPPLEMENT
2023**

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**SHARNBROOK
SCARECROW
FESTIVAL**

SEE PAGES 40-43





NORTH BEDS STEAM RALLY TOUR PASSES THROUGH KNOTTING GREEN IN SEPTEMBER

A REVIEW OF THE 2023 AUTUMN EVENTS IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

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RONALD McDONALD AT SHARNBROOK



BOLNHURST BOOK BROWSE AND COFFEE MORNING

RAVENS DEN CREAM TEA



The Ravensden Cream Tea was another great success despite the dodgy weather outside.

The rain and wind did not dampen spirits as everyone thought of summer as they tucked into their scones.

Most of the tables were filled and everyone had a great afternoon, catching up with friends for a good natter.

No doubt some of the talk centered on the latest developments of East-West Rail as Ravensden is one of the villages that would be badly affected by the project.

In fact, the venue for the Cream Tea, All Saints Church is only a stone's throw from where the planned railway is set to go.

Money raised from the event is to go towards works at the Church.

An amazing £580 was raised including £160 from the raffle, two donations that came in after the tea and £30 from the WI and the rest from the teas.



PICTURES: RENHOLD VILLAGE FACEBOOK

COVERAGE ON PAGES 4-5

SATURDAY 5th AUGUST

RAVENSDEN CREAM TEA



**PICTURES: RENHOLD VILLAGE FACEBOOK
COVERAGE ON PAGES 4-5**

SATURDAY 5th AUGUST

FOCUS ON RISELEY'S JULIA JARMAN



Picture: Mick Watson

A new novel has hit the book shelves and also online and it is by children's author Julia Jarman.

However, 'The Widows' Wine Club' is aimed at an adults audience.

It is received a resounding thumbs up at an official book signing session at the Fox & Hounds pub on 14th August.

There was a fantastic turnout of well-wishers with many purchasing a copy which Julia was prepared to sign.

In fact, Julia and her helper Sue Davies spent two hours speaking to her fans.

The novel is about a group of new widows Janet, Viv and Zelda, who initially went to the same dreary bereavement group. But what bonds them is not their shared predicament but the decision to flee the dismal group to share a bottle of wine.

'The Widows' Wine Club' should be available from all good booksellers and £1.99 from Amazon or free with a Kindle Unlimited Membership.

On a final note, there appears to be a glass of red wine in some of the pictures.....

ALSO SEE PAGE 7

Pictures: Graham White unless stated

MONDAY 14th AUGUST

FOCUS ON RISELEY'S JULIA JARMAN



Julia Jarman's first adult novel 'The Widows' Wine Club' was published on Monday 14th August.

To celebrate the occasion, Julia organised a special book-signing session at her local pub, the Fox & Hounds in Riseley. A bumper crowd

of well-wishers turned out to purchase a copy of the book, which has already had rave reviews.

A glass of wine was provided by the Fox & Hounds along with orange juice.

Soon there were long queues

of people to have their book signed.

In addition, Julia was prepared to have a chat with her fans, who bought an early copy of what will be a very popular novel.

ALSO SEE PAGE 6

Pictures: Graham White

MONDAY 14th AUGUST

HOWBURY HALL OPEN GARDENS



A tranquil afternoon walking around the gardens at Howbury Hall in Renhold followed by afternoon tea. And some even had the chance to taste some quality lemons grown by head gardener Martin Roberts. Money raised to go towards works being carried out at St Paul's Church in Bedford.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 8-9

SUNDAY 20th AUGUST

HOWBURY HALL OPEN GARDENS



COVERAGE ON PAGES 8-9

SUNDAY 20th AUGUST

THE POLDEN CUP WILDEN v RENHOLD NEWCOMERS



The inaugural Polden Cup had all the ingredients of a fun cricket match - controversy, a dodgy breakfast, bat throwing, lack of whites, umpires in black and a couple of allegations.

Plus local dignitaries turned up to watch and parked their limousine in front of the Press Parking area.

Even the local vicar Tim Wilson made an appearance and retired early with the Evensong excuse.

This was a match between Wilden and the Polhill Arms. Except after a breakfast, not continental as previously reported, but a beer-laden affair with the remains of the previous night's curry, they became known as Renhold Newcomers.

There was a meeting including the top-level management at the Polhill Arms where the new name was agreed. Apparently this was to ensure the Renhold public house was not

brought into disrepute during the afternoon.

The Newcomers arrived in style on a tractor to the tune of 'Eye of the Tiger' and to be fair against their supposedly more professional, well nearly semi, they performed pretty well in the field.

Wilden were rattled especially when one of their players 'threw his toys out of the pram' following a suspect decision.

After Tommy Marsh played 16 consecutive dot balls, thinking he was Mike Atherton in a Test match, the Wilden innings was given some respectability by Freddie Dutton, with 27 and Jeremy Crofts, 24, to reach a total of 104 from their 20 overs.

The pick of the Renhold bowlers was Ravi who also turned out to be a decent batter. The Wilden hierarchy had their out-of-date cheque book out to make him an offer to play for them next season.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 10-13



Picture: Renhold Facebook

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST

THE POLDEN CUP WILDEN v RENHOLD NEWCOMERS



The Polden Cup was keenly-contested and the record books show it was a six-run victory for Wilden.

However, Renhold Newcomers - not the Polhill Arms - ran them close.

Their best chance came when umpire Andy Webber brought in a new clause in the Duckworth-Lewis Law, usually used in bad weather.

On this occasion, the sun was actually shining but Mr Webber decided to use Duckworth-Lewis to add on two overs to the Newcomers innings.

This was because Wilden used members from their All Stars Youngsters Squad to bowl the opening overs. And they were too good for the Renhold batsmen.

The ECB are apparently investigating the misuse of Duckworth-Lewis at Lord's with two bottles of gin.

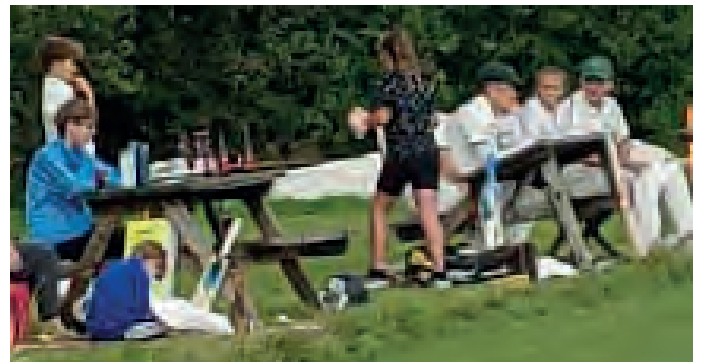
The Newcomers were all out for 98 with Ross making 25 and Ravi 17 while the best Wilden fielding effort was by umpire Webber although he claimed he was trying to catch his can of beer.



[COVERAGE ON PAGES 10-13](#)

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST

THE POLDEN CUP WILDEN v RENHOLD NEWCOMERS



COVERAGE ON PAGES 10-13

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST

THE POLDEN CUP WILDEN v RENHOLD NEWCOMERS



THE UMPIRES



Picture: Renhold Facebook



Renhold Newcomers opener Ravi, pictured above, looks to be a pretty useful cricketer and could well be playing league cricket for Wilden next season.

Negotiations have already started and as they say in the trade it may be a case of 'Watch This Space'.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 10-13



The after-match celebrations took place at The Polhill Arms in Renhold. Hopefully, controversy permitting, the Polden Cup was presented to Wilden along with several individual awards.

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST

MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE SHOW



The Milton Ernest Garden Centre Horticultural Show on 28th August attracted plenty of exhibits with the flowers taking centre stage. Also a good selection of vegetables plus some outstanding pictures and crafts. Plus the cafe was open.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 14-15

MONDAY 28th AUGUST

MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE SHOW



COVERAGE ON PAGES 14-15



MONDAY 28th AUGUST

THE BELL FEST ODELL



A brilliant afternoon of music on August Bank Holiday Monday at The Bell, Odell starting with the Bedford Morris Men.

In their typical style, they encouraged audience participation even if you tried to hide in a corner.

Bletsoe's 'Amazing Swing Band', pictured below, performed their repertoire of music and songs and included the excellent singer Nicole Hassall.

To round the afternoon off, there were performances from Sharnbrook's Sclub 60 and MA:RO.

The event was well attended.



MONDAY 28th AUGUST

COLMWORTH MANOR GARDEN PARTY



Picture: Renhold Facebook

What happens when you ignore the very precise instructions from the Colmworth Garden Party at The Manor organisers to park at the Puddleducks Nursery?

Answer: You have to have your car towed out of a hidden ditch by a JCB digger.

Tottenham Football Club supporters may spot the driver is wearing an Arsenal shirt.....!

Other attractions included Welly Wanging, Splat the Rat along with plenty of cake.



MONDAY 28th AUGUST

VILLAGE SHOW AT KEYSOE



● The Village Show at Keysoe's newest committee member Lucy Baker, left, presents a bunch of flowers to Kathy Brown, of Kathy Brown's Gardens, Stevington. Kathy opened the big event.



● "Now Mr Policeman, you cannot park your car there! I will issue you a parking ticket...." Village Show at Keysoe chairman Penny Heming to the local constabulary.



● This couple appear to be impressed with the beetroot at the Village Show at Keysoe.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 18-19

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

VILLAGE SHOW AT KEYSOE



● While opening the Village Show at Keysoe on 2nd September, Kathy Brown of Kathy Brown's Gardens at Stevington explained that she has been going to village shows since age zero. Her fondest childhood memories of the autumnal events in Staffordshire were the 'Guess the Weight of a Live Pig' where the organisers struggled to keep the animal in its makeshift pen. Then Kathy recalled the writing competition where entrants had to copy out the National Anthem. She spent hours perfecting her writing only to learn that she was the only competitor. There were a few more at Keysoe!



● The 23rd Village Show at Keysoe provided both the fruit and vegetable exhibits along with a brilliant collection of pictures and photos. Plus there was entertainment for all the family. And the local Women's Institute tent was busy with the traditional organisers' lunch and teas for all during the afternoon.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 18-19

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

DEAN & SHELTON COUNTRY SHOW



● The Dean & Shelton Country Show proved as popular as ever with plenty of entertainment for all ages. The focal point, however, was the exhibits in the Dalton Hall with some fine vegetables and fruit along with a collection of pictures. Plus plenty of rosettes.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 20-21

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

DEAN & SHELTON COUNTRY SHOW



COVERAGE ON PAGES 20-21

● Great entertainment was provided at the Dean & Shelton Country Show.

The highlight was the demonstration of the gun dogs, which was both informative and amazing, particularly the response of the dogs to their master. How they knew the different types of whistle blows and how to respond to them was brilliant.

The children enjoyed the circus skills sessions and the scramble for the sweets in the main arena. Plus plenty of stalls, a brass band and vintage vehicles.

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

SHARNBROOK SHOW



A wide variety of exhibits were show on at the annual Sharnbrook Gardening Club's Horticultural Show that took place at The Village Hall on 9th September.

The main focus is still the vegetables but there were also some outstanding flowers along with some brilliant photographs.

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

THURLEIGH FAMILY FUN DAY



Pamper sessions were one of the highlights of the Thurleigh Family Fun Day on Saturday 9th September.

There was also plenty of entertainment for the youngsters including various games such as welly-wanging while a bouncy castle proved popular.

After a pizza and donuts supper, a karaoke session was the main attraction on what was a chill-out day.

GIDDY GOAT RISELEY FAYRE



● The Giddy Goat Autumn Fayre in Riseley took place on 23rd September where some visitors enjoyed a mid-morning breakfast bap.

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

FELMERSHAM SCARECROWS



WINNER



SECOND



THIRD

PICTURES: MERC MAC
FELMERSHAM & RADWELL
FACEBOOK PAGE

COVERAGE ON PAGES 24-25



SPECIAL AWARD

FELMERSHAM SCARECROWS HONOURS BOARD

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

FELMERSHAM SCARECROWS



PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

COVERAGE ON PAGE 24-25

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

FELMERSHAM SHOW



COVERAGE ON PAGES 26-27



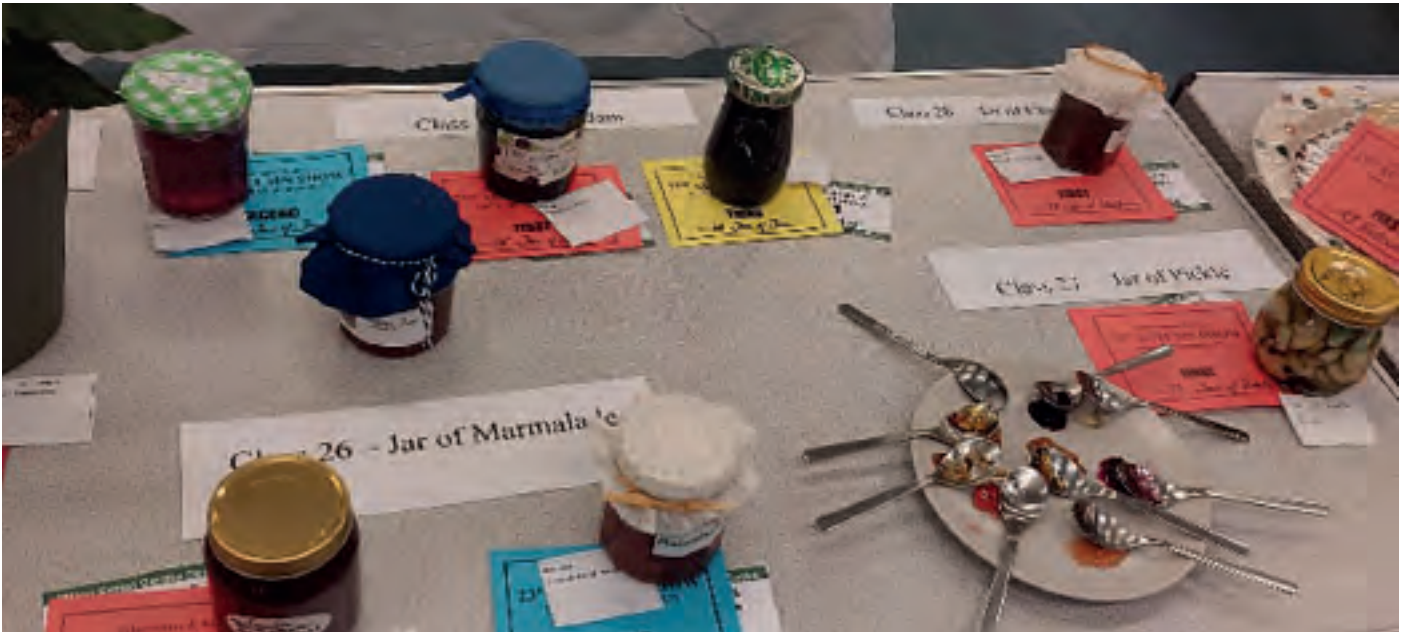
Although the number of entries are still below the levels of pre-Covid, there was a high standard of exhibits.

Despite this, there was a enthusiastic turnout to view the exhibits, with many taking advantage of the tea and cake plus the chance to have a natter with the neighbours.

Towards the end of the afternoon, the results of the Felmersham Scarecrow Competition were announced.

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

FELMERSHAM SHOW



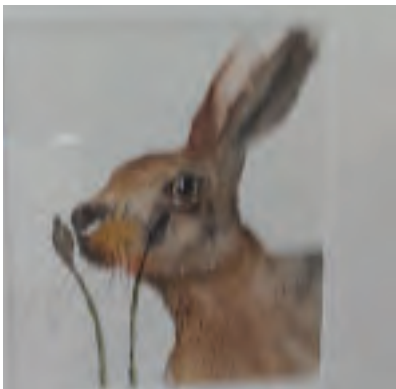
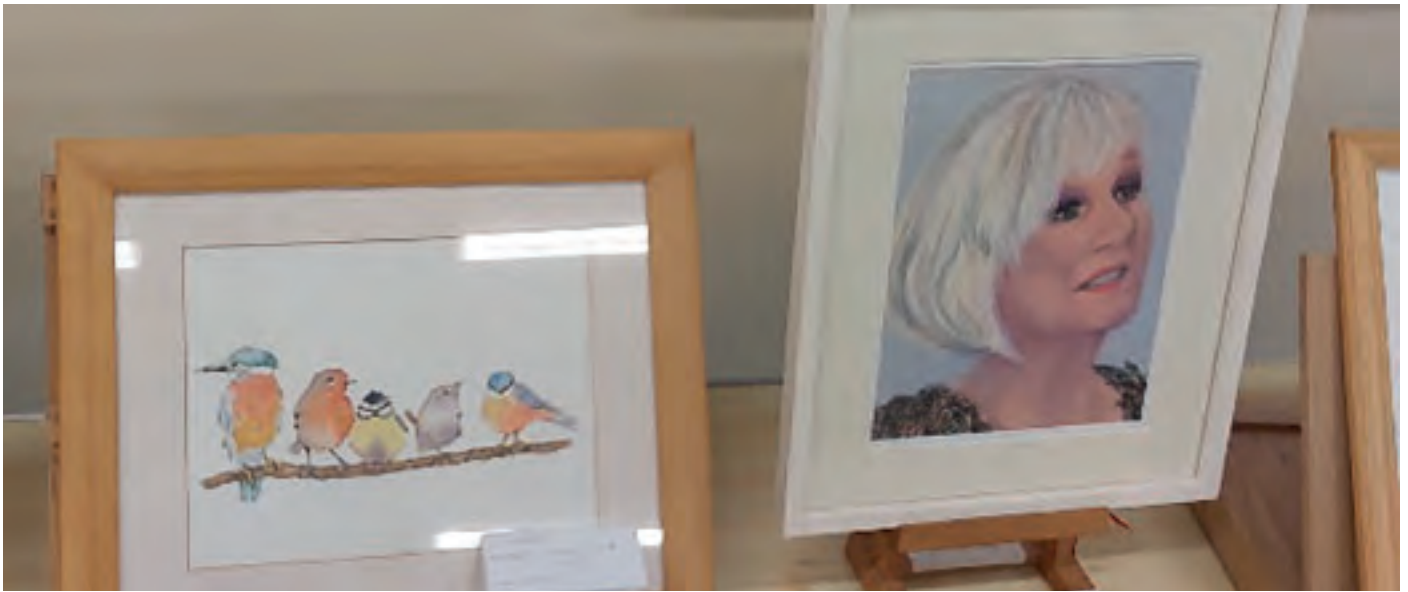
Rumours were rife that Bridget Peirson-Davis' puffin, above, made from ultra-recycled items, would be disqualified.

In fact, the judges were impressed enough with the effort to award it a 'highly commended' certificate.

COVERAGE ON PAGE 26-27

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

FOCUS ON FELMERSHAM ART GROUP



The Felmersham & Radwell Art Club showcased some of their work at the Felmersham Show on Sunday 10th September.

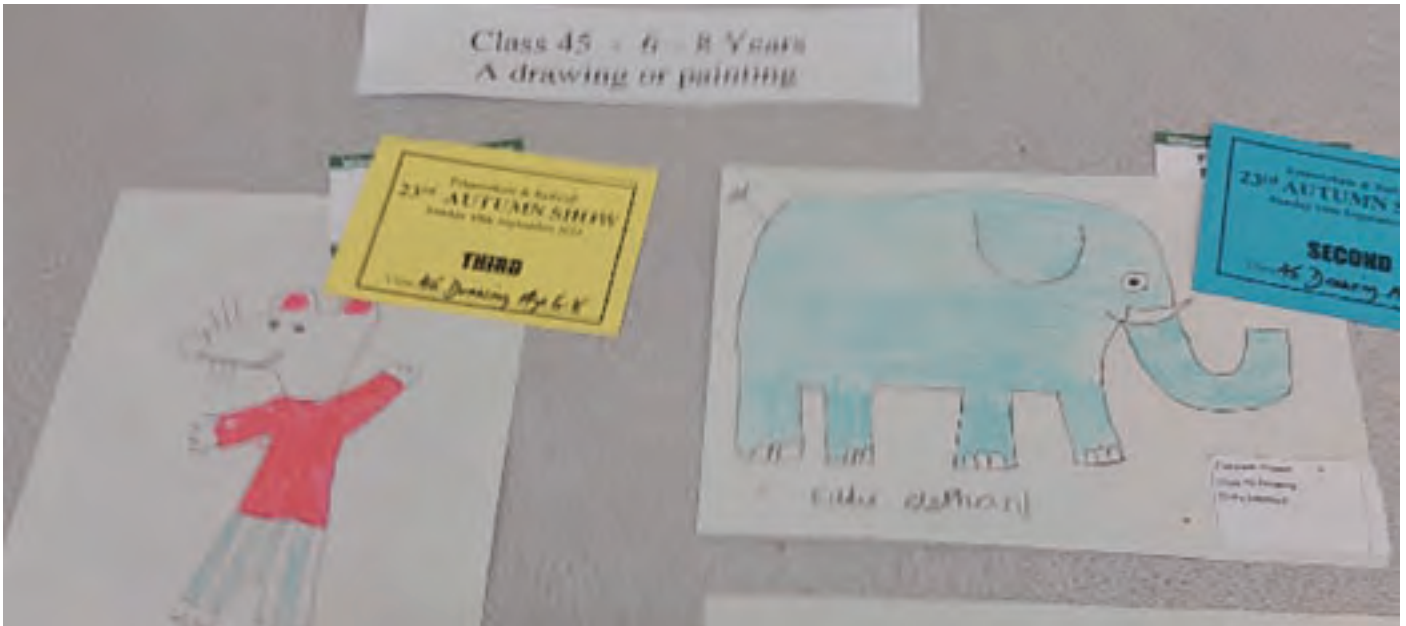
This page only shows a small selection of their high quality work.



COVERAGE ON PAGES 28-29

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

FOCUS ON PINCHMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



COVERAGE ON PAGES 28-29



Youngsters from Pinchmill Primary School had their special Harvest Festival project displayed at the Felmersham & Radwell Show.

Pupils from all years had the chance to show off their artistic skills and the standard was incredibly high.

The display was one of the highlights of the successful annual show.

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

BEDFORDSHIRE STEAM RALLY & COUNTRY SHOW



COVERAGE ON PAGES 30-31

Plenty of vintage vehicles and engines were on show at the Bedfordshire Steam Rally &

Country Show at Turvey Park on the weekend of 15th-15th September. Many of them

featured in the main ring while others wandered across the site.

15th -16th SEPTEMBER

BEDFORDSHIRE STEAM RALLY & COUNTRY SHOW



As well as the vintage engines, there was plenty of entertainment for all the family at the Bedfordshire Steam Rally & Country Fayre.

For the youngsters, there was a traditional fairground while the main ring had displays of motorbikes, engines and shire horses.

The various marquees had various exhibits including top quality crafts and models.

Plus a food hall and street food.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 30-31

15th-16th SEPTEMBER

RENHOLD STITCHERS CRAFT FAYRE



● The inaugural Renhold Stitches Craft Fayre took place at the Polhill Arms, Renhold on Saturday 16th September. Plenty of items, that are suitable for Christmas gifts, were on sale although someone did show off his plants.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-33

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

RENHOLD STITCHERS CRAFT FAYRE



Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

COVERAGE ON PAGES 32-33

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

HARROLD END OF SUMMER PARTY



Family fun in the afternoon and live entertainment plus the Rugby World Cup during the evening were the main ingredients of a successful Harrold End of Summer Party, that was held at the Sports and Social Club. Also an excellent choice of Street Food ensured no one went hungry.

SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

RENHOLD CHAPEL 150th ANNIVERSARY



Bedford Mayor Cllr Tom Wootton, pictured left, was among the visitors to Renhold Chapel on Saturday 23rd September to celebrate their 150th anniversary.

Many fascinating documents were on display along with numerous pictures and artefacts.

After browsing the various exhibits, guests had the chance to have tea or coffee plus some fine slices of cake.

A special thanksgiving service was held on Sunday 24th September.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook



Renhold Chapel

150th Anniversary Weekend

We would like to invite you to

Browse some of the Chapel History

On the 23rd September between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

And

A Thanksgiving Service

On 24th September at 10.30am

SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

SHARNBROOK FAMILY FUN DAY



The money has been raised for the Road Closure to ensure that the Sharnbrook Christmas Fayre can proceed safely on Friday 1st December between 4pm and 8pm.

However, Bedford Borough Council has still to confirm the Road Closure on the High Street.

The funds were secured following a successful Family Day at the Swan With Two Nicks, which included borough councillor Doug McMurdo being drenched in the stocks and musical entertainment from Sam and Kate.

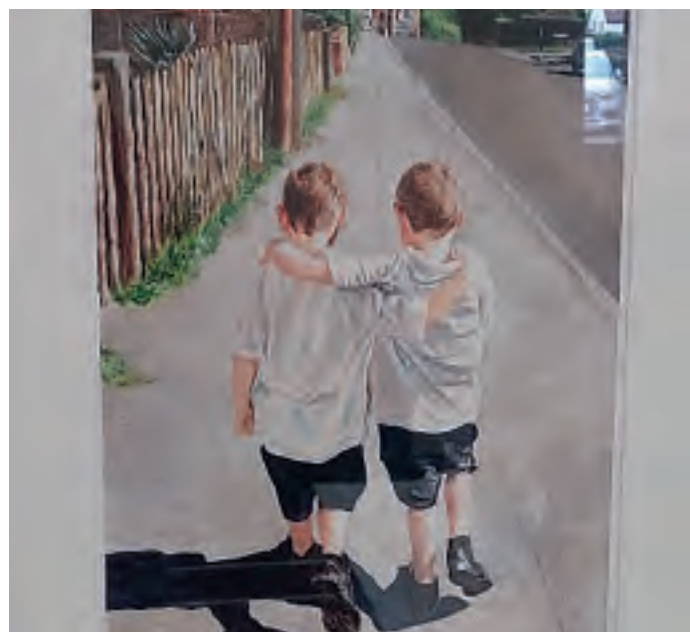


Picture: Beccy Keddie
Swan With Two Nicks

Picture: Beccy Keddie
Swan With Two Nicks

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

RISELEY MACMILLAN ART SHOW AND COFFEE MORNING



The Riseley Macmillan Coffee Morning and Art Show proved to be a great success on 30th September raising over £1000.

And there was even an empty cake tray, see left, proving there were some hungry visitors. And a fine display of exhibits were on show in Riseley Village Hall.

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

STEAM ENGINE RALLY ROAD TOUR



A steam rally took place through North Bedfordshire villages on Saturday 30th September. It started and finished at Sharnbrook going through Riseley, Upper Dean, Melchbourne and Knotting. The pictures on these pages are at Riseley.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 38-39

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

STEAM ENGINE RALLY ROAD TOUR



COVERAGE ON PAGES 38-39

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

SHARNBROOK SCARECROW FESTIVAL



Crowds flocked to Sharnbrook, taking advantage of the fine autumnal weather, to support the annual Sharnbrook Scarecrow Festival.

The winning scarecrow was made by the Abrahams Farm Shop, which is on the outskirts of the village.

Sharnbrook Primary School won a number of awards while the special certificate went to Shrek, who suspiciously disappeared. One theory is that he went off with some naughty revellers and ended up in their kitchen.

Lenny the dog enjoyed the occasion, barking at passers-by from his window while there was additional theatre-style entertainment on Sunday at the Sharnbrook Sports and Social Club and refreshments in the Village Hall, where there was a 'walking' scarecrow.



COVERAGE ON PAGES 40-43

PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

6th-8th OCTOBER

SHARNBROOK SCARECROW FESTIVAL



PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

COVERAGE ON PAGES 40-43

6th-8th OCTOBER

SHARNBROOK SCARECROW FESTIVAL



COVERAGE ON PAGES 40-43

PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

6th-8th OCTOBER

SHARNBROOK SCARECROW FESTIVAL

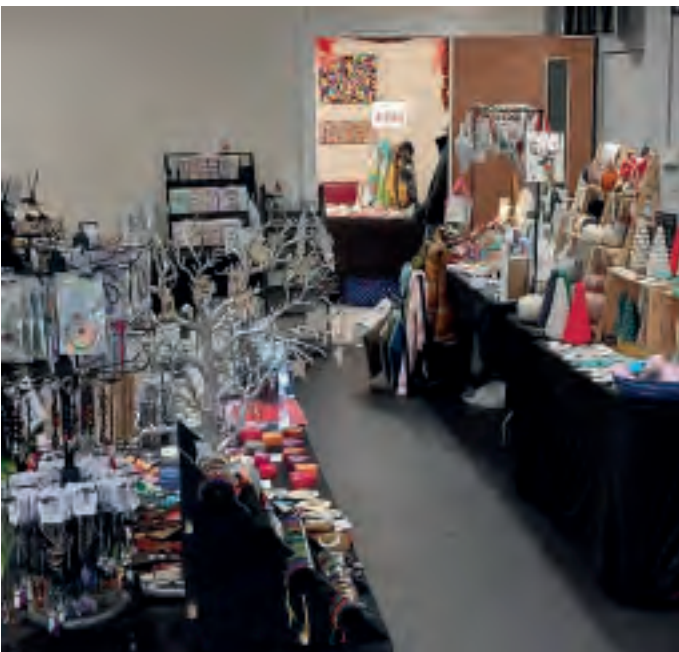


PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

COVERAGE ON PAGES 40-43

6th-8th OCTOBER

GIDDY GOAT, RISELEY CHRISTMAS MARKET



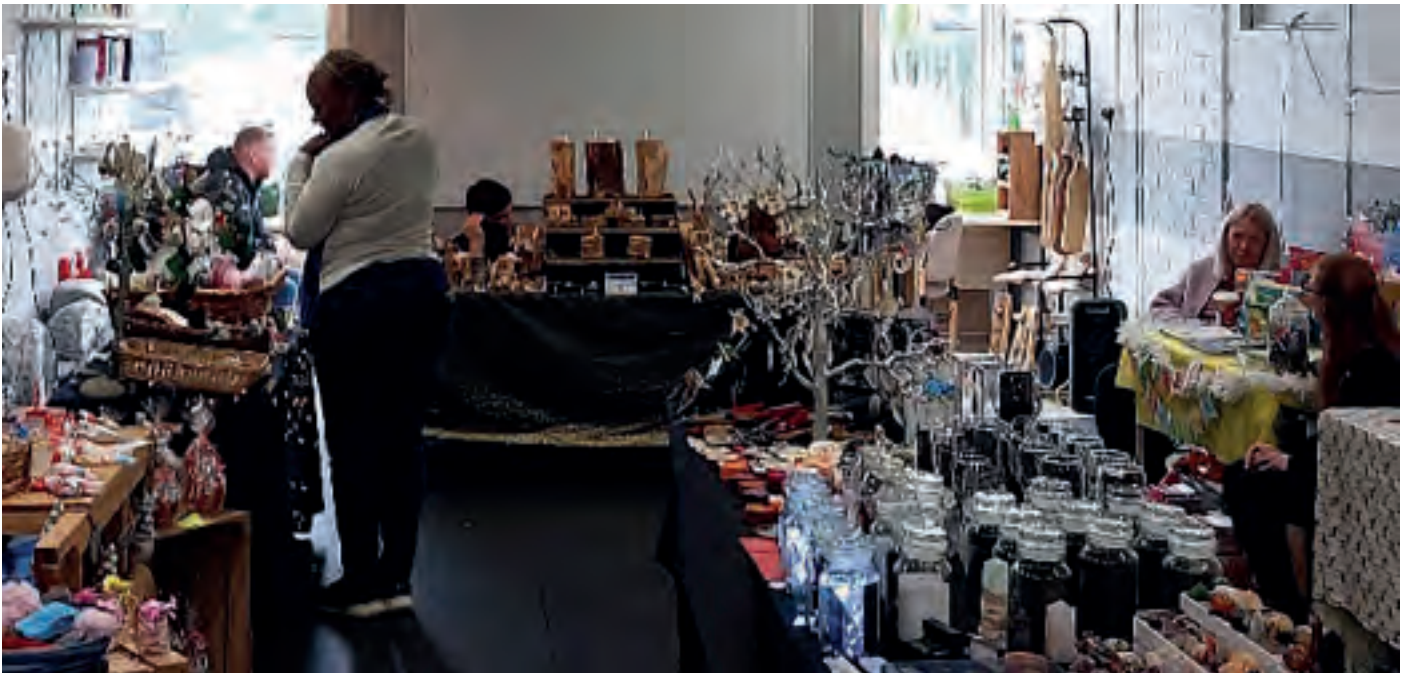
Hardy souls ventured out to the Giddy Goat Christmas Market in Riseley on a rainy 4th November day.

Plenty of craft stalls were on display exhibiting perfect Christmas gifts and there was a double-decker bus outside pretending to be a Bar for those who needed refreshments after their shopping.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 44-45

SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER

GIDDY GOAT, RISELEY CHRISTMAS MARKET



COVERAGE ON PAGES 44-45



The Giddy Goat Christmas Market in Riseley was the place to go if you wanted something slightly. They have held other markets at their High Street premises in July and September.

SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER

BOLNHURST HARVEST FESTIVAL SOUPER



The Old School at Bolnhurst was packed out for the village's Harvest Festival Souper Day on Friday 10th November.

Everyone had a taste of the quality vegetable soup but the organisers also provided some quality desserts including a crumble and brownies.

FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER

MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The Milton Ernest Garden Centre Christmas Fayre took place on 18th November with a variety of festive stalls along with one specialising in hot spices.

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

THE CANINE PARTNERS CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The Canine Partners Christmas Fayre at Milton Ernest Garden Centre proved to be a great success on 11th November with plenty of dogs in attendance.

The popular canines also had the chance to visit Santa Paws while the Roxtonettes Choir provided the musical entertainment.

There were also plenty of festive stalls and a 'human' fruit machine.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 48-49

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER

THE CANINE PARTNERS CHRISTMAS FAYRE



COVERAGE ON PAGES 48-49

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER

CARLTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE



There was festive spirit galore at the Carlton Christmas Fayre and even Father Christmas got into the mood with his own special dance.

A particular highlight of the day on 18th November was the musical entertainment provided by Carlton Primary School.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 50-51

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

CARLTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE



The Christmas Fayre has been the highlight of the autumn events at Carlton Village Hall.

There has also been an excellent Coffee Morning on 7th November, which proved to be very popular.

The next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 5th December between 10.30am and noon where there may be a festive theme and possibly the odd mince pie.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 50-51

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

RAVENS DEN WI CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Ravensden Women's Institute held a successful Christmas Fayre on 18th November with some excellent stalls and were rewarded with a fine turnout.

COVERAGE ON PAGES 52-53

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

RAVENS DEN WI CHRISTMAS FAYRE



COVERAGE ON PAGES 52-53

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

MELCHBOURNE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● The Melchbourne Christmas Fayre took place at St Mary Magdalene Church on 25th November.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

BEDFORD ARMS, OAKLEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● The Bedford Arms, Oakley Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 25th November.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

BLETSOE PUDDINGS NIGHT



The Bletsoe Puddings Night on 25th November was another outstanding success with over 50 people attending.

After a starter of home-made soup, guests had a chance to sample the wide range of desserts. It is rumoured someone had three in one bowl. Now who was that?

The event was organised to raise funds for St Mary's Church.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

COVERAGE ON PAGES 56-57

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

BLETSOE PUDDINGS NIGHT



Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

COVERAGE ON PAGES 56-57

A highlight of the Bletsoe Puddings Night, organised by The Friends of St Mary's Church, may have been the desserts but the Special Quiz came a close second.

The Puddings Night is one of several events being organised in the run-up to Christmas.

The day after was the Bletsoe Winter Concert, on 26th November.

On Saturday 2nd December, there is the St Mary's Church Christmas Breakfast Morning between 10am and midday. The Christingle Carol Service is on Sunday 17th December at 4pm.

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS FAYRE



It was a new look for the Sharnbrook Christmas Fayre after organisers had managed to close part of the High Street for the event.

The crafts marquee was switched to the Primary School while the fun fair took over the spot opposite the Old Post Office.

The crowd swelled for the traditional switch-on of the Christmas lights.

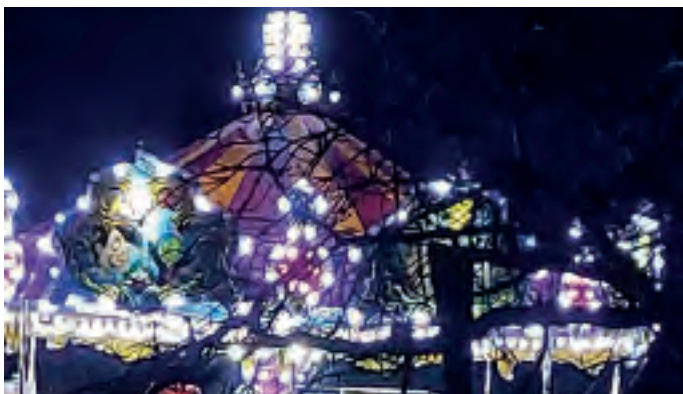
Plenty of entertainment was laid on including a singer and morris dancers.



COVERAGE ON PAGES 58-59

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS FAYRE



COVERAGE ON PAGES 58-59

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



COVERAGE ON PAGES 60-61



The Sharnbrook Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter's Church, on 1st and 2nd December, proved to be another popular event.

Many of the local organisations decorated a tree. These included many of the youngsters groups such as the Scouts and Rainbows while two classes at Sharnbrook Primary School - Penguins and Robins - also took part.

There was a particularly good exhibit by the Ouse Valley Singers - pictured at the top of this page.

1st-3rd DECEMBER

SHARNBROOK CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



COVERAGE ON PAGES 60-61

1st-3rd DECEMBER

KIMBOLTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE



COVERAGE ON PAGES 62-63



The Kimbolton Christmas Fayre was another fantastic occasion with a regular flow of visitors on Sunday 3rd December.

Held in the state rooms at Kimbolton Castle, there were many high-quality stalls providing a great choice for Christmas gifts.

The event was organised by the Kimbolton School Parents Association and included festive music by pupils.

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

KIMBOLTON CHRISTMAS MARKET



● Hay Chocolate was at the Kimbolton Street Market on Sunday 3rd December selling many of their festive offerings including Festive Bonbons, Hay Chocolate Bars and a Chocolate Truffle Selection. All are handmade in a small kitchen on a farm in Southoe, St Neots. See www.haychocolate.com or email info@haychocolate.com



The Kimbolton Street Fair proved to be popular despite the inclement weather on Sunday 3rd December.

Many stalls lined the main street in the build-up to the switching-on of the Christmas lights.

In the foreground of the picture on the left is popular Upper Dean entrepreneur known locally as 'Mr Pickles' who said he did a roaring trade.

Regency Funeral Directors provided carriage rides.

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

RENHOLD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



The Renhold Christmas Tree Festival took place at All Saints Church during the weekend of 9th and 10th December. Many local organisations decorated a tree.

Pictures: Renhold Village Facebook

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER

SAXBY CIDER CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT FARNDISH



Saxby Cider held an artisan Christmas Fayre on the farm at Farndish where their cider is produced.

The Fayre on 9th December featured many local independent businesses including the full range of Saxby ciders, which are usually available at their shop on the Chester House Estate, Claudius Way, Wellingborough, NN8 2DH, Tuesday-Sunday 10am-4pm.

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER

RISELEY FATHER CHRISTMAS TOUR



● The annual Riseley Father Christmas Tour took place on Saturday 9th December during the early evening. It started at Rotten Row and proceeded to Gold Street, Church Road, Nicholls Close, High Street to Maple Gardens then on to College Drive and The Orchard. Youngsters had the chance to post their gift list to Santa, who was accompanied by his 'Elves'.



CARLTON COFFEE MORNING



The Carlton Coffee Morning on 5th December had a festive feel with a number of seasonal toys on show along with a collection of books for attendees to browse.

Another highlight was the excellent selection of cakes to go with the tea or coffee.

Other recent events at Carlton Village Hall have included a Christmas Fayre.



TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER

MILTON ERNEST CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● The Milton Ernest Christmas Fayre had a steady flow of visitors throughout the day on Saturday 25th November. There were a number of outstanding stalls giving the shoppers the chance to buy some quality gifts for Christmas. Refreshments and mince pies were also available.

Pictures: Cristina Goldwin

SOULDROP CHRISTMAS FAYRE



● The Souldrop Christmas Fayre took place on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd December with plenty of potential festive gifts on sale. Father Christmas also made an appearance,
Picture: Souldrop Community Facebook.

RENHOLD CAROL SERVICE



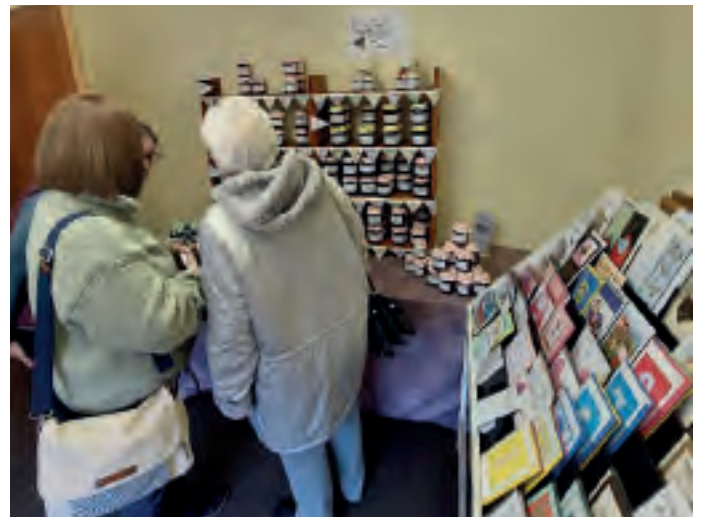
● Pupils at Renhold Primary School have been praised for their good behaviour during the Renhold Church, Chapel and School Carol Service. The event, which was held at the Village Hall, was interrupted by a fire alarm. The Service had to be concluded in the car park. The youngsters ensured that the 'Show' had to go on no matter what.

Picture: Renhold Village Facebook

CHRISTMAS AT BLETSOE AND BOLNHURST



● The Bletsoe Christmas Breakfast took place on Saturday 2nd December. A steady flow of visitors enjoyed bacon butties, mince pies and other refreshments. Several stalls were also available for browsing.



The Stables Christian Centre at Bolnhurst held its annual Christmas Sale on Saturday 2nd December.

Plenty of potential Christmas goodies were available for sale including festive cards and the Stables' popular preserves.

The Saturday Coffee Shop sessions will resume in May 2024.

BLETSOE END OF YEAR CONCERT



● An excellent turnout witnessed another fine concert at Bletsoe Village Hall by the Sounds Fine Group on Sunday 26th November. This was their End of Year Concert having performed throughout the year including at Odell on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Picture: Dave and June Jones

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE



● The cast of Little Women had the chance to have their picture taken with comedian Omid Djalili after he had watched a performance of the play at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. The performances took place at the end of November and beginning of December.

Picture: Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Facebook

NICOLE LAWRENCE AT THURLEIGH



Soul singer Nicole Lawrence entertained a large crowd at Thurleigh Sports and Social Club on 21st October.

was the star attraction on a charity night supporting Children with Cancer UK and the British Heart Foundation.

X-Factor competition 14 years ago despite not winning the approval of Simon Cowell, impressing Louis Walsh, Cheryl Cole and Danni Minogue.

The 2009 X-Factor contestant

Nicole progressed in the



RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'RUN FOR YOUR WIFE'

Wednesday 22nd November -Saturday 25th November
at Riseley Village Hall



The Riseley Community Theatre have produced some outstanding performances over the years and their latest offering 'Run for Your Wife' by Ray Cooney was another excellent production.

Farces can be difficult to play out, the timing has to be spot on otherwise the intended humour will fall flat on the audience.

It was a captivating performance and reached high levels with some outstanding acting by Jon Davis as Stanley, a lodger who lived in the flat upstairs.

Stanley did his best to protect taxi driver John, played by Ben Richardson, and in the process produced the required farcical performance, including an excellent interpretation of a country accent.

Although potentially a difficult script to perform, the cast played out perfectly events surrounding the naughty lifestyle of taxi driver John, who tried to have a secret life that evolved around having two wives. It all went pear-shaped when John was mugged while working and subsequently all hell broke loose as he tried to hide his wrong-doings.

Amusing scenes involving the police officers, Troughton (Mark Worth) and Waterhouse (Graham Cole) followed, centering on his addresses in Wimbledon and Streatham.

Obviously, the two wives did not know about the other address and things got even more complicated when, trying to protect his naughtiness, John appeared to be in a relationship with Stanley.

Then as everything unravelled, the audience had the delight of seeing Mary (Nicola Hickson) in her lingerie.



Coverage on Pages 72-74

Graham White

RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'RUN FOR YOUR WIFE'

Wednesday 22nd November - Saturday 25th November
at Riseley Village Hall



THE CAST

John: Ben Richardson

Mary: Nicola Hickson

Barbara: Claire Dudeney

Stanley: Jon Davis

Troughton: Mark Worth

Porterhouse: Graham Cole

Bobby: Peter Swallow

Photographer: Jane Davis

Coverage on Pages 72-74

RISELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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at Riseley Village Hall



Coverage on Pages 72-74

DAILY GRUNCH BIG MATCH

SHARNBROOK COLWORTH
NORTHAMPTON CASUALS II

36
17



Sharnbrook & Colworth, green shirts, clinched a 36-17 victory in their special Remembrance Day match against Northampton Casuals II. A special parade took place before the game.

FOCUS ON RISELEY CRICKET LEGEND WINSTON JERMY



● **Winston Jermy, who is 71, with his Riseley team-mates before a Bedford Midweek League match against Kempston Hammers. Winston is fourth from the right.**

The talk of the sporting summer has been about England bowler James Anderson still playing Test cricket at age 41.

Without doubt, the 'Burnley Lara' is something of a legend but Riseley have their own legendary figure – Winston Jermy.

Although Winston lives in Kempston, few would argue that his loyalty lies with Riseley, especially with the cricket club.

Most people involved in cricket in the Bedford area will have heard of Winston Jermy. He has been a great servant to the sport and he is still playing at the age of 71.

For many years, he has been one of the first names to be penned in the Riseley team whether it is in the Bedford and District League, in years gone by, and now in the Bedfordshire Invitation League along with the Bedford Midweek League.

This is because he is a wily spinner that fools batsmen, regularly many years his junior.

However, Winston started out as a fast bowler and is well-remembered for his performances for Britannia Works in the Bedford Midweek League.

His greatest recognition is that he played in one of the opening games when the Midweek League was formed in 1968 and has played in every season since.

This has included appearances for Clapham and currently for Second Division side Riseley – a truly remarkable achievement.

"I have enjoyed every minute playing local cricket," said Winston. "I feel very proud that I have represented Riseley for 30 years.

"Equally, I am truly happy that I have played

TURN TO PAGE 77

FOCUS ON RISELEY CRICKET LEGEND WINSTON JERMY



● **Winston Jermy bowling for Riseley in a friendly against Pavenham/Felmersham.**

FROM PAGE 76

every season in the Bedford Midweek League since it started in 1968.

“I have won a few awards in that competition such as team titles for Britannia Works in the early years. I also remember picking up the divisional bowling award.

“And there has been some success with Riseley over the decades. But for me it is being able to play the game and also encouraging others.

“I have seen a lot of youngsters join Riseley as 14-years-olds and they were smaller than me. And now they are in their 20s and 30s and six-foot-tall.

“Although I am the elder statesman, it makes me proud when I see a young lad join the side and play his first game.

“We had a youngster recently who took a few wickets and hit an unbeaten 49. That was brilliant.

“I have also enjoyed playing against the West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis. It has been enjoyable getting to know them and ensuring they are part of the local cricketing community.



● **Winston Jermy shows off the perfect slow bowler's action.**

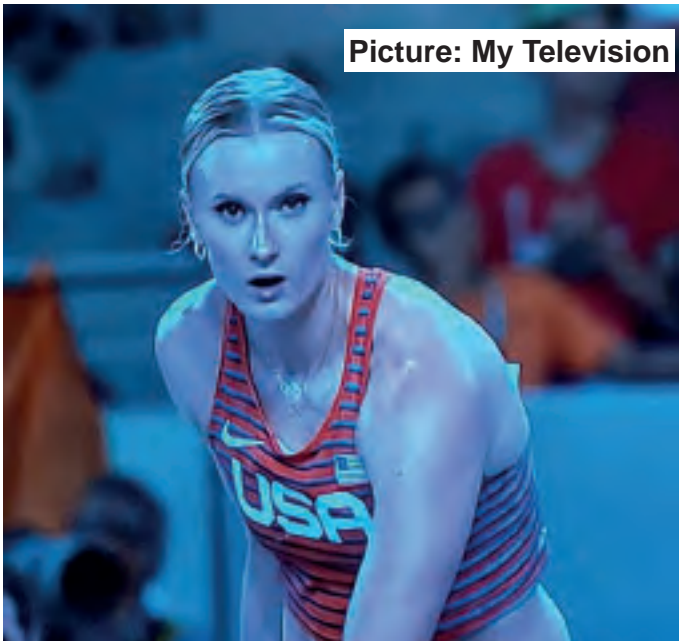
“I know I made the right decision in joining Riseley. I knew Nigel Gell and Bob Wallace from my schooldays and they, along with the rest of the side at the time, made me welcome.”

And how well has Winston been bowling this season? His best performance came in the Bedford Midweek League Balvindra Momi Division Two match against Colworth House where he took five wickets for 17 runs from his four overs.

FOCUS ON GREAT BARFORD'S KATIE MOON

ATHLETICS: New joint world pole vault champion Katie Moon, pictured below, may be from the USA but she has strong Great Barford connections.

Her mother-in-law Martine Moon lives in the



Picture: My Television

village, having married her son Hugo on New Year's Eve 2022.

Katie started the memorial race for her late father-in-law, borough councillor Stephen Moon in April and also jogged around the course in Great Barford.

In a dramatic Budapest final, Katie and her Australian rival Nina Kennedy shared the gold medal after both athletes cleared 4.90 metres but were unsuccessful at 4.95 metres.

After a brief break, Katie is likely to start her preparations for the Olympic Games, which are in Paris.

The 2024 Olympics take place from Friday 26th July to Sunday 11th August.

The athletics events will take place in the Stade de France in Saint Denis, Paris. It was built in 1998 for the Football World and was used for the World Athletics Championships in 2003.

GRUNCH SPORT

FOOTBALL: Real Bedford Ladies have reached the First Round of the Women's FA Cup and will be at home to Billericay Town Ladies on Sunday 12th November at McMullen Park.

Billericay Town Ladies play in the Women's Premier League Premier League while Real Bedford Ladies are top of the Eastern Region League Premier Division.



Sharnbrook athlete Graeme Packman picked up two bronze medals at the British Masters Championships at Derby recently.

Competing in the Over-65s age group, Graeme was third in the discus with a throw of 30.43 metres and was in the same position in the shot with a put of 8.89 metres. Scot Jim Hogg won both events.



● **Bridgman Indoor Bowls Club's John Holloway and his wife Beata will be representing England in the Disabled World Cup in 2024 thanks to sponsorship from Bedford's branch of Specsavers. The Bridgman Bowls Club is based in Harrold.**



FATHER CHRISTMAS MADE AN APPEARANCE AT MILTON ERNEST

A REVIEW OF THE 2023 AUTUMN EVENTS IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE



**PUDDINGS NIGHT AT BLETSOE
AT THE END OF NOVEMBER**