

# THE DAILY GRUNCH

SERVING VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

**SUMMER SUPPLEMENT  
2023**

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**A REVIEW OF THE 2023 SUMMER EVENTS  
IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE**



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**KEYSOE JUMBLE SALE  
MAY 2023**



**MILTON ERNEST  
FASHION SHOW  
MAY 2023**

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**SOULDROP PIG ROAST  
JULY 2023**



# MELCHBOURNE JUMBLE SALE



● Melchbourne Jumble Sale attracted large crowds, including a sizeable queue before the doors opened, on 4th March with organiser Sarah Croft being interviewed on the then BBC Three Counties Radio programme Treasure Quest.

The highlight among the various items were some stylish hats plus a large array of books.

## SATURDAY 4th MARCH



# BLETSOE SPRING BREAKFAST



●The Bletsoe Spring Breakfast always signals the start of spring. There was a good turnout for the early sittings, greeted by a fine selection on the 'continental' table. However, the highlight has to be the traditional cooked English breakfast including all the favourites along with the black pudding. Funds went towards the St Mary's Church Restoration.

**SATURDAY 11th MARCH**



# EILEEN WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL DEAN DUCK DASH AND FAYRE

Picture: *Eileen Wade Duck Dash*



The flowing waters in the Dean Brook resulted in super-fast times in the Duck Dash, organised by parents and supporters of Eileen Wade Primary School.

The Upper Dean school organised a Fayre after the Dash where there was plenty of entertainment for all the family.

There was also a clay target stall organised by Riseley-based Sporting Targets plus a penalty shoot-out competition.

Plenty of refreshments were available including some street foot stalls.

The event attracted large crowds at both the Dash race and the Fayre.



## SATURDAY 18th MARCH



# GREAT BARFORD RUN IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN MOON



*Pictures  
Renhold Village Facebook*

Members of Great Barford Running Group organised a special event in memory of local borough councillor Stephen Moon, who passed away recently.

The event was started by Stephen's daughter-in-law Katie Nageotte, the current Olympic and World Champion pole vaulter.

Stephen's wife Martine took part in the run alongside her sons Hugo and Giles while Katie also completed the route that started from the Village Hall and took in Green End Lane, Roxton Road, New Road and the High Street.

Money raised from the event is going towards a favourite charity of Stephen's

- St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger.

A close friend of Stephen's family Ally Satchwill is running the London Marathon on 23rd April for St John's Hospice.

The Great Barford Running Group meet every Sunday at the Village Hall at 10am.

## SUNDAY 9th APRIL



# GREAT BARFORD RUN IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN MOON



Picture  
*Katie Nageotte Instagram*



Picture  
*Renhold Village Facebook*

Olympic and World Champion Katie Moon competed in the recent Great Barford Run, which was organised in memory of her father-in-law Stephen Moon, who was a local borough councillor.

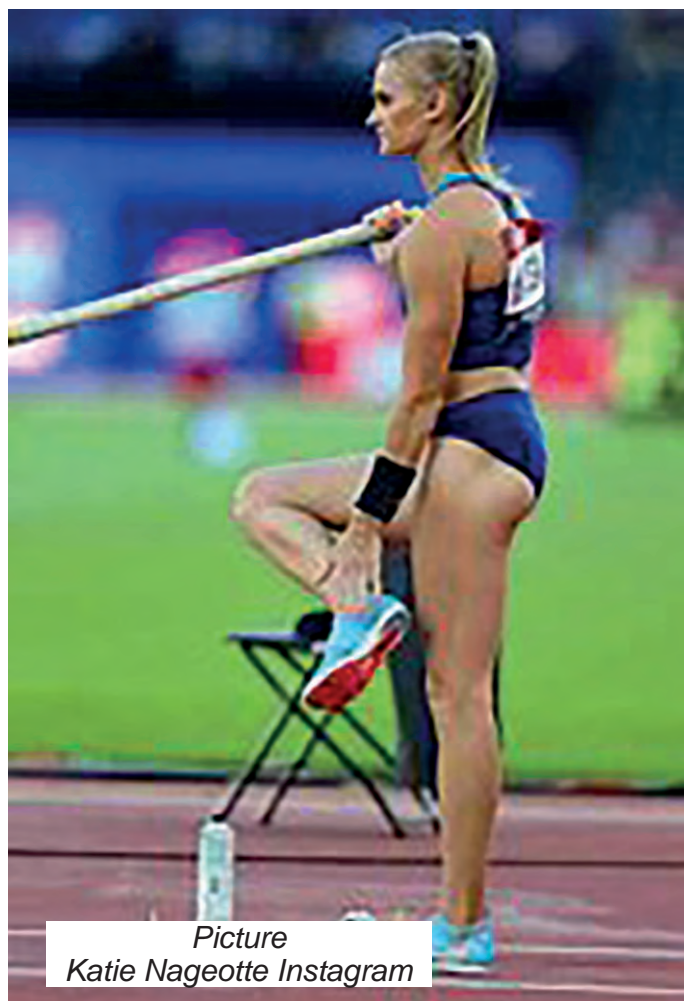
Better known in the athletics world as Katie Nageotte, she took gold for America in the 2020 Olympics, that took place in Tokyo in 2021, with a leap of 4.90 metres.

Katie followed this up with the World Championship title in 2022 in Eugene managing an impressive 4.85 metres.

This was an exciting contest as Katie's USA team-mate Sandi Morris also recorded 4.85 metres but had one failed attempt at the distance.

Last year, Katie took silver in the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade with 4.75 metres finishing behind her American rival Morris.

At the end of last year, Katie married Hugo Moon in a New Year's Eve celebration in Ohio to become, without doubt, Great Barford's most famous athlete.



Picture  
*Katie Nageotte Instagram*

## SUNDAY 9th APRIL



# BLETSOE SPRING CONCERT



A sell-out crowd attended the Bletsoe Spring Concert on Sunday 16th April featuring a wide range of music including Miller, Ellington, Basie, Jobin, Jazz and Benny Hill's famous tune.

**Those taking part were:** David Jones (Clarinet, Sax, Vocals); Tom Donaldson (Pianist); Nick Cullum (Base/Ukele); Andy Gronkowski (Drummer); Don Alison (Guitar/Banjo); Mark Whiteway (Vocals/Trumpets); Alex Brodie (Trombone/Flute); Nicole Hassall (Clarinet/Sax/Vocals); Lynne Bufton (Clarinet/Sax); Ian Bufton (Clarinet/Sax); Clive Reeves (Trombone); Gareth Statham (Trumpet); Julie Knowles (Trumpet).

"It was a tremendous afternoon," said organiser David Jones. "We raised money for the Village Hall and for a local charity."

## SUNDAY 16th APRIL



# BLETSOE SPRING CONCERT



More pictures from the Bletsoe Spring Concert, which took place in front of a large audience.

**SUNDAY 16th APRIL**



# HARROLD PIT RUN



The Harrold Pit Run started on the Green and proceeded into the Country Park.

It is not the easiest of races as the athletes have to contend with a variety of surfaces with tarmac at the start, grass and muddy tracks.

However, it is a picturesque event with great rural views.

PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

**SATURDAY 22nd APRIL**



# HARROLD PIT RUN



The organisers of the Harrold Pit Run will have been delighted with the turnout.

Close to 200 runners started the race on Harrold Green and were directed around the winding course by a band of hardy volunteers who acted as marshalls around the scenic 5km route.

PICTURES: GRAHAM WHITE

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL



# HARROLD PIT RUN



**SATURDAY 22ND APRIL**



# HARROLD PIT RUN



Due to a technical error, the results of the Harrold Pit Run on 22nd April will be released a few days after the event.

The standard at the front-end was impressive and the first three home are pictured on this page.

There were large gaps between the trio but it was competitive in the early stages of the 5km race.

Large numbers took part in the senior race taking advantage of the pleasant, sunny conditions.

Before the main event, there were races for youngsters over various age groups.



## SATURDAY 22ND APRIL



# HARROLD PIT RUN



**SATURDAY 22nd APRIL**



# HARROLD PIT RUN



PICTURE  
:HARROLD PIT RUN FACEBOOK



The Harrold Pit Run was the highlight on 22nd April but there was plenty of entertainment on The Green including a bake-off, stalls and a St George.



SATURDAY 22nd APRIL



# STEVINGTON 12KM ROAD RACE



The Stevington 12km, on 7th May was won by Ian Halpin, wearing 74 in the picture above, in a time of 43 minutes 42 seconds on an undulating course that took in Oakley and Pavenham.

Olney runner Chris Ling (101) was second in 44:47 but kept the winner company through Oakley.

Ellie Davies, pictured right was first lady in 50:54.



## SUNDAY 7th MAY



# STEVINGTON 12KM ROAD RACE



● A course maximum of 200 runners took part in the Stevington 12km on 7th May. Several competitors decorated themselves in recognition of the Coronation of King Charles III. Simon Place (134), from Olney, even ran wearing a crown and came home in 67 minutes 35 seconds.

## SUNDAY 7th MAY



# THURLEIGH DOG SHOW



The inaugural Thurleigh Dog Show was a great success with plenty of entries for both the traditional and fun classes.

The weather proved to be kind for the event held on the Playing Fields on Keysoe

Road where there was an early start on 30th April for the traditional classes.

The fun showing took place during the afternoon where there was a wide range of dogs on display.

In addition to the main attraction, there were fun rides and stalls while the Thurleigh Club bar was open for most of the day.

Many left hoping there will be another Dog Show next year.

## SUNDAY 30th APRIL



# PLANT SALE AT PAVENHAM



Nursery owners from across the region flocked to Pavenham on 13th May to showcase their fledgling flowers.

Keen gardeners in the area

took the opportunity to purchase the outstanding plants.

There were so many plants on offer it was difficult to make a choice.

The highlights were those already in bloom along with the clematis.

The event was organised to raise money for the bells at St. Peter's Church.

## SATURDAY 13th MAY



# RISELEY PLANT SALE



A bright and warm morning on 20th May ensured keen growers flocked to the Riseley Gardening Club's Plant Sale that was held in the High Street.

The organisers ensured there was a wide range of plants on sale.

This included the flowering type along with the perennials.

However, there was an excellent range of vegetable plants, including tomatoes and peppers along with several herbs.

Buyers were given the chance to make a donation for their purchases with proceeds going to Emmaus at Carlton.



## SATURDAY 20th MAY



# THE OAKLEY DOG SHOW



The Oakley Terrier and Lurcher Show between Knotting and Melchbourne attracted a large crowd of canine enthusiasts.

The event included qualifying

classes for the Countryman's Weekly Champion of Champions Final, the Derbyshire Lurchers and Longdogs Championships and the Cock of the North.

The afternoon also included a Family Dog Show.

The event main sponsors were GMJ Leather and Gladwells Pet and Country Store, Rushden.

## SATURDAY 20th MAY



# BLETSOE COUNTRY FETE



The Bletsoe Country Fete was a fantastic event on 17th June with many highlights including a fly-past, the return of Mike Gibbons and welly-wanging. But the lasting memory was the egg-and-spoon race with a dog in tow.

The dog show was a centre piece of the Fete with plenty of entrants but there was also a fine display of vintage cars, a clothing stall, a tombola plus some fine food outlets.

The heroes of the day, without doubt, were the two gate men. Without them no money.....!



## SATURDAY 17th JUNE



# BLETSOE COUNTRY FETE



**SATURDAY 17th JUNE**



# BLETSOE COUNTRY FETE



**SATURDAY 17th JUNE**



# BLETSOE COUNTRY FETE



**SATURDAY 17th JUNE**



# BOLNJURST VINTAGE & COUNTRY FAYRE



A fine array of traditional vehicles were on display at the Bolnhurst Vintage & Country Fayre on the weekend of 17th and 18th June.

Plenty of entertainment took place in the main ring including an obstacle course for tractors and a number of steam vehicles.

The Oakley Hounds, Pacesetters German Shepherd Display Team and the Waldburg Shire Horses also starred in the arena.

At the end of the weekend, children had the opportunity to take part in 'Musical Chairs' in front of the sizeable crowd.

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17th/18th JUNE**



# BOLNJURST VINTAGE & COUNTRY FAYRE



**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17th/18th JUNE**



# BOLNJURST VINTAGE & COUNTRY FAYRE



SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17th/18th JUNE



# BOLNJURST VINTAGE & COUNTRY FAYRE



**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17th/18th JUNE**



# COLWORTH RUNNING FESTIVAL



Before Covid-19, the Colworth Running Festival was a very popular occasion.

So it is pleasing that the event is beginning to regain its popularity.

There was a pleasant atmosphere on the opening evening on 23rd June.

This was dubbed as the 'Family Day' and included a five-mile run.

The second day, 24th June, featured a trail



run and the event reached its climax with a gruelling half marathon.

Several runners took advantage of the Colworth Science Park grounds to camp so there was a mini-Glastonbury feel especially with the vibrant band on the first evening.

## FRIDAY 23rd JUNE



# MILTON ERNEST FETE



This may be one of the smaller fetes in north Bedfordshire but there was a lovely atmosphere.

Plenty of stalls were scattered around the sports field of Milton Ernest Primary School.

Although it was a hot afternoon on 24th June, there was a steady flow of people attending Milton Ernest Fete.

During the afternoon, cups were handed out while for the youngsters, a football competition was staged.

Of the stalls, a particular favourite was the stocks with a steady of children keen to be the victims.

As can be seen from the photos taken, a notable dignitary attending the Fete was Riseley Ward, which

now includes Milton Ernest, Councillor Martin Towler.

On the top left picture, Cllr Towler can be seen with an ice cream.

And he is pictured on the front cover of this magazine while chatting to, maybe, a local constituent.

All in all it was an enjoyable afternoon at Milton Ernest.

## SATURDAY 24th JUNE



# YELDEN STRAWBERRY FAYRE



**There is more to the Yelden Strawberry Fayre than strawberries and cream.**

**However, the popular red fruit did take centre stage in the village hall although the oysters and champagne may have tempted some palates.**

**On a steamy, hot afternoon on 25th June, the crowds flocked to the village, particularly to Spring Lane, making it one of the most popular summer events in the North Bedfordshire Wolds.**

**The magic of this Fayre is that there is so much to offer all the family including the Punch & Judy Show, finding a nail in a bale of straw, tombola, a marquee full of stalls plus the Art Show.**

**Funds raised go towards the St. Mary's Church Restoration Fund.**



## SUNDAY 25th JUNE



# YELDEN STRAWBERRY FAYRE



SUNDAY 25th JUNE



# YELDEN STRAWBERRY FAYRE



**SUNDAY 25th JUNE**



# YELDEN STRAWBERRY FAYRE



**SUNDAY 25th JUNE**



# NEWTON BROMSWOLD FETE



● The crowds again flocked to the Main Street in Newton Bromswold for the annual event. Plenty of entertainment was on offer including the ladder competition and the coconut shy, which were popular with the youngsters.

## SATURDAY 1st JULY



# NEWTON BROMSWOLD FETE



**SATURDAY 1st JULY**



# KEYSOE CHURCH FETE



● Plenty of fun games were available at the Keysoe Fete including 'Spin The Wheel'. There was also the popular card game - 'Higher and Lower'. Other stalls had some bargain items on offer. The event was in aid of the local St Mary's Church, which during the summer months holds the famous walking event in May and a number of cream tea occasions.

**SATURDAY 1st JULY**



# THE FAMOUS KEYSOE HOG ROAST



● The highlight of the Keysoe Fete is the Hog Roast. And as always it was very popular with some quality meats. The salads were superbly prepared. And after the main course, the desserts were to 'die for'. The lemon cheesecake, made from a secret recipe, was a delight. The strawberries and meringue were also very tasty. However, the local vicar Tim Wilson was keen to have the pecan pie. However, there was a celebrity in attendance with Bedford Borough Mayor Tom Wootton pictured above, getting his evening meal. Everyone was appreciative for those who helped to put on this excellent event.

**SATURDAY 1st JULY**



# KIDCHELLA RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE



**I did not like the Kidchella Renhold Primary School Fete - I loved it!**

**And there were even bigger characters than Simon Cowell - for example the lady on the stilts, the guys at the BBQ and the enthusiastic clapper in the crowd.**

**Also we should not forget those with the colourful red hair.**

**Some big questions have arisen from the event particularly 'who won the barrow full of drink'.**

**Some special mentions to Arthur the Scout who had the difficult task of looking for the organiser for me - what a polite young lad! Also the cheerful car park attendant.**

**SATURDAY 1st JULY**



# KIDCHELLA RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE



**SATURDAY 1st JULY**



# LITTLE STAUGHTON OPEN GARDENS



**GARDEN 2**



● The Little Staughton Open Gardens was held on Sunday 2nd July and proved to be very popular. The Number 2 garden was considered by one rival as being in the Premier League. All of them were of a very high standard. And Garden 1 provided musical entertainment.

**SUNDAY 2nd JULY**



# LITTLE STAUGHTON OPEN GARDENS



**GARDEN 1**



**GARDEN 3**

**SUNDAY 2nd JULY**



# LITTLE STAUGHTON OPEN GARDENS



**GARDEN 4**



**GARDEN 5**



**GARDEN 6**

**SUNDAY 2nd JULY**



# LITTLE STAUGHTON OPEN GARDENS



**GARDEN 7**



**GARDEN 8**



**GARDEN 9**



**SUNDAY 2nd JULY**



# NEWTON BROMSWOLD BARN DANCE



The Newton Bromswold Barn Dance is a popular annual event and was again well attended on 8th July.

Organised by the Friends of St Peter's Church, it was held in a barn on the outskirts of the village.

The callers were the experienced Bedfordshire/Northamptonshire band Kelly's Eye. They had the

confidence there were enough couples on the dance floor to perform all the numbers.

Plenty of barn dance favourites were performed along with an Irish favourite.

As expected, confusion reigned and as one dancer predicted before one sequence: 'There was carnage'. The most important fact about the evening was

that everyone had fun.

At the interval, an excellent ploughman's lunch was served.

For a small village, it is amazing how they can organise quality events.

The barn dance comes a week after the brilliant Newton Bromswold Fete.

## SATURDAY 8th JULY



# OAKLEY MINIATURE STEAM ENGINES



The Oakley Sports and Social Club held a Miniature Steam Engine Rally on Saturday 15th July.

A wide range of miniature engines were on show during the afternoon.

And some were able to provide rides through the car-park.

Musical entertainment was also on hand for the sizeable audience,

## SATURDAY 15th JULY



# MELCHBOURNE FEAST DAY



The Melchbourne Feast Day had to contend with the occasional gust of wind leading to the tumbling of the clothes stand.

The gentleman in the top left picture did an admirable job in rescuing the dresses.

Another highlight of the day was the dog show while there was an impressive display of hot food on sale including the best fare from Ukraine plus a variety of other stalls.

The Ouse Valley Band provided the musical entertainment.

## SUNDAY 9th JULY



# MELCHBOURNE FEAST DAY



**SUNDAY 9th JULY**



# RENHOLD PARTY IN THE PARK



Although some may have thought it was a closely-kept secret - the direction signs were rather small - the Renhold Party in the Park was a serene event with the highlight being the musical entertainment.

The main attraction was Fynnius Fogg but the support acts of 'Don't Freak Out' and Toddington Brass Band were equally impressive.

The vintage vehicles were eye-catching as they stood in front of the majestic Howbury Hall.

Plenty of stalls were on offer including a BBQ while the younger generation were well catered especially with games of cricket and tennis along with the bungee-jumping.

And for the creative, there was the opportunity to do some painting and pottery.



## SATURDAY 15th JULY

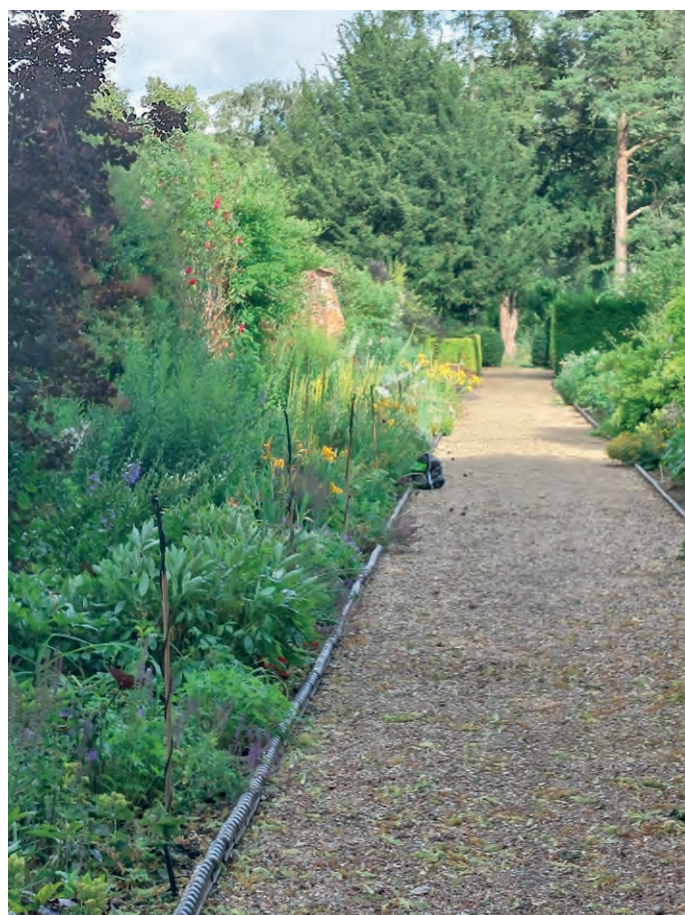


# RENHOLD PARTY IN THE PARK



● Are these gentlemen inspecting the vintage motorcycle? Or are they more interested in the gravel or even their feet?

*More coverage on Pages 57-58*



## SATURDAY 15th JULY



# KIMBOLTON CASTLE CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE



The clue is in the title. The Kimbolton Castle Rotary Club's big annual event does have an emphasis on cars especially those of the vintage type.

The main exhibition on 16th July was in front of Kimbolton Castle while other displays were dotted around the site.

A highlight of the day was the parade of the vehicles in the main ring by the Kimbolton Car Club, who also provided rides for the youngsters, and the Sporting Bears Motor Club.



## SUNDAY 16th JULY



# KIMBOLTON CASTLE CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE



There was something for everyone at the Kimbolton Classic Car Show and Country Fayre including a wide range of quality food, clothing and craft stalls.

The organisers also ensured there were spacious marquees in case of inclement or hot weather.

**SUNDAY 16th JULY**



# KIMBOLTON CASTLE CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE



Everybody appeared to have an fantastic time especially those who enjoyed the Music Stage where the acts included the Lindy Hop Dancers, The Galaxy Big Band and The Barefoot Doctors Blues.

**SUNDAY 16th JULY**



# KIMBOLTON CASTLE CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE



The Main Ring at the Kimbolton Classic Car Show and Country Fayre provided plenty of entertainment.

A particular highlight was the 'Little Nippers' show which included children from the audience.

They had to try and catch a terrier dog, which knew how to evade capture. It provided plenty of laughs until Charlie made a perfect dive to grab the small dog to earn himself an ice cream.

'The Outlaws Wild West Show' was also hilarious particularly with its comic element.

Other events that took centre stage was a hounds display, a beagles dog show while there were a couple of parades of the vintage vehicles during the day.

Other performances in the Kimbolton School grounds included the Coton Morris Dancers.



**SUNDAY 16th JULY**





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