

# TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 87  
May/June 2021

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire

[www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org)



**DOWN ON THE FARM**

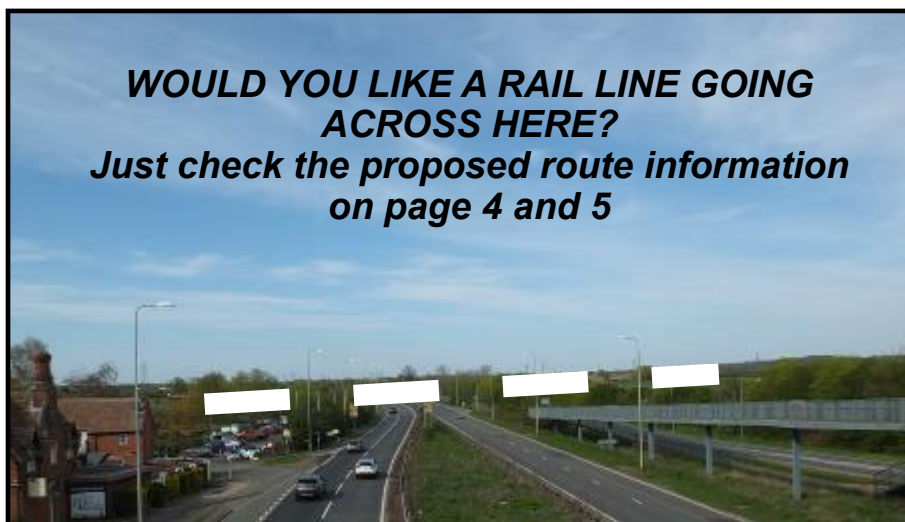
## **TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS**

| NAME          | POSITION   |
|---------------|------------|
| Adrian Besant | Chairman   |
| Simon Fraser  | V-Chairman |
| Chris Bettles | Councillor |
| Steve Cooney  | Councillor |
| Jim Donnelly  | Councillor |
| Tina Goddard  | Councillor |
| David Sutton  | Councillor |
| Linda Collins | Clerk      |

### **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE WARD COUNCILLORS**

Contact details: Adam Zerny [adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk)

Tracey Wye [traceywye@icloud.com](mailto:traceywye@icloud.com)





## EAST WEST RAIL ANNOUNCES FINAL BEDFORD-CAMBRIDGE ROUTE OPTIONS

The restoration of a rail link between Oxford and Cambridge has been on the cards for nearly 20 years and the current project has been under way since 2015 with the route selection process still not completed some six years on.

In January 2020, East West Rail (EWR) announced the completion of a process to select a final 'corridor' of routes, with 'Route E' chosen. EWR said a further consultation would need to take place later in 2020 for final options.

Two months ago, EWR issued a statement proclaiming "£760m commitment to support next phase of East West Rail." adding of this public money that "The investment means further vital construction work can begin and represents an important milestone in the East West Rail project. The funding is for part of the line between Oxford and Bletchley/Milton Keynes and means this section of East West Rail is expected to be up and running by 2025".

At the time we pointed out the section between Bedford and Cambridge which EWR had originally hoped to have up and running by 2027 had been merely referred to much later on as 'Connection Stage Three: Oxford to Cambridge' with no information on likely funding or dates.

EWR has now formally announced a public consultation on the final route options between Bedford and Cambridge. At least one of these would result in major impact for Tempsford.

It seems EWR was listening. It has now announced a new consultation which started on 31st March and runs for 10 weeks until 9th June.

The key highlights are overleaf:-

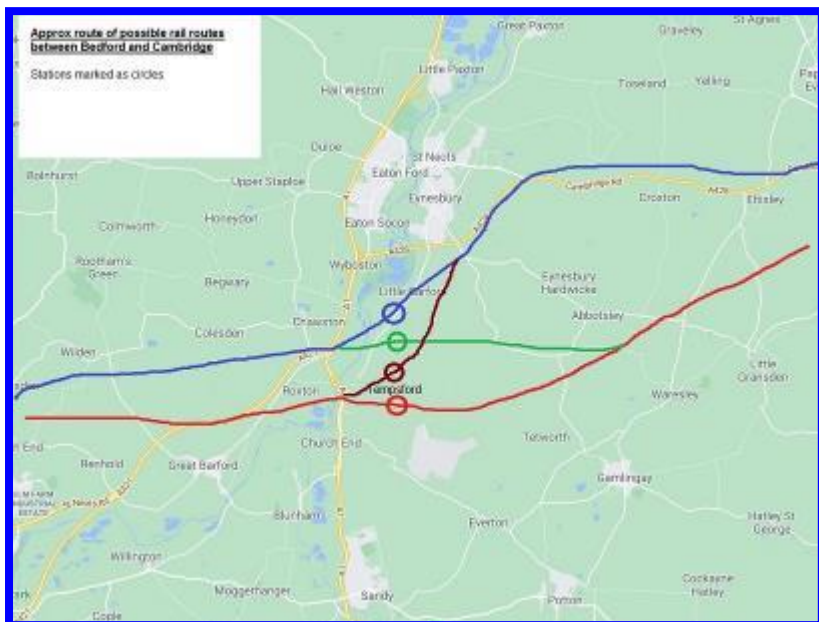
- A series of possible routes between Bedford and Cambridge all of which follow the A428 east of St Neots.
- New stations near Tempsford or St Neots in the west and Cambourne in the east.
- EWR have a preference for Cambourne North in the west but has no preference in the east for either Tempsford or St Neots South.

To comment, go to: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>

**Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye**

**Central Bedfordshire councillors for Tempsford and Potton**

**[adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk) and [traceywye@icloud.com](mailto:traceywye@icloud.com)**



## **EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION**

What's your opinion about what is planned?

Where do you think the route should be?

Where should the station be ?

Do you know how to tell East West Rail your opinions?

- **The Parish Council intends to hold Tempsford's own public meeting for residents to view maps and discuss the plans.**
- We are booking the Village Hall and/or the Methodist Chapel for Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> (i.e. after May 17<sup>th</sup> - the next step in the relaxation of Covid regulations which will allow people to meet indoors)
- Both venues are Covid secure.
- Large scale maps of the plans will be on display.
- People will need to book a 15 minute slot to attend to control numbers, be masked and remain well distanced.
- Survey feedback forms will be available for Tempsford residents to use.

**FULLER DETAILS WILL BE CIRCULATED  
AROUND THE VILLAGE SOON AS POSSIBLE**



THE  
**Wheatsheaf**  
TEMPSFORD

**THE PUB IS  
RE-OPENING  
FOR DRINKS  
IN OUR GARDEN**

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**from 16th April  
FRIDAY**

**5pm - 8.30pm**

**SATURDAY**

**11.30 - 3pm &**

**5pm - 8.30pm**

**SUNDAY 11.30 - 3pm  
and inside from 17th May**

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UNFORTUNATELY OUR RESTAURANT IS CLOSED AND WE ARE NOT SERVING ANY FOOD  
THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN REALLY HARD ON US,  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT OR WE MAY BE FORCED TO CLOSE COMPLETELY.

## **TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,**

**Station Road, Tempsford**

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

**Minister: Rev James Bamber 01480 453857**

**Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,**

**81 Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 641175**



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Rev James Bamber on 01480 453857

**The Methodist Church**



## **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements**

**Development Consent Order** application is being submitted by Highways England for this major project to proceed after all the investigative work and consultation has been completed.

A formal and final **Community Forum** meeting following the submission of the application was held on April 27th

**A planning application for an archaeological dig at Tempsford** has been approved ahead of this potential major road project. The site is agricultural grassland reached via a private road leading off Station Road. The area being investigated is where a large bridge will be built as part of the new route.

The approval allows for a site compound with 15 portable buildings and 30 parking spaces for archaeologists and site operatives throughout the excavation period. The works are anticipated to last for a period of nine months. Access to the site will be through Station Road, Tempsford and over the railway line at the level crossing.

**Tempsford Parish Council responded** to the application with a written objection, and attended the CBC's Development Management Committee meeting to pursue the matter. The Council had no objection to the work itself, in fact it would be quite interested in what is found, but questioned the chosen route for reaching the site.

It objected to the huge increase in traffic and noise on Station Road whilst the work was in progress, the danger of the roads either side of the railway line being blocked, and a lack of a plan to put the site back to its original condition. The Parish Council described the difficulty of having extra traffic travelling along Station Road. It will be the artery for the heavy traffic delivering cabins as well as everyday works traffic of 30-40 vehicles. and suggested an alternative from Everton Road going across private land. Highways England countered by saying that this would cause many more difficulties and objections. Acting agent on behalf of Highways England Chloe Evans said: "The proposal ensures suitable archaeological investigation is undertaken



and ensures items of historic interest aren't lost and are appropriately recorded for the future. It will identify and record the extent of Iron Age and Roman occupation activity in that area, as part of the infrastructure scheme for the A428 upgrade. Temporary structures will be removed to ensure the long-term character and should the A428 scheme not proceed the site will be reinstated to its current condition. the number of daily journeys will be reduced to 26."

Nearby resident Joe Lawrence described it as "a ruse", saying: "We're going to have a new railway station and a new road. "This is all premeditated to have a big market town. I'm against any of this. I don't want a massive town dumped on my doorstep. "Why don't we put nature before people?" he asked. "This won't be the new Milton Keynes for Bedfordshire on my watch."

# Sheldon

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## **ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,**

**Church Street, Tempsford**

**Priest in Charge: Rev Graham Buckle**

**The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham**

**01767 640412**

### **Notices**

St Peters Church Services in May & June 2021: please check "The Riversmeet Recorder" for service times and dates.

For Private Prayer: St Peters Church will be Open this Wednesday from 10am till 11am for private prayer.

Days and times for the rest of the Benefice:

Blunham                Wednesday and Sunday afternoons  
                              from 2pm — 4pm

Gt Barford            Tuesday and Saturday afternoons  
                              from 2pm—3pm

Roxton                Monday and Friday afternoons  
                              from 2pm—3pm

## **ST PETER'S FLOODLIGHTS**

**If you would like the flood lights put on for any occasion, the cost will be £10 per night, please contact Gloria on 01767 640050**





***TINGEY'S  
FARM -  
NEW  
SHOP***



## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

*The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Parish Council meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This was a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams. Full copies of the Minutes are available on the village website [www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org) or from The Clerk.*

Present: 6 Councillors, 1 CBC Councillor (Adam Zerny) Clerk and a member of the public.

**Apologies:** Apology received from Cllr. Bettles.

**Declarations of Interest:** None were received.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Virtual) was approved and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

**Public Session:** A member of the public wanted to talk about the amount of litter in the village having spent a couple of weekends litter picking in the village and on the link road. He asked if signs could be put on the link road, saying "Thank you for keeping Tempsford tidy or Keep Britain Tidy". The Council agreed to investigate this. The Council thanked the resident for taking the trouble to do this task. The rabbit problem at Church End playing field was being dealt with by CBC. The resident also asked if he could put signs up near the playing field from sponsors repairing and making the football pitch playable. This was agreed.

**Finance:** The Clerk presented an invoice for approval of payments, and gave an update of the bank account and reconciliation. The accounts are being prepared for internal audit.

**CBC:** Cllr. Zerny had spoke earlier in the public session and had nothing more to report. However, if his support is needed for anything, please contact him.

**Police:** The Clerk read out a report from the Co-ordinator of Speed Watch. All Speed Watch activities are currently suspended during lockdown, but there is no definite date for things to restart. Police will prioritise groups where training is yet to take place. This includes Tempsford as we need equipment training. Online training has been completed.

There seems to be more suspicious behaviour near the Millennium Garden again. Clerk to contact Community Partnership again.

**Planning: Neighbourhood Plan** – The Clerk read out a report received from the NP Committee – the plan has been written and is ready to present to all the regulation 14 statutory consultees. They are currently in the process of building a website to upload the plan, character assessment and evidence-based documentation. Once this is completed, they will direct the statutory consultees to the site to review and feedback on the plan for a 6-week period. Following this and any amendments they need to make, they will be in a position to communicate the plan to the Tempsford Community for their approval over another 6-week period. They also need to elect an external examiner to approve the plan. Other than the final referendum they should have everything ready by August.

**Archaeological Dig – West Hills Farm.** – Response from meeting with Highways England held recently and recent emails. The alternative route was investigated that was suggested by the PC, but it was not possible. They also investigated the train times etc., for the level crossing, but they could not find definite information for the level crossing opening. Councillors did not want to stop the dig but concerned about traffic in Station Road and get held up at the level crossing. PC will not withdraw opposition to application, until sufficient evidence is supplied dealing with our concerns for our parishioners.

**Highways:** Chairman reported some potholes had been filled in, and other road works are being attended to over the next few weeks.

**Turning point Station Road** – people are still parking there, thereby blocking the bus from turning which was the whole idea of having it there. Decision – to contact CBC asking for sign to be erected and to remind all houses opposite asking not to park in turning area.

**Charity Land** – the Secretary had written to Highways England concerning the possible use of this land for the A421 development but has yet has not heard from them.

**Flood Tool Kit:** The Clerk had received information regarding the tool kit and what could be included. The Council will consider what could be needed and where it could be kept. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that Moggerhanger Parish Council had contacted them wanting to form an action group concerning Anglian Water's management of flooding and sewage problems.



**Play Area: Tree Grant** - The website application form for the grant for trees was quite extensive. For the small amount we would possibly need in the Orchard at Gannock Castle area, we could consider buying them ourselves. The Grant is available until March 2022.

**Church yard** The large tree in corner of the church yard has bits falling off that are dead, - it needs to be taken down before falling down. Decision – to a get contractor to take it down (Clerk to get quotes)

**Cemetery** – Some graves have planting on them, even though they have a headstone, which is against our regulations. Owners to be contacted to flatten the earth and grass it for ease of cutting.  
**Woodfines** – Letter re cemetery land area not on Land Registry. Clerk to instruct Woodfines to inform LR that it is Parish Council land.

**Next meeting** – Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Virtual) this will be the Annual Meeting. There will be no Annual Parish Meeting in April.

*Linda Collins, Parish Council Clerk*

***IVEL SPRINTER***

IS FOR EVERYONE

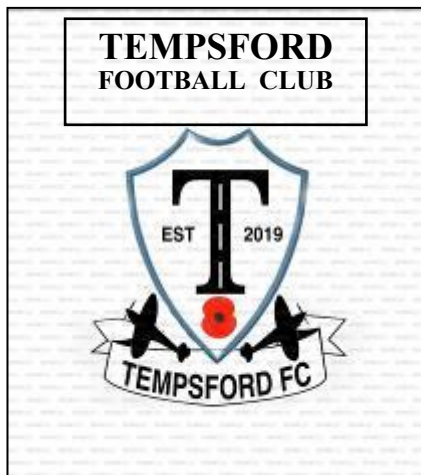
Full service resumes on May 4th

First trip to Cambridge Wednesday 5th 9am

After more than three months of being starved of any football, with the gradual easing of lockdown at the start of April, the club had the opportunity to compete for some silverware in the quarter-finals of the D-Air

Conditioning Cup. Our opposition were Kempston Rovers, and it was a fierce return to the beautiful game. After going down by a goal to nil, the team showed

fantastic resilience to get themselves back into the tie courtesy of a goal by Liam (Limlim) Watts. Some dubious refereeing followed, including a goal that was clearly over the line, and on another day we would have been celebrating another epic journey into the semi-finals. However, it was not to be, and we conceded two second half goals that ultimately knocked us out of the cup.



We followed up with two friendlies - a 0-2 loss vs M & DH Clapham, and a 1-1 draw vs Bushmemorial FC courtesy of a goal by Sjaak (Alarm Clock) Kenters. In these three games we have played since returning, the team have shown fantastic spirit and character against strong opposition, and the future is looking very bright. Such is the strong camaraderie and competition for places, we have decided that next season we will enter both a 1st team and a reserve squad to compete in the Bedfordshire and District Sunday Football League. These are very exciting times right now, and as always we encourage you to keep abreast of our progress by following us on social media (you can watch highlights on our Youtube channel), and even better by coming down to watch us play live.

*Joe Lawrence*

## **FORECASTING THE WEATHER - THE COUNTRY WAY**

Weather forecasting today is highly sophisticated. Meteorologists use computers satellites, and weather balloons amongst many other types of equipment to compile their forecasts. However although the weather-forecasters now have this down to a precise science it is still really interesting to look at old fashioned folklore as sometimes it seems to predict what will happen really well.

At this time of the year for example, we often wonder what the summer will bring. It is often said that when the blackthorn is out in late April then the weather will usually be cold, and is referred to as a blackthorn winter.



**BLACKTHORN**



**HAWTHORN ("MAY")**

Farming folk would say that we will have "no settled warm weather until the cowslips are finished". Then of course there's the "ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out." Is this referring to the end of the month of May, or to the blossoming of the hawthorn? Which do you think?

Referring to the trees coming into leaf the saying is:

"If the oak is out before the ash,  
you're liable to get a splash  
But if the ash is out before the oak,  
then you're liable to get a soak!"

Start looking now to see what the trees in Tempsford are doing and make your predictions!

Do you know these about birds? When the robin sings from the roof tops or tops of trees it's a good sign, but if he sings lower down then it will rain, and the same is true of blackbirds. Swallows seen flying high, following insects on which they feed are a sign of good weather, but remember, one swallow doesn't make a summer!

Bees are often a good indicator of weather:  
"A swarm of bees in May brings a load of hay;  
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon  
But a swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly!"

And finally concerning the time of year : "If it rains on Easter Day there will be good grass but bad hay." (meaning hay time will be wet, - a wet June) Easter was lovely and fine this year. If St Vitus Day (June 15th) be rainy weather it will rain for 30 days together.

It will be interesting to see how accurate these are this year. Do you know of any others? Happy weather watching!

*Meryl Besant*



## **STUART MEMORIAL HALL**

I looked at my Tempsford Times article for this time last year and I was reporting that the Hall had just closed down because of the Covid -19 lockdown. This year, I'm pleased to be reporting that the Hall will re-open on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, subject to the Government sticking with Step 3 of its timetable for relaxing Covid rules. Please note that certain restrictions will still be in place.

Indoor sports activities, including exercise classes are allowed but these must operate under the 'rule of six', ie. that groups of up to 6 (or two households) can exercise together. More than one group of 6 can exercise as long as the groups are socially distanced and there must be no mingling between groups. Wedding receptions, funeral wakes and christening parties can take place subject to a maximum of 30 people. The 30 does not include catering staff. Discos and dancing are still not permitted. The Hall will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised before re-opening and will be sanitised after every event. If you wish to hire the Hall between May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>, when Stage 4 of the Government timetable occurs, please contact our bookings secretary, Linda Collins ([tempsfordsmh@yahoo.com](mailto:tempsfordsmh@yahoo.com)) who will be able to provide guidance on what is and isn't allowed.

We have continued with our programme of maintenance and our new supplementary electric heaters have been installed in the Main Hall, Committee Room and Museum. These replace the old heaters which were removed last year when the Hall was redecorated. We therefore now have a backup heating system should the main oil boiler fail. The electric heating was paid for with our Community Asset Grant from Central Bedfordshire Council.

We have just received notification of a new grant of £1000 from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme. We have a queue of projects that we still want to do and the Hall Committee will decide which one is best suited to spend this money.

Although, in theory, we are allowed to hold our AGM after May 17<sup>th</sup>, we feel that people may feel uncomfortable in coming to such a gathering so soon after restrictions are lifted. It is most likely therefore



that we will set a date in July after Stage 4 of the Government's plan. As I reported last time, we hope to run a Tempsford Show on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> but we will not make a final decision on this until June and, if we go ahead, we will publish details, including the Show classes in the July edition of the Tempsford Times. Our ability to run the show will also depend on how our normal volunteers feel about helping this year.

We hope very much that, this time, the Hall will remain open permanently and will not be subject to further lockdowns. We wish to extend a warm welcome to our returning community and customers and to new people who wish to use the Hall. I'm told that bookings are going well and so, if you're planning an event, get your booking in soon.

Brian Harrison, Chairman, Hall Committee

[b.harrison46@btinternet.com](mailto:b.harrison46@btinternet.com)

[www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk)



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and much more.**



## **Weekend of Action Against Off-Road Motorbikes**

**Our Operation Meteor team, which is dedicated to targeting off-road bikes and related anti-social behaviour, carried out a weekend of action in the North Central Bedfordshire area.**

Over the weekend, the team issued seven section 59 warnings to nuisance bikers.

As the weather improves and Covid guidelines are changing, we are expecting an increase in this type of anti-social behaviour and therefore would like to ask our communities to stay vigilant.

Problems caused by nuisance motorbikes include:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Noise
- Danger to riders and other road users
- Danger to pedestrians

Damage caused to land and road furniture

If you witness this type of anti-social behaviour, please note down the following:

- Where and when it happened (time and date)
- A description of both the rider and the bike

If you know who they are or where they live

If you are affected by nuisance motorbikes you can tell us online via our [reporting form](#), via our [webchat](#) (opens in a new window) or by calling 101. Remember, always call 999

### ***Message Sent By***

Julie Allen (Police, Communications Officer, B)

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\*\*\*\*\*



Well at last we are free to mix together, albeit at a social distance, but then we are used to that by now anyway. However, it is great to see the country is at last on a road to recovery. Let's all pray that we have seen the last of the lockdowns.



Although we are moving forward, the museum will certainly not be re-opening in the next couple of months, due to the Government's staged opening programme, but I hope we will be in a position to inform you in the next edition of Tempsford Times, that we are due to open soon after.

As I have mentioned in past editions, the museum has not been totally static. We have been busy getting ready for our re-opening and you will notice a vast improvement in our main exhibition room, with more space and more to see.

Also the archive of material we hold is gradually being sorted into a state that we can eventually catalogue everything we have and make it easily locatable. Sometimes even I am shocked at some of the items I have forgotten we have, so it will be good to have it all catalogued and itemised.

Most of the photographs we hold on old Tempsford Families, has now been filed in family order and we hope to add to this over the years. We are continually being offered original photographs from various sources or copies of photographs to add to our collection. Recent additions include the families- Mardlin, Medlock, Fuller, Knight, Jackson, Ingram, Lewin and Usher. Our sincere thanks to the relatives of those families and for their trust in us to look after the sometimes original photos and artefacts in our archives and their help in establishing who people are in the pictures.

When restrictions are totally lifted, we look forward to meeting members of the George Family, who are looking forward to coming to the museum with items associated with that family. The George family were in Tempsford from the very early 1800's until recent

years and made contact some months ago.

We are also looking forward to meeting the nephew of the late Bill Simms, who farmed at Woodbury Low Farm for over 40 years. His nephew Martin has kept all his uncle's items associated with Tempsford and will deposit them with the Tempsford Museum for adding to our archives.

The Tempsford Museum and Archives like most places, has had to close its doors since March 2020 and this has obviously been a financial burden on us, just the same as everyone else. Thankfully our members of the "Friends of Tempsford Museum" have continued to help, by re-joining, even though we have been closed. We send them our sincere thanks for their support over this difficult period. Our Secretary Linda Collins has been tirelessly looking into any grants that may be available to help as well and made applications for two separate grants. Both were unsuccessful as we did not fit the criteria. However, undeterred she tried another with Central Bedfordshire Council, who thought we were worthy of support and awarded us a healthy grant to help us through this crisis period and beyond. Our sincere thanks to CBC for their support.

I end this report on a note of sadness at the recent news of the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, for many of us, he has always been there alongside our Queen and his passing is the end of an era and we remember him with a sense of thanks for all he has done for this country and for our Queen. It is a sad irony that we never really get to know how much a person has done, till after they have died. I have included a couple of photographs of other occasions royalty has visited Tempsford

*Steve Cooney –  
Chairman  
Tempsford Museum and Archives*

Prince  
Charles  
unveils the  
Tempsford  
Resistance  
Fighters'  
Memorial

Dec 2013



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth review the  
WRAF at RAF Tempsford: November 1943  
(photo courtesy of Nick James)

## **Biggleswade and Sandy Lions**

I am writing this article on 11<sup>th</sup> April and hoping, like everybody else, that the next release from lockdown doesn't cause a surge in new cases of Covid 19.

Now who and what are Lions? We are a group of men and women of all ages and backgrounds who want to make this world a happier and safer place to live. Our meetings tend to be a bit noisy with a lot of laughter BUT we are there to do a job of work so there is always a strong purpose to the meeting. Meetings do vary in length depending on what business is to hand but generally they last about an hour to an hour and a half. During that time we will have an update on what is happening locally and internationally, discuss what projects we can support and how we are going to raise the money, and social events.

Anybody who joins can expect to be involved in some way with the two main jobs of fund raising and service projects. We generally find that members find their niche in one or other of these committees. On top of that there are various other jobs such as organising social events and even Public Relations. I mentioned that people of all ages are welcome and this is very true. The main thing is that you should be reasonably active as attending fetes, helping at senior citizens meetings or helping staff a children's party can be tiring but very rewarding. When it comes to old fogies like me you get jobs like Public Relations Officer which is more sedentary but uses my 34 years of experience as a Lion (yes I am 84 but the oldest Lion I know is 102 and still going strong).

As you can imagine the past 18 months have taken their toll. Not having been able to meet or attend functions we have been unable to recruit new members and those of us who have survived are a year older. We are therefore in need of new members so that we can build on the past and plan for the future. As we come out of lockdown there are going to be lots of people needing our help. If you can spare a little time to join us in helping people back to normal please do contact us on 01462 814693 or 03458 339749. You can find a lot more information on our website [www.bslions.org.uk](http://www.bslions.org.uk). I hope that I will have the chance to meet you at some time in the near future.

John Bennewith  
Public Relations Officer  
Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club (CIO)

**TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH DATA?  
DO YOU HAVE MOBILE  
LOCKDOWN BLUES?**

Is lockdown meaning you aren't using your mobile data because you are at home using your WIFI wasting your paid for allowance?

Do you not have WIFI and need unlimited data on your mobile to reduce your bill?

We make things flexible and let you change your data allowance during lockdown, and switch when we can go out again or just want to change.

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