

The Silent Faces Of Bedford

Bedford has many impressive statues and memorials. They cannot speak for themselves, but our guides can tell you their story and why they take their place in Bedford's history. *21 April, 12 May, 23 June, 4 August, 28 August, 2 October*

Bedford in World War II

A walk that reveals the way of life in Bedford and some of the little-known facts about the role it played during World War II. Learn how Bedford became the main hub of the BBC during the war and how it also became a centre of wartime entertainment. Discover a 'secret' Bedford and the connections of the town to the code breakers at Bletchley Park. *1 May, 29 May, 14 July, 1 September, 6 October*

THE HIGGINS BEDFORD

The Higgins Bedford showcases wonderful and varied collections of fine and decorative arts and changing exhibitions drawn from the nationally-significant collection of watercolours, drawings and prints. Displays of archaeology and social history celebrate the inspiring stories of local people and encourage a sense of place for Bedford and the surrounding area. www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Bedford Borough boasts beautiful and award-winning parks and open spaces. Amongst the most popular is the riverside promenade running through the town centre, made up of the Embankment Gardens, Russell Park and Mill Meadows. Bedford Park is a Victorian gem at the end of the imposing De Parys Avenue. In addition to urban parks, there are woodlands, meadows, wetlands and grasslands providing fantastic locations for walking, learning and discovery in the great outdoors.

MARKETS

Bedford Charter Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays

Bedford Flea, Affordable Art & Local Produce Market
– Second Sunday of the month, May to November

Kempston Market – Thursdays

HOW TO BOOK

Book tickets for your chosen walk online at www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk

Tickets can also be booked by calling the Box Office on **01234 718044**, or by visiting the Box Office.

Box Office

Harpur Suite
Harpur Square
Bedford
MK40 1LE

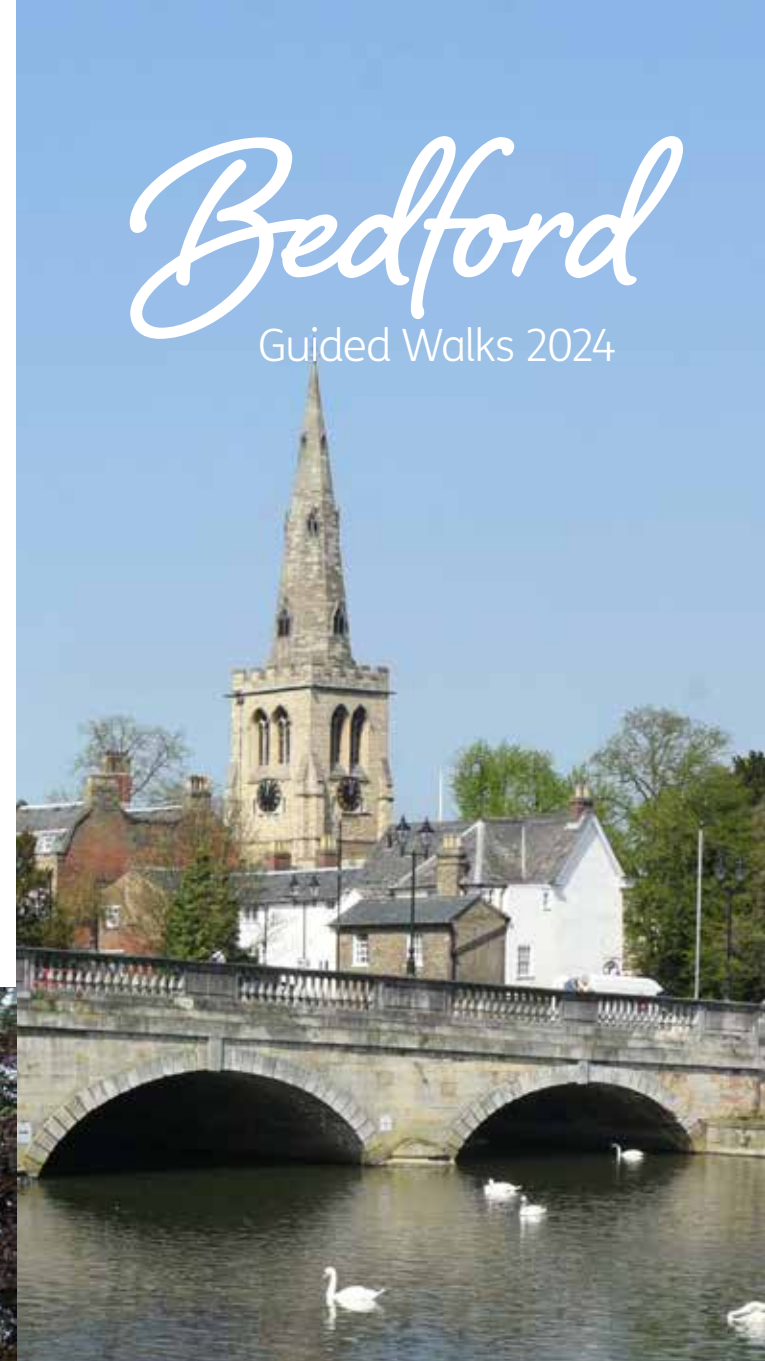
Box Office Opening Times

Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

BEDFORD ASSOCIATION OF TOUR GUIDES

Visit www.bedfordtourguides.org
to find out more about the programme
of guided walks.

Contact: info@bedfordtourguides.org



Bedford

Guided Walks 2024

Culture & Heritage
Bedford



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford

Guided Walks 2024

Why not enjoy a relaxed and entertaining journey back through the ages and find out more about the characters and buildings that are the fabric of Bedford's thousand year history. All walks are led by qualified members of the Bedford Association of Tour Guides.

WHEN: The programme starts in April and finishes in October. The walks take place each Sunday, the first and last Wednesday of each month and **two Saturdays on the May bank holiday weekends.**

WHERE: All walks, with the exception of the Bedford's Movers & Shakers walk, depart from the gold post box opposite St. Paul's church in St. Paul's Square. Please note that the **Bedford's Movers & Shakers walk departs from the top of St. Loyes Street**, opposite Bedford Prison.

DURATION: Each walk is designed to last approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours at an easy pace and should be suitable for those with limited or restricted mobility. Wheelchair users should however advise the Box Office at the time of booking so that suitable routing provisions can be made.

COST: Public walks cost £4.00 per adult and £2.00 for children over 8 years of age. **Due to their popularity however please note that pre booking is essential.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please ensure that you keep your safety in mind at all times on any of the walks. It is advisable to wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate to the weather conditions. Please note that every effort will be made to keep to the programme however the box office reserves the right to amend or cancel walks if conditions arise that are beyond their control.



GROUP WALKS

If your group, society or organisation would like a walk during the daytime, an evening or weekend, this can be arranged by contacting the Tour Guides at info@bedfordtourguides.org. Simply choose from the eight walks on offer and get in touch.

Charges

Adult £4.00

Children Over 8 years £2.00.

A minimum charge of £40.00 per group applies and a maximum group number of 18 participants is permitted for each Guide.

REGULAR WALKS FOR 2024

Bedford's Movers & Shakers

You will know of the "mugshot", but did you know it was first introduced into the criminal justice system by Robert Evan Roberts, a reforming governor of Bedford prison in Victorian times? Join us on this walk and meet Roberts and others who made a difference in Bedford and in the world: an astronomer, a polar explorer, the first woman county councillor, and discover how some of the most attractive private dwellings in Bedford came to grace this area of the town. *2 June, 7 July, 18 August, 25 September*

Tales of the Tower & Steeple

St. Paul's & St. Peter's churches have a fascinating history and many stories to tell. Join us on a brief tour of each church and discover why they have played such an important and integral part in the development and the history of the town itself. *5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September*

I Never Knew That

Bedford has a story waiting to be told. Discover some surprising facts and stories about Bedford that will hopefully leave you saying... 'Well I Never Knew That!' *5 May, 25 May, 26 June, 28 July, 11 August, 13 October*

The Life and Times Of John Bunyan

Discover the story of Bedford's most famous son, who was imprisoned for his non-conformist preaching. Visit the site of the cottage in which Bunyan and his family lived, the churches in which he worshipped and the site of the gaol in which he spent 12 long years where he began to write of one of the bestselling books in history, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. *24 April, 19 May, 16 June, 22 September, 27 October*

The Jewel in Bedford's Crown

The Jewel in Bedford's Crown is undoubtedly the River Great Ouse and its Embankment. This entertaining and informative circular walk takes you along the banks of the river, which has been described as one of the finest riverside settings in England. Learn the story of the Victorian Embankment development and enjoy a walk in the ornamental gardens. *14 April, 9 June, 30 June, 8 September, 29 September, 30 October*

The Rise and Fall Of Bedford Castle

The Norman conquest of Britain witnessed the introduction of castles to the landscape, and, in Bedford, a major castle was built in the 12th century. Walk through the old castle grounds, see the mound on which it once stood and hear the story of the castle and its demise in the siege of 1224. This year witnesses the 800th anniversary of the Great Siege of Bedford Castle in 1224. *28 April, 26 May, 31 July, 15 September, 20 October*