



The latest news from Bedford College at Old Warden Park
incorporating Shuttleworth College & The Mansion House



Issue 1 | November 2011

At home in Old Warden Park

When we took up the chance to add Shuttleworth College and its portfolio of courses to the Bedford College banner, we were warmly welcomed by The Shuttleworth Trust.



It was a major challenge, at short notice, to absorb and maintain all that was good about Shuttleworth College whilst at the same time bringing the institution bang up-to-date behind the scenes. Education has changed beyond recognition since the College was founded, and to serve its customers today it has to keep pace.

We've found some great people to work with, some headline-winning stories to share and a simply beautiful environment.

We want to maintain all of that as much as you – but it takes hard work and, quite simply, money. We hope that you will understand that the right balance of income versus expenditure, particularly where The Mansion House is concerned, is essential. And to that end we will be looking for ways to increase revenue – but not, we hope, at the expense of your enjoyment of our shared local environment.

Let us tell you about our plans – please join us at a special neighbourhood **Christmas Reception at The Mansion House starting at 2.00pm on Sunday 4 December.**

Festive refreshments including mince pies and mulled wine will be served, so if you are interested in attending please RSVP using the details below – we'd love to see you there.

You will also have a chance to tour Shuttleworth College and The Mansion House (sensible shoes suggested!)

Ian Pryce
Principal, Bedford College



Christmas Reception at The Mansion House

Join us for talks and tours on
Sunday 4 December, from 2.00pm

Please RSVP to:
Caron Hooper, Bedford College,
Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AH

Alternatively email Caron at
chooper@bedford.ac.uk or call
01234 291921

Don't be chilli – keep in touch and win free tickets!



This is the first of three newsletters a year from Bedford College at Old Warden Park – if you would like to receive future copies of the newsletter by email, please contact mruckwood@bedford.ac.uk with your name and email address.

All emails entries will be automatically eligible for a free prize draw to **win two tickets to The Mansion House Chilli Fiesta** next summer!

Free Prize Draw Terms & Conditions

Only one entry per unique email address. Closing deadline is 31st December 2011. The winner will be notified by email and the results published in the next edition of this newsletter. The prize is two tickets to The Mansion House Chilli Fiesta. The prize cannot be exchanged for any other goods or money to the same value. In the rare case that the Chilli Fiesta is cancelled, tickets to an alternative event will be provided that are equal to the face value of this event.

The latest from Shuttleworth College

Land-based learning goes from strength to strength

It's been another great start to the new academic year at Shuttleworth College. Not only are our student success rates standing at a fantastic 90% (which puts us in the top 8% in the country), but our student numbers are above target and increasing too. And with over 660 full-time students studying a diverse range of land-based courses not available elsewhere in the region, a qualification from Shuttleworth College will really help local students secure the jobs they seek.

Since becoming part of Bedford College in 2009, we have undertaken a number of significant improvement, refurbishment and expansion projects to enhance the quality of our buildings, equipment, and teaching.

The relationship between Shuttleworth College and Bedford College is really successful – Bedford College has been able to add a fantastic range of Land & Environment, Animal Science and Outdoor Education courses to its portfolio, and Shuttleworth College has received significant investment in the site and staff training, with students benefitting from improvements in the Halls of Residence, IT facilities and in all the main areas of our teaching. The end result? Students from the local community can look forward to a better land-based education than ever before – and this is our top priority.

So, what have we been up to recently? We've taken on the lease of Kingshill Farm, and licensed the buildings for use – housing our Red Poll cattle there and, in January, we'll be lambing our 200 sheep on-site.

Our Old Red Brick Barn has also undergone significant improvements, with a complete restoration providing students with a brand-new IT suite and drop-in centre, as well as office accommodation for our support staff.

We've taken on new lecturers and added more courses to our offering, allowing us to cope with increasing student numbers, particularly in Animal Management, but across a number of areas including Floristry and Agriculture.



Students tend to some of our underwater animals

But there is still work to do – our next focus is to look at improving the Farm, Animal Care Centre, Countryside and Fisheries facilities to provide our students with the best possible experience and opportunity for success. So watch this space – I hope to bring yet more news of success at Shuttleworth next time!

Mike Johnston

Executive Director,
Shuttleworth College



Bedford College at Old Warden Park – your guide to who does what...

- Bedford College is responsible for Shuttleworth College and The Mansion House in Old Warden Park. Both properties are leased from The Shuttleworth Trust, but Bedford College and its subsidiary company Bedford College Services Ltd (BCS) control each organisation respectively.
- Bedford College invests expertise and resources into Shuttleworth College, aiming to become the leading provider of land-based education in the country.
- BCS manages the commercial activities of The Mansion House, an events venue business that is separate from Shuttleworth College.
- Music events and air shows that are part of The Shuttleworth Collection are not run by Shuttleworth College or The Mansion House.

Greetings from **The Mansion House**



Meet Raj and his team as they prepare for the festive season

As the evenings begin to draw in and the temperatures fall, the summer season of outdoor events and music festivals here at The Mansion House is well and truly behind us. Now, however, we are looking forward to the excitement of the Christmas period which always brings bright celebration to those dark winter days.

This year, we have opened the doors of this wonderful property to an even wider range of guests and visitors from Old Warden and surrounding villages, Central Bedfordshire, and further afield. Keeping traditional events like the Old Warden Family Fun Day, we added great new celebrations such as the Rhythm Festival to our calendar.

At the moment, our team are busy preparing for a range of festive events and functions, all taking place in the grand mansion house, amongst the wonderful natural beauty of Old Warden Park itself – I hope to see some of you over the coming months!

Raj Mandal

General Manager,
The Mansion House

We trust that those who took advantage of our free ticket offer for neighbours of The Mansion House enjoyed the Family Fun Day, and we hope you agree that the music festival was as successful as it was well-organised.



Meet our award-winning team

Raj Mandal, General Manager – with over 30 years' experience in the hospitality industry, Raj places customer service as a top priority. As a member of The Craft Guild of Chefs and The British Culinary Federation, Raj has won many awards which reflect the quality of his outstanding work including several medals at the British Open Cookery Championships. Through his passion for supporting young people, Raj has helped to develop a range of work-based opportunities for young hospitality trainees by building close working relationships with local employers. Now at the helm of The Mansion House, Raj is excited about running such a fantastic country house events venue.

Tony Blackmore, Deputy General Manager – relocating from the north of England with his wife and young son, Tony joined us recently here at The Mansion House. With extensive experience within the hospitality sector, Tony worked for some of the UK's largest quality hotel groups including Thistles, Hilton and Holiday Inn. Top of his list is ensuring that guests experience a high level of customer service when they visit The Mansion House.

Kathy Birch, Sales & Marketing Manager – often the first point of contact for customers, Kathy's role involves bringing diverse events to the house and promoting them to the local community. Living locally in nearby Biggleswade, Kathy joined the team in 2010 following a long career with Archant Newspapers. Kathy is especially looking forward to the Medieval Mansion Experience taking place next year over the Diamond Jubilee – look out for more news soon!

Giles Hensser, Head Chef – with more than 25 years' experience, Giles recently joined The Mansion House as Head Chef in charge of student catering and event dining. After working abroad, including an award-winning stint in South Africa, Giles has developed his culinary skills in both commercial and educational establishments. In 2002 Giles returned to the UK to run hotels in Windsor and Brighton – but now he can't wait to add to The Mansion House's reputation for culinary excellence with his exceptional menus.

**Small Business of
the Year Award
Winners 2011**
Rising Stars
Bedfordshire and
Luton Business
Excellence Awards



NEWS

Ploughing to victory with The Mansion House

On Sunday 2 October 2011 just over 60 ploughmen arrived at Kingshill Farm, Old Warden Park for the Bedfordshire Young Farmers' Club 49th Annual Ploughing Match.

The competition, sponsored by The Mansion House, drew ploughmen from across East Anglia, some in modern tractors, others bringing equipment dating back to the 1930s. The event also featured ploughing displays by a pair of shire horses belonging to Paul Walsh, a tenant on the Shuttleworth Estate, alongside a Corn and Root Show in the grain store, with samples of grain and every type of vegetable and root crop you could imagine.



Photo credit: Martin Hodgson

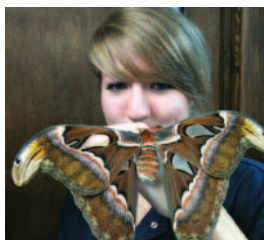
The vintage engines were particularly fitting, as the area has a long history of ploughing by tractor – the very field in which the competition took place witnessed the public demonstration of the Biggleswade-built Ivel tractor way back in 1903.

Many of the Young Farmers competing were current or past Shuttleworth College students who enjoyed coming to Shuttleworth for a Young Farmers event, helping to keep this fantastic tradition alive.

Monster moths at Shuttleworth

Shuttleworth College saw the hatching of several Giant Atlas Moths this September. Their incredible 32cm wingspan is one of the largest in the world.

Students now have the unique opportunity to study the Giant Atlas, which hails from Southeast Asia at Shuttleworth College's Animal Centre, which is home to just about every family of species in the world, with a range of habitats including a topical rainforest setting (complete with soundtrack!)



Shuttleworth College welcomes African students

This year eight students from sub-Saharan Africa attended the Agriculture Short Course at Shuttleworth College.

Learning vocational skills in animal and crop husbandry, machinery operations, IT and small scale business management (in partnership with the Marshal Papworth Trust), the students all gained BTEC National Certificates in Agriculture at this year's East of England Agricultural Society Show before returning to their own countries.

Several of the students have kept in touch with the College to say how much they benefited from their studies in the UK (the first time out of their home country for the majority of them) and that they have been able to use their experiences in the UK to further develop their own careers and also to pass on their knowledge to friends and colleagues.



Following the success of the course, it has been agreed to continue the partnership with the Marshal Papworth Trust and to develop a further 10-week short course between 30 April and 9 July 2012.

Upcoming events at Old Warden Park...

EVENTS

Christmas Party Night

This festive celebration combines a delicious sit-down meal, followed by live music and a disco.

When: 9 December 7.00pm-Midnight
Where: Kenneth Russell Function Hall
Price: Adult £45.00
To book: Call 01767 626200



Christmas Party Michael Buble Tribute Night

Featuring a three-course hot fork buffet, live music from our tribute artist and a disco, you're guaranteed a great night and fun atmosphere for all to enjoy.

When: 16 December 7.00pm-Midnight
Where: Kenneth Russell Function Hall
Price: Adult £32.50
To book: Call 01767 626200

January Wedding Fair

A must for everyone planning their nuptials, the Winter Wedding Fair at The Mansion House will provide you with everything you need for that perfect wedding day.

When: 20 January 11.00am-4.00pm
Where: The Mansion House
Price: Free Entry
More information: Call 01767 626200

Shuttleworth College Open Day

Come along to find out about our wide range of animal care, land-based and outdoor education courses and take a tour of the campus and facilities.

When: 21 January 9.30am-12.30pm
Where: Shuttleworth College
Price: Free Entry
More information: Call 01767 626222

Model Swap-meet

If you're an aeromodelling enthusiast then this is the show for you, with everything from radio control kits and accessories to modern and vintage engines.

When: 12 February from 10.00am
Where: Kenneth Russell Function Hall
Price: Adult £5
To book: Call 01767 626200

The 1st Bedfordshire Classic Rally & Auto-jumble

The classic motors make a welcome return to Old Warden – a guaranteed great day out for all enthusiasts!

When: 20 May 10.00am-5.00pm
Where: The Mansion House
Price: Adult £8.00 Child £4.00
To book: Call 01767 626200

