

# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

## Markets

- ▶ Charter Market – Wednesday and Saturday
- ▶ Gourmet Market – Thursdays
- ▶ Home and Garden Market – Fridays
- ▶ Farmers' Market – Second and Fourth Thursday each month
- ▶ Handmade in Bedford Market – Second Saturday of April to December (excluding July)

## Events

- ▶ Bedford High Street Showcase – 2nd June
- ▶ International Kite Festival – Sat 9th & Sun 10th June – Russell Park
- ▶ Bedford River Festival – Sat 14th & Sun 15th July - The Embankment, Russell Park & St. Mary's Gardens
- ▶ Christmas Light Switch On – Thurs 22nd November

## Parks and Open Spaces

Bedford Park is of a beautiful Victorian design with mature trees and two children's playgrounds, one at each end. Other facilities include the Pavilion at the Park Cafe, tennis courts, basketball court and cricket pitch.

The Embankment is one of the most beautiful places in the centre of town. The recently restored Victorian bandstand is a stunning landmark in the middle of a tree lined riverbank walk. The bridges and the ornamental gardens make this part of town an area not to be missed.

Russell Park near the embankment offers a putting green, tennis courts and a children's play area. There is also the Kiosk at the Park Cafe nearby.

Priory Country Park and Marina is a great place for picnics kite flying and leisurely walks. Watch the sailing, windsurfing and canoeing on the main lake or the purpose built slalom course.

## Leisure

Bedford International Athletic Stadium 8 Lane International track with full athletic facilities **Tel 01234 351115**

Oasis Beach Pool Indoor tropical beach pool with two wild water flumes, wave pool, lazy river float ride, beach area, mushroom fountain and more, **Tel 01234 272100**

Robinson Pool Indoor pool with diving boards and children's pool. **Bedford Park, Tel 01234 357157**



## THE BEDFORD CORN EXCHANGE

**The Box Office**  
**Harpur Suite**  
**Harpur Square**  
**Bedford**  
**MK40 1LE**  
**Tel: 01234 718044**  
**Email: [cornexchange@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:cornexchange@bedford.gov.uk)**

**Box Office Hours – For hall hire and ticketing enquires**  
**Monday to Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm**  
**Saturday: 10.00am – 1.00pm**

- Tickets for in house shows held at Bedford Corn Exchange, including concerts, classical, comedy, pantomime and various productions
- Tickets for external shows such as Proms in the Park
- Residency to Philharmonia Orchestra



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



**BedfordBID**  
Business Improvement District  
Funded by Town Centre Businesses

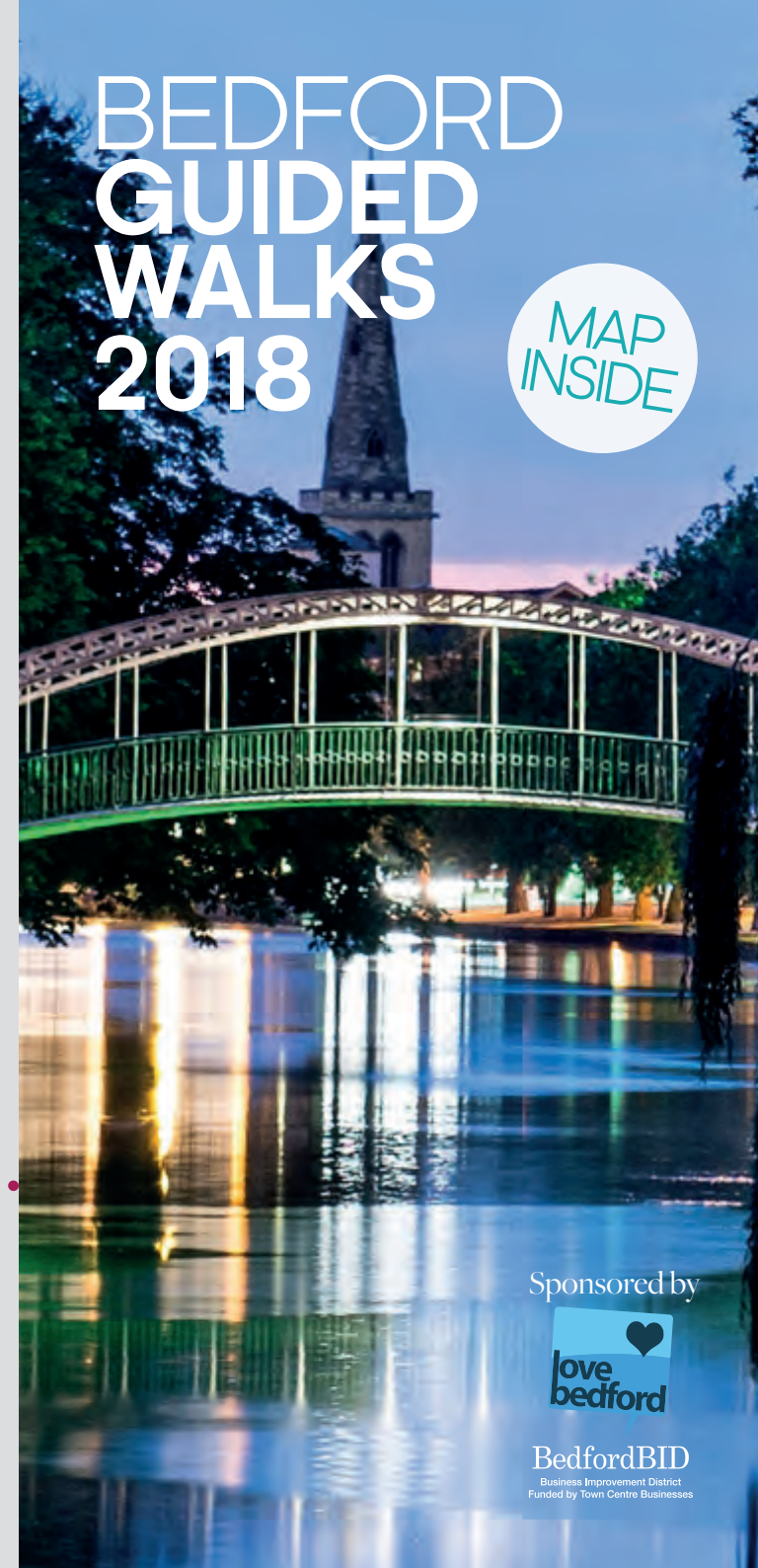
Bedford Business Improvement District (BedfordBID) is an independent business-led partnership. Love Bedford is the brand name of the BedfordBID comprising of over 550 levy paying premises in Bedford Town Centre who together are working to welcome customers, investors and tourists to Bedford.

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Front Cover Photograph, The Embankment, by Noel Lees  
[www.noel.photography](http://www.noel.photography)

# BEDFORD GUIDED WALKS 2018

MAP INSIDE



Sponsored by



**BedfordBID**  
Business Improvement District  
Funded by Town Centre Businesses

# BEDFORD GUIDED WALKS 2018.



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 summer walks take place on Sundays at 11:00a.m.

**WHERE** Walks start from outside the Old Town Hall in St. Paul's Square, Bedford close to the gold painted letter box. However the walk entitled "The Silent Faces of Bedford" starts at the War Memorial on the Embankment opposite Rothsay Road.

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

**COST** Public walk charge is £3.00 per adult and children over 8 years of age £1.50. **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 refers the right to amend or cancel walks if conditions arise and that are beyond their control



Call  
01234 718044  
to book

## REGULAR SUNDAY WALKS FOR 2018

### Who Lived In A House Like That?

Ever walked past an interesting house and wondered about its past ? Hear about some of our oldest houses and the fascinating characters who designed them and families whose homes they were.

**27th May, 24th June, 19th August**

### I Never Knew That.

Bedford has a story waiting to be told around every corner. This walk will give you answers to all those questions about the town, but did not know who to ask.

**6th May, 1st July, 2nd September**

### The Life And Times Of John Bunyan.

Follow in the footsteps of the 'Immortal Tinker' and author of "The Pilgrims Progress" to various town sites connected with his life and his works.

**13th May, 22nd July, 23rd September**

### The Jewel In Bedford's Crown.

This entertaining and informative circular walk along the banks of the River Great Ouse, described as being one of the finest riverside settings in England, takes in the Victorian Embankment, the bridges and the ornamental gardens.

**17th June, 12th August, 30th September**

### The Rise And Fall Of Bedford Castle.

A Royal Charter, a not so 'civil' war and a castle removed stone by stone. View the castle mound and the site where Bedford's motte and bailey castle once stood and hear why it is no more!

**3rd June, 29th July, 9th September**



### The Silent Faces Of Bedford.

Why not find out more about the many statues and memorials that can be seen in the town centre. The figures may not be able to speak but our Guides can tell you their full story.

**10th June, 8th July, 26th August**

### Bedford In World War II.

Hear about Bedford's wartime secrets, many of them only recently revealed. The town was far more than simply a 'liberty town' for off duty servicemen, it was once the home of one of the most important of our national institutions.

**20th May, 5th August, 16th September**



## GROUP WALKS

If your group, society or organisation would like a walk during the daytime, an evening or weekend, this can be arranged through the Box Office. Simply choose from the seven walk titles on offer and get in touch.

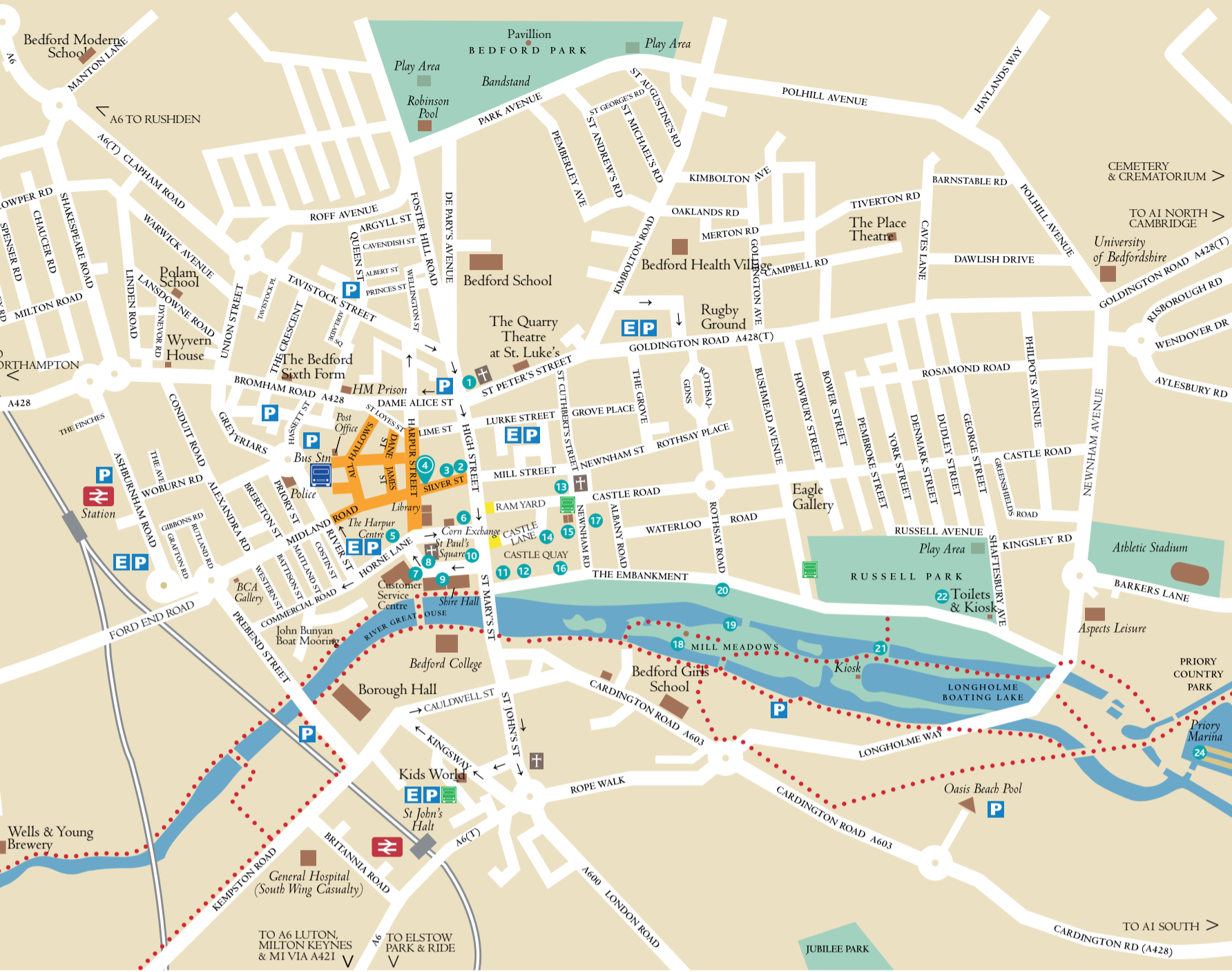
### Charges

Adult £3.00

Children Over 8 years £1.50.

A minimum charge of £30.00 per Group applies and a maximum group number of 18 participants is permitted for each Guide.

# BEDFORD TOWN MAP



## Key

- 1 John Bunyan Statue
- 2 Reflections of Bedford
- 3 Archbishop Trevor Huddleston
- 4 Harpur Suite (**BOX OFFICE**)
- 5 Harpur Centre
- 6 Corn Exchange
- 7 Old Town Hall (Bedford Register Office)
- 8 St Paul's Church
- 9 Bedford Magistrates Court & County Court
- 10 John Howard Statue
- 11 War Memorial (South African War)
- 12 Swan Hotel
- 13 John Bunyan Museum
- 14 Castle Quay & Medieval Lime Kiln
- 15 The Higgins Bedford
- 16 Castle Mound
- 17 Panacea Museum
- 18 Bandstand
- 19 Suspension Bridge
- 20 Bedford War Memorial
- 21 Butterfly Bridge
- 22 Kiosk, Putting Green & Toilets

- Pedestrianised street
- Pedestrianised shopping area
- Local facilities
- P Parking
- EP Evening parking available
- P Coach parking
- Coach bay
- ⋯ Cycle/foot path (Traffic free)
- One way road

Toilets are located in the Harpur Centre, Allhallows, Lurke Street and Mayes Yard (off St Paul's Square by the Corn Exchange)



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## BEDFORD SELF GUIDED TRAIL

Follow the numbers from 1 to 17 on the map, please allow 90 minutes to complete.

### 1 John Bunyan Statue

For long periods between 1660 and 1676 John Bunyan was imprisoned for his beliefs. Published in 1678, "The Pilgrim's Progress" is reputed to have been translated into over 200 languages. Statue by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, said to be Queen Victoria's favourite sculptor.

### 2 Reflections of Bedford

The faces are the work of artist Rick Kirby who has named the piece 'Reflections of Bedford'. The design work has been influenced by references to Bedford and, in particular the history of lace and brick making locally as well as recognising Silver Street as the suggested historical site of a 'Mint' in the 10th and 11th centuries. At night, the sculpture dramatically changes through the use of colour spot lighting with lights set in the ground, up-lighting the pieces.

### 3 Archbishop Trevor Huddleston

Bedford born Trevor Huddleston was recognised for his work against apartheid in South Africa. The bust was unveiled by the Bishop of St Albans in 1999 and was re-dedicated by Nelson Mandela, ex-premier of South Africa when he visited Bedford in April 2000.

### 4 Harpur Suite (1834)

Bedford grew and needed social and meeting places and this was built as the Assembly Rooms, and part of it used as a subscription library. It has an elegant interior and still serves Bedford as a function room.

### 5 Harpur Centre

The façade (1833) by Edward Blore (architect) formerly housed the Harpur Trust School for Boys and which became Bedford Modern School. Reconstructed in 1976 to accommodate the shopping centre. (Edward Blore designed the balcony frontage to Buckingham Palace).

### 6 Corn Exchange (1874)

Built and opened as a Corn Market, it was used regularly by the BBC during World War II for Symphony Concerts and 1944 Proms. Also in 1944, Glenn Miller gave his first UK broadcast from here. A bust of Glenn Miller can be seen on the front of the building.

### 7 Old Town Hall (Bedford Register Office)

One of the oldest public buildings in Bedford dating back to c1550, it was originally the home of the Grammar School and became the Town Hall in 1891. Sir William Harpur (1497-1574), born in Bedford, rose to be Lord Mayor of London, and as a wealthy man, provided an endowment to support education in Bedford. The present 18th century facade includes a statue of him, dressed as though he was an alderman of this later period.

### 8 St Paul's Church

The present church is thought to be the fifth one on the site. Although started after the siege of Bedford of 1224, much of it is Fifteenth Century and Victorian. John Bunyan and John Wesley preached here. The BBC's daily religious service during the Second World War was broadcast from the Trinity Chapel. St Paul's is open from 10-4 daily.

### 9 Magistrates Court formerly Shire Hall (1879/81)

Built by architect Alfred Waterhouse, best known for his Natural History Museum, London and Manchester Town Hall. This building was the home of the Assizes. Many people were tried here including the murderer James Hanratty.

### 10 John Howard (1726-90) Statue

Known for his work on prison reform, John Howard travelled throughout Europe. He died in Ukraine from typhoid and there is a monument in Kherson, Ukraine to honour him. Note the good cherubs coming out of the mouths of the devils on the corners of the base of the statue. (The statue is by Sir Alfred Gilbert, the sculptor of Eros in London)

### 11 South African War Memorial

This memorial is to honour the men of Bedford who fought in the South African campaign also known as the 2nd Boer War, many of whom perished in the Transvaal.

### 12 Swan Hotel (1797)

The present building was constructed as a coaching inn for the Duke of Bedford. It contains the staircase from Houghton House (now derelict), reputedly the inspiration for "House Beautiful" in John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress".

### 13 Bunyan Meeting and John Bunyan Museum

John Bunyan (1628-88) rose from humble origins to become one of the world's most widely read authors. The present church (c1849) stands on the site of a barn purchased by Bunyan and his followers which was used as a place of worship. Visitors should particularly see the famous Bronze Doors. Bunyan is buried in the dissenter's grave yard in Bunhill Fields, City Road, London.

### 14 Medieval Lime Kiln

Peer through the window on the Castle Lane development opposite the Museum entrance to learn about the use of the Lime Kiln.

### 15 The Higgins Bedford

The Higgins Bedford is housed in the historic buildings of Castle Brewery and the Higgins family home. The art gallery and museum celebrates the inspiring stories of local people, encourages a sense of place for Bedford and the surrounding area, and showcases outstanding and varied collections. These collections inspire a busy programme of temporary exhibitions as well as our active learning and events programmes.

### 16 Castle Mound and Gardens

Follow the trail of the siege of Bedford Castle around the Castle Mound and discover the foundations of the Great Hall. From the viewing platform enjoy a commanding view of the River Great Ouse.

### 17 Panacea Museum

The museum tells the story of the Panacea Society, a remarkable religious community that existed in Bedford for almost a century.

### Walking along the River Great Ouse

You can enjoy walking further along the River Great Ouse by following the footpath along the river, from the town centre you can head east towards Willington or west towards Kempston and Bromham.