

● **What's On**

Blooming great!

OPEN GARDENS

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Castletorpe's bi-annual Open Gardens event returns this weekend, presenting visitors with a spectacular array of colour and diversity.

The character and historic charm of the village, fused with the stunning gardens is the perfect way to while away a couple of hours.

And flowers and greenery aside, you can take a pleasurable stroll through the village and follow the rather brilliant Scarecrow Trail too.

Refreshments will be served at the village hall, and makes for a moreish menu!

If the sun shines, it'll be divine, and if it doesn't?

Well, you can still have a good time.

The Open Gardens event will run between 11am and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets can be purchased from the village hall, car park or the gardens themselves. Cost: £5 for adults, £2 for children over five years, or take a family ticket for £12.

> Appreciate the beauty of classical music on Saturday at The Church of Christ the Cornerstone with an excit-



WHO CULTIVATES A GARDEN LIKE THIS?: Find out at this weekend's Castletorpe Open Gardens event

ing concert by Milton Keynes Sinfonia.

Performing at their usual venue from 7.45pm, the musicians will play pieces from celebrated composers Debussy, Brahms and Bartok.

Tickets are £12, £10 for concessions, £3 for students on the door, or by calling MK 377518.

> The fourth annual Woburn

Sands Folk Festival kicks off at noon on Saturday, with live music through to 8pm.

The main showground is Edgewick Farm, where Hardwick Road meets The Leys, and 12 artists and groups will each play half-hour sets.

Entry to the friendly day out is free and with morris dancers, a poetry session at Woburn Sands Library and music ses-

sions at The Swan, The Fir Tree and The Royal Oak, there will be something for everyone. We haven't even mentioned the stalls, food, bouncy castle and bar...

Here's who is playing, when:

- Noon-12.30pm – Hogsty Oak**
- 12.40-1.10pm – Mark Kesby & Godfrey Yeomans**
- 1.20-1.50pm – The Concrete Cowboys**
- 2-2.30pm – Saturday Sun & The Rays**
- 2.40-3.10pm – Gawkey**
- 3.20-3.50pm – Michele Welborn and Steve McDaniel**
- 4-4.30pm Vivant**
- 4.40-5.10pm – Hawkie Chapman**
- 5.20-5.50pm – The Ely Plains**
- 6-6.30pm – Joe and Frankie Inzani**
- 6.40-7.10pm – John Stevens and Sally Mounter**
- 7.20-7.50pm – The Hairy Marys**

> Unique micro festival Tingestock returns on Saturday and it's even bigger and better this year.

Some 20 musicians will be playing across five hours – acts include The Leery Stagger Band, The Redlands Palomino Company, Case Hardin, Troubadour Rose and Paul McClure.

Tickets are £13 and available

Stories from the other side

THE COCK INN

Stony Stratford welcomes a clairaudient on Tuesday when Steve Holbrook, pictured, stops off at The Cock Inn to intrigue and amaze with his special gift.

His claim to fame is the ability to 'hear spirits' and he considers himself to be a telephone exchange between this world and the next, passing messages on to people in the audience from relatives who have moved on from this life.

Discover for yourself why he is so popular from 7pm at The Cock Inn.

Tickets are £17 in advance (call 01536 506123) or £18 on the door.

> Get down and dirty at the Cowper and Newton Museum which is hosting new Archaeology Weekends.

On Saturday (both this week – and July 27 at 10.30am until 4.30pm) visitors are being encouraged to bring along any discovered objects from home to be identified by a visiting 'Finds Liason Officer' and her team of metal detectorists.

Meanwhile, Sundays (both this week and again on July 28, 10.30am until 4.30pm) will hold archaeologically awesome activities for children and adults alike.



Plus, throughout July and August there will be special Sunday Museum and garden openings, 12-4pm.

Email info@cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk or call 01234 711516 for more information.

> Don't get in a flap, but do keep your beaks at work if you want to stand a chance of finding one of the ceramic sculptures inspired by our crows.

The birds have been placed around town in a project called Black Feather, as part of Made in MK.

For more information, visit www.nenadot.com



From Downton to Woburn Abbey

WOBURN ABBEY

Traditional afternoon tea is being served in the Sculpture Gallery at Woburn Abbey on Wednesday, and while you enjoy the fineries of the food, a special guest will keep you regaled with stories.

Jessica Fellowes is the author of The World of Downton Abbey and The Chronicles of Downton Abbey.

Jessica is niece of Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes, and will be sharing the experiences that led to the publication of her two best-selling books that accompany ITV's essential drama.

Wednesday's event will run from 2.45pm-5pm.

> At Westbury Arts Centre, Shack to City, Contrasts In The City Landscape continues to the end of the month. Cathy SR Read and Sally



THE SCULPTURE GALLERY: Picturesque and perfect

Brooks are the artists behind the work.

"The 'shacks' are a response to the developing cities and the slick glass towers that compete to be taller, glitzier and more powerful than its predecessors, burning huge amounts of fossil fuel in the

race of the capitalist world," says MK based Sally.

"Simple shacks made from found materials are a reality for thousands of people living in abject poverty alongside city skyscrapers...although small and ramshackle there is a beauty in their textures..."

Hula loves you baby...

ROUND-UP

Spend an afternoon with the cute and cuddly creatures at HULA Animal Rescue on Sunday.

The Glebe Farm venue will throw open its gates, doors and animal enclosures for its Children's Open Day, featuring bouncy castle and games from 1pm until 4pm.

Enjoy home-made refreshments, a bazaar, pet shed bargains and the chance to meet all the rescued pets and resident farm animals.

Entry is £2 for adults, free for children, and all proceeds are for the care and welfare of HULA's animals.

> Visit the waterways this weekend with the Buckingham Canal Society's Cosgrove Canal Festival.

The day promises fun for all the family, set along the picturesque towpath between the lock at Cosgrove and the recently refurbished Iron Trunk Aqueduct.

There will be historic and trade boats to marvel at, craft stalls, games and entertainment as well as temptingly delicious cakes to buy.

The Buckingham Canal Society's restoration plans and progress for re-watering the Buckingham Arm of the canal will also be on display – they 'dig' canals and hope you do too.

Entry is free and the event runs Saturday, 10am until 6pm and Sunday, 10am until 4pm.

> Everyone is invited to the second Great Linford Parish Eco Festival and Dog Show on Sunday.

With lots of stalls including MK Astronomical Society, Friends of the Earth Milton Keynes, North Bucks Bee Keepers, The Food Bank, Jeremy Turner Wood Carving, Branch Out MK CIC, SOS Animals and HULA Animal Rescue, there will be something for all the family to enjoy.

And, if that isn't enough, the dog show means that four-legged family members are also welcome.

The community fun starts at 10am and is on until 4pm over on Great Linford Sportsground, Marsh Drive.

> Have a water-ful time with a wet and wild fun day at Caldecotte Lane on Sunday, with free water-related activities and demos between 11am and 3pm. Visit www.parkstrust.com for details.

Shhhh! It's strictly confidential

MK THEATRE

BY GEORGINA BUTLER
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Don your outrageous fancy dress and get ready for signature floor filler **The Time Warp** – cult musical **The Rocky Horror Show** is in residence at Milton Keynes Theatre from Monday.

Fun, frolics and frivolity prevail in this show, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the world's favourite rock 'n' roll musical.

It is a guaranteed party, combining science fiction, horror, comedy, music and, of course, lots of audience participation. Brad and his fiancée Janet – two squeaky-clean college kids – meet Dr Frank 'n' Furter by chance when their car breaks down outside his house.

What follows is an adventure no-one will ever forget. Stage and TV actor Sam Attwater, who has appeared in *EastEnders* and *Hollyoaks* and starred in *West End* shows including *Dreamboats* and *Petticoats*, plays the role of Brad.

He is joined by 2012 *Strictly Come Dancing* finalist and *Tracy Beaker* star Dani Harmer in the role of Janet, and *West End* actor Oliver Thornton as lead character Frank 'n' Furter.

Philip Franks, who you will remember from credits including *The Darling Buds of May* and *Heartbeat* is your narrator.

Richard O'Brien's extravaganza has been newly created for

Craig Revel Horwood's Strictly Confidential is Fab-u-lous!

its year-long UK tour by Christopher Luscombe.

It still features all the famous classics, including *Science Fiction/Double Feature*, *Dammit Janet* and the utterly timeless, aforementioned theme, *The Time-Warp*.

Ready to thrill you with frothy fun, slightly sadistic seduction and naughty moments, O'Brien's *Rocky Horror Show* is the boldest bash of them all. Bewarned, this show has rude parts!

Get up close and personal with some of the stars of *Strictly Come Dancing on Sunday*.

No, sadly the chiselled Artem Chivgintsev is not offering a masterclass in dance technique (and, ladies, he is already taken after finding love with actress Kara Tointon in 2010).

Still, he will be making an appearance at MK Theatre in Craig Revel Horwood's fab-u-lous new theatrical dance show *Strictly Confidential*.

Join Artem, fellow professionals Natalie Lowe and Ian Waite and 2012 contestant Lisa Riley as they take fans on an intimate journey inside the glitterball.

The audience will get a personal insight into what led them to their *Strictly Come*

Dancing adventure.

We'll learn about Artem's tough time growing up in Russia, Ian confronting his sexuality and how Natalie had to beat the odds to follow her dream. Notorious TV judge and acclaimed choreographer and theatre director Craig Revel Horwood gives us a sneak-peek into the world of the ratings-winning BBC 1 show, as well as telling Lisa Riley's personal *Strictly* journey as a delighted contestant swept up in the magic of the show.

Craig said: "I interviewed all four of them to find out their life stories – the ups and downs of becoming dancers that brought them to the point of being involved in *Strictly*."

"I then wrote an autobiographical arc for each of them. "I was keen to construct a show that wasn't just a series of demonstration dances."

Nonetheless, this exploration of the people behind the dancing does feature plenty of song and dance moments, accompanied by a live band.

As well as the chance to relive some of the most memorable dances from the television series, there is a fun ballet based on Lisa's time as an actress in *Emmerdale*, a rendition of *All That Jazz*, and new routines choreographed to a mixture of chart-topping hits and well-loved show tunes.

Some of *Strictly*'s most glittery, glamorous and iconic costumes will also be on display in the theatre.

Performances of *Strictly Confidential* are at 3pm and 7.30pm on Sunday, July 14.

Call the Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes



STRICTLY FAB-U-LOUS: Lisa Riley takes star billing for two performances at Milton Keynes Theatre this Sunday, and she'll be joined by the dance professionals – Natalie, Artem and Ian



LET'S DO THE TIMEWARP AGAIN: It's just a jump to the left...and then a step to the riiiiihhhht....

One of The Hollies (but no ivy)

THE STABLES

A choice selection of solo acoustic arrangements will live up *The Stables* tonight courtesy of seasoned performer Peter Howarth.

Howarth has worked as a lead singer with *The Hollies*, long-time backing vocalist with Cliff Richard and a *West End* star – expect a great evening's entertainment.

Highly charged jazz is on the menu tomorrow when the

Dutch Swing College Band celebrate their 70th anniversary as the world's longest-established working jazz band, with a repertoire featuring trad favourites and fine originals.

Be moved by Irish-American singer-songwriter Eileen Rose over on Stage 2 tomorrow.

Versatile and vivacious Eileen is an Americana singer one minute, a folk singer the next, an old-fashioned rockstar another.

ABBA tunes will pour forth

on Saturday, your chance to sing along to *Waterloo*, *Take a Chance on Me*, *Dancing Queen* and all the other hits, with this party-style tribute.

From the discos of the 70s and 80s to the psychedelia of the 1960s – Wednesday welcomes Scottish singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Mike Heron and acclaimed indie folk rock band Trembling Bells.

Seen something you like? Book on MK 280800.

The ideal show for those who want some more, it's Oliver!

STANTONBURY CAMPUS

Coming-of-age story *Oliver Twist* is the latest offering from RARE Productions at Stantonbury Campus Theatre until Saturday.

The tale of the workhouse orphan boy who is sold to an undertaker, before running away

and becoming part of Fagin's gang of thieves and pickpockets, is enduringly popular.

Featuring a large cast of local youngsters, aged between eight and 21, the show features legendary characters and well-known songs *Food Glorious Food*, *Consider Yourself* and *As Long As He Needs Me*. Performances are at 7.30pm

tonight, tomorrow and Saturday, with an additional 2.30pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets are £13.50 (concessions £11.50), call the box office on MK 324 422.

