

● What's On

Still monkeying about 14 years on

READ ALL ABOUT IT

BY SAMMY JONES
sammy.jones@jpress.co.uk
@sammyjonespress

Just when you think it has gone quiet for a little too long, the Monkey Kettle poetry-zine comes back with added gusto. Issue 39 is out now, and sees the collective of cool hurtling towards their 14th anniversary. That's dedication for you. Mind you, no-one is more surprised at the longevity than editor Matthew Taylor. "I'm astonished it's lasted 14 days, let alone 14 years," he said.

"I guess that must be testament to people's on-going love for good poetry, good writing and a great town.

"As long as people are interested in it, we'll be doing it – and I hope we'll still be here in another 14 years, except maybe a bit richer and more handsome."

If you want to get your hands on a copy of the new edition, hop on-line and visit www.monkeykettle.co.uk

> Author Ellie Etchells is holding a book signing at her home in Aspley Guise on Saturday. Ellie writes for the younger audience, and draws lots of inspi-



THE START OF A NEW CHAPTER: Milton Keynes writers continue to flourish...

ration from the canine cuties she shares her abode with, puppy Merlin and eight-year-old Tallulah.

Her mission is to reach out to youngsters through books, encouraging them to deal with their fears and to inspire children to read and write.

"It is so important to be able to reach out to all children, and I hope that through my books, I can help children to deal with their fears and derive both comfort and entertainment from these stories."

Ellie's page-turners, What

Does My Dog Dream About At Night?, Merlin's New Home, Come Out From Up That Jumper and Tallulah and The Ginger Tom will be available to purchase at the signing, at 110 West Hill in Aspley Guise, between midday and 3pm.

> Christmas comes early with the latest gift of a book from city author Carole Matthews. Calling Mrs Christmas follows Cassie Smith as she overcomes being made redundant by starting her own festive business – present wrapping, tree decorating and lots of

party planning. Lovely, dependable partner Jim is always on hand to help but when one client's lavish requests start to take up all her time, Cassie finds herself on an emotional rollercoaster. Where will she be when the big day finally arrives, happy with Jim or with multi-millionaire Carter?

Unwrap Calling Mrs Christmas and settle down for some seasonal escapism – only 18 weeks to go...!

Calling Mrs Christmas is out in hardback – visit Amazon.

ROUND-UP

Last year, Helen Parlor was the assistant choreographer for the London 2012 opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games.

One year on, and the MK talent is keeping busy – her company Parlor Dance will be resident in the Theatre District this weekend creating exciting choreography delivered as pop up solos, duets and trios with violin choreography.

"The work will be highly physical, gestural, emotional, dynamic and engaging," promise those in the know. Soaking up the visual display is free.

> Meantime, over at Bletchley Park this Saturday and Sunday the historic centre will be showing visitors what it takes to be a codebreaker, from WW2 to today's GCHQ. Usual admission charges will apply, and on Sunday the Park will also thank the

World War Two Codebreakers, welcoming them back for the Enigma Reunion.

If you purchase an annual season ticket, you pay only for your first visit, and if you are super-duper quick you can take advantage of a fabulous offer on Travelzoo, offering two annual passes and a souvenir guide for £13, instead of the usual £35 fee – that's a saving of 66 percent and you've got until tomorrow to grab the deal.

> Still under the Made in MK umbrella, and MK Museum will also be busy this weekend, with a Forties Weekend, 'a re-enactment of the headships, heroics and high-points of the iconic 20th century decade.'

> Our picture, below, shows one of the platform installations commissioned for the Made in MK Festival.

Artist Alexandra Parry has created the works which, it's hoped will allow the public to gain a different perspective of the street environment.



Back with an entertaining punch

ONE WORLD CLUB

Fresh back from its summer break, the One World Club returns to the Cruck Barn at Milton Keynes Discovery Centre this Monday evening.

Revitalised, and ready to pack an entertaining punch, organiser Andy Gilbert has snagged a rather wonderful line-up for you, and as usual, admission is free.

It doesn't get much better, really.

Banish those Monday blues and go catch Streets of Nadia, a colourful 10-piece band successfully mixing English rock with Indian music for a fresh sensation.

Eleven-year-old singer Madison Desborough is a child prodigy with a very healthy looking future, and you'll get rap too, from Utter Defiance. Charismatic, and Convention Defying.



ONE WORLD, LOADS OF TALENT: D'Fi from Utter Defiance, and that hot-stop fella Louie Spence, who won't be appearing on Monday!

Michele Welborn and Steve McDaniel are scene frequenters who, for this performance, will deliver roots music from our shores.

Not only do you get something for nothing at these events,

you get plenty of it too. Parking is free, and cakes and pies will be for sale, so you can fill your belly and your ears at the same time. Doors at 6.30pm and these 'dos' get busy – get along early.

Forget midweek miseries – go Jazz Jam it instead

ROUND-UP

How about jazzing up your midweek, literally?

Every fortnight, Kiln Farm watering hole turned live music haunt Kiln Farm Pub, is hosting a Jazz Jam.

The venue has been operating the Wednesday night sessions since early August, and they are bedding in nicely.

A full backline of keys, drums and bass is provided, so all you need do is bring your voice, or pick up your guitar, sax, trumpet, chord chart and make tracks to the rather nice venue.

Entry is free, the music starts at 8pm and things stay live and lubricated 'til late.

For more information give the venue a call on MK 262924.

> Another Parks and Run session is being hosted in the car park on Merlewood Drive, off V2 Tottenham Street this Sunday.

Be at Shenley Wood ready to roll for 10am. There is no charge.



> Noticeable by their absence during August, the folks at Olney Jazz Club are getting busy again this week, fresh

back from their annual holiday.

Tuesday's session, still happening at The Carlton House Club, will feature live music from Hot Club of Cambridge, with violinist Andy Aitchison.

To find out more about the show call 01234 711348.

> In Stony Stratford, The Stani Gallery continues to champion the best in artistic talent and, with such a wide range of paintings, ceramics, photography, jewellery and sculpture to take in, we suggest you make a move to the High Street locations this weekend.

> On Sunday, the MK Ramblers are off for a 10-mile walk leaving Great Horwood car park at 10am, Call 07725 035852 for details.