

The Rothsay

Education Centre

a place to learn

Autumn
2026



Book Online
www.recbedford.co.uk

Things I'd like to book

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Welcome to the Rothsay Education Centre

*a place to learn
a place to connect
a place to belong*

With over 60 courses every week, there's something for every curious mind - from arts and languages to science and wellbeing - all led by expert tutors in a welcoming setting. Learning goes beyond the classroom, with a friendly community, café, events, and trips bringing people together.

The Rothsay Education Centre is self-funded and a membership charity—so if you'd like to join in, we'd love to welcome you.

A place to learn

Explore new subjects, develop skills, and stay active with over 60 weekly classes, courses, and workshops. From arts, history, music, and literature to science, languages, wellbeing and more, there's always something new to discover.

A place to connect

Meet like-minded people, share experiences, and enjoy learning together in a friendly and welcoming environment. Build new friendships and feel part of a supportive community.

Our café is open every day.

A place to belong

Be part of something meaningful. The Rothsay Education Centre offers a warm, inclusive space where everyone is valued - whether you come to learn, socialise, or simply enjoy being among others.

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Saturdays are open to non-members

Autumn (11 weeks) Term Dates

Monday 14th September to
Friday 4th December 2026

Half term break
(26th October to 30th October)



Heartfelt thanks to all the artists who generously contributed their works for this brochure.

Pick your course by Day

Monday

Learning to Learn 10am-12pm	17
French Upper Intermediate 10am-12pm	23
Chinese Brush Painting: Flower and Bird 10am-12pm	7
Learn Classical Guitar 10.30am-12.30pm	25
French Advanced 1.30pm-3.30pm	23
Homer's Iliad 2pm-4pm	14
Rothsay Ramblers Various times & locations	11
Traditional Stained Glass course 1pm-4pm	7
The Sonnet: a course 2pm-4pm	10
The Revolutionary Decade: Ireland 1912-1922 2pm-4pm	9
Starting after Half Term (2nd November)	
Christmas readings 2pm-4pm	10
Creative Workshops Various times	10

Tuesday

Recorder for Intermediates 9.15am-10am	25
Spanish Improvers 10am-11.45am	23
German Upper Intermediate 10am-12pm	22
Painting on a Tuesday 10am-12pm	7
Beginners' Bridge 10am-12pm	12
Recorder Ensemble 10.15am-12.15pm	25
Spanish Beginners 12pm-2pm	23
Learning Music & Recorders for Beginners 12.30pm-1.15pm	25
Italian Absolute Beginners 12.30pm-1.30pm	22
Improvers Bridge 2pm-4pm	12
German Improvers 1pm-3pm	22
Great Moral Issues in Contemporary Society 2pm-4pm	17
Writing your Memoirs 2pm-4pm	14

Printmaking - what is lino cutting? 2pm-4pm	7
Italian Improvers 2pm-4pm	22
Spanish Absolute Beginners 2.15pm-4.15pm	23
French Beginners Plus 4.15pm-5.15pm	23
Tai Chi Early Evening 5pm-5.45pm	13
Spanish for Holiday early evening 5pm-6pm	23
Tai Chi Evening 6pm-7pm	13
Spanish Improvers evening 6pm-7pm	23
Starting after Half Term (3rd November)	
Capitalism - Rise, Crack, Collapse? 10am-12pm	19
Sunni and Shia: the schism that divides Islam 10am-12pm	18
Beginners' Creative Writing 6.00pm-7.45pm	15

Wednesday

Landscape in Pastels 10am-12pm	8
French Conversation: Intermediate 10am-12pm	23
French Improvers 10am-12pm	23
Lipreading and managing hearing loss 10am-12pm	12
Italian Advanced 10am-12pm	22
What did Katherine Mansfield notice? 10am-12pm	14
Yoga 12pm-1pm	13
Spanish Intermediate / Advanced 12.15pm-2pm	23
French Absolute Beginners 12.15pm-1.15pm	23
Italian Beginners Plus 12.30pm-1.30pm	22
Practise your sign language 1pm-1.45pm	12
Drawing Experiments! 2pm-4pm	8
Italian Intermediate 2pm-4pm	22
Spanish Lower Intermediate 2pm-4pm	23
Lipreading and managing hearing loss 3pm-4pm	12
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark 2pm-4pm	14

French Beginners Plus 2pm-4pm	23	Criminology, Crime and Policing 10am-12pm	19
Movie Mix 6pm-7pm	24	Discovering the Life and Art of Rembrandt 10am-12pm	10
Starting after Half Term 4th November		Russia 1815-1917 2pm-4pm	18
Advanced Life Drawing 10am-12pm	9	Friday	
Five World Cities 2pm-4pm	19	Pilates Intermediate 9.30am-10.45am	13
Is it really over when the Fat Lady sings? 2pm-4pm	24	Painting on a Friday 9.30am-11.30am	8
Thursday		Prokofiev - life and works 9.45am-11.45am	24
Love Poetry Through the Ages 10am-12pm	15	German Advanced Conversation 10am-12pm	22
Beginners' Watercolours 10am-12pm	8	Poetry Appreciation 10am-12pm	15
Rebels (various dates) 10am-12pm	16	Pilates Improvers 11am-12.15pm	13
The Nuremberg Trials Verdict Day 10am-1pm	17	German Beginners Plus 12.30pm-1.30pm	22
Economics Essentials 10am-12pm	18	Bodyaware 1pm-2pm	13
Ancient Greek 10am-12pm	21	Creative Writing 1.30pm-3.30pm	15
French Conversation Intermediate to Advanced 10am-12pm	23	German Lower Intermediate 2pm-4pm	22
French intermediate 10am-12pm	23	Singing for Pleasure 2pm-4pm	24
French Lower Intermediate 12.15pm-1.45pm	23	The Breakdown of International Order 1919-1939 2pm-4pm	18
Drawing for Beginners 1.30pm-3.30pm	8	Beginners and Intermediate Life Drawing 2pm-4pm	8
In the News 1.30pm-3.30pm	18	Tai Chi 2.15pm-3.45pm	13
Seated Move Well. Live Fully. 3.15pm-4pm	13	Starting after Half Term (6th November)	
Writers in their Settings 2pm-4pm	15	Picasso: Art, Inspiration and Women 10am-12pm	10
Numbers, numbers everywhere 2pm-4pm	20	Beginners and Intermediate Life Drawing 2pm-4pm	9
Move Well. Live Fully. 4.10pm-4.55pm	13	Saturday	
Starting after Half Term (5th November)		Controlling and Using AI wisely 10am-12pm	20
Psychology - science, statistics and human experience 10am-12pm	20	Artistic Anatomy for Portraiture 10am-12pm	9
Kant and Heidegger 10am-12pm	19	Saturday 3rd, 10th and 17th October	26-30
The Twin Crises of Suez and Hungary 1956 10am-1pm	19	Creative Workshops	
A Beginner's Guide to Quantum Physics 2pm-4pm	20	Our Creative Workshop will continue in the second part of the term. Watch this Space for details. Dates will be Monday 2nd November, Monday 9th November, Monday 16th November, Monday 23rd November and Monday 30th November.	
Children and Young People Today 2pm-4pm	20		

Become a Member

The Rothsay Education Centre is a membership charity dedicated to learning and connection, offering a welcoming space where people can expand their knowledge and meet like-minded individuals.

Membership is required to book many of our courses.

Please note that our sessions on Saturdays and our holiday programmes are open to non-members.

Our membership fee is £46 per year or £24 per term.

Trips

Discover new places, ideas and experiences through our carefully curated trips and excursions.

From cultural visits and exhibitions to museums, gardens, theatre and places of historical interest, our trips are designed to inspire curiosity, encourage connection, and make learning beyond the classroom both accessible and enjoyable.

Members can book for a non-member guest to come along as part of their member benefit. Additional non-members can be booked when the member booking priority window has expired.

Where are we going next?

James Whistler Exhibition at Tate Britain Thursday 24th September

Step into the bold, boundary-breaking world of James McNeill Whistler, the global artist who redefined what it meant to be an artist.

Oliver Cromwell Museum and Huntingdon Monday 19th October

Oliver Cromwell, born in Huntingdon in 1599, rose from local cavalry leader to Lord Protector and one of Britain's most significant figures.

Imperial War Museum Tuesday 17th November

Founded while the First World War was still raging, the Museum gives a voice to the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people.

Blenheim Palace & Christmas Fair Thursday 3rd December

Magical memories await at Blenheim Palace this Christmas, with festive lights and a bustling market perfect for inspired gift-shopping.



Our Café

Our café is open daily from 9.30am to 3.30pm (later on a Tuesday) serving a selection of hot and cold food, drinks, and snacks. Lunch is available between 12pm and 2pm, and we offer weekly specials to keep the menu fresh and exciting. Lunch pre orders are welcome in the coffee break. Members are welcome to bring guests to enjoy the café as part of their membership benefit whenever open.

Hire our Space

Our café space is available for members to hire for special occasions, from birthdays and anniversaries to relaxed get-togethers. We also run one-off class events - afternoon tea, themed evenings, and favourites like our Spanish night- offering a lovely opportunity for groups to come together, chat, and celebrate at the end of their course. If you'd like to discuss hosting an event or celebration, please speak directly to Jason.



Discover our Reading Room

Tucked away in a quiet corner of the building, our small but traditional Reading Room offers a thoughtfully curated collection of non-fiction books—perfect for quiet moments. It's a peaceful space to unwind with a good read and a warm cup of tea. Here we also host regular member-led book clubs and a local poetry group, making it a hub for literary connection and friendship. You'll also find a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books for sale.

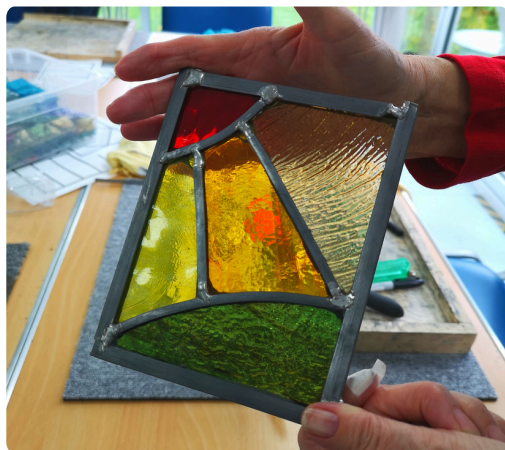
Art & Craft

Chinese Brush Painting: Flower and Bird Marion Dearlove

We will be looking at flowers and birds and the way in which they are represented in Chinese art. We will learn the Xieyi (free style) techniques for representing some of the traditional Chinese flowers and birds and we will look at some of the traditional compositional forms. This module is suitable for beginners and improvers. For further details of the equipment required, please see our website.

Monday 10am-12pm
6 weeks from 14th September
Centre Only

£68



Traditional Stained Glass Course Will Burrows

Discover the art of traditional leaded stained glass in a relaxed, beginner-friendly workshop. With expert guidance from a qualified stained glass artist, you'll learn essential skills such as glass cutting, soldering and assembling, before creating your own unique stained glass panel. All tools and materials are included, and the supportive environment makes it ideal for complete beginners as well as those with some experience. Please note that the workshop requires good hand dexterity, and due to the use of lead, it is not suitable for pregnant or nursing women.

Monday 1pm-4pm
6 weeks from 14th September
Centre only

£250



Painting on a Tuesday Sarah Deane

This is an opportunity for students who have had some experience in painting with either acrylics or watercolour (or both) to develop and improve their skills further. Students can opt to work in either medium or both. Classes will be steered towards thematic ideas with the intention of supporting individual development within the framework of the selected medium. The focus for lessons will be on techniques, colour mixing and interpretation of subject matter.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
11 weeks from 15th September
Centre Only

£103

Printmaking - What is Lino Cutting? Anne Thompson

Want to try something new? This is going to be fun. Keen to develop your existing skills in printmaking? Here's your opportunity. Cut an image into a block of lino using the tools provided, roll specialist ink onto the surfaces of your block and make a series of prints on paper. From a traditional black and white lino print to experiments with colour, texture and pattern that create a multi-coloured 'reduction' print, there's something for everyone. A small charge will be made for materials (and yes, it is similar to the stuff you put on the floor).

Tuesday 2pm-4pm
5 weeks from 15th September
Centre Only

£54

Some of our art and craft courses require the purchase of specific materials to ensure the best learning experience.

Please visit our website for details on the required supplies for each course.

Landscape in Pastels

Robert Ford

Explore the techniques and textures that make pastels a powerful medium for capturing the beauty of nature. Using different landscape scenes by well-known artists, you'll learn how to blend colours, create depth, and bring light into your compositions. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this course will provide guidance on composition, atmospheric perspective, and the expressive qualities of pastel work.

Wednesday 10am-12pm

5 weeks from 16th September

Centre Only

£54

Drawing Experiments!

Robert Ford

This course will focus on experimenting with drawing techniques using graphite and pen and ink. We will work with a range of media, including soft pencils, ink pens, powdered graphite, graphite sticks, and water-soluble graphite, all of which will be available for use in class. Details of materials required can be found on our website. Initial starting points will be based on photographic source material provided by the tutor; however, as the course progresses, participants will be encouraged to use their own images.

Wednesday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 16th September

Centre Only

£54



Beginners' Watercolours

Jacky Gooding

This course is suitable for anyone new to watercolour painting or those who wish to refresh their skills. Demonstrations, examples and individual help will introduce students to the core watercolour washes and colour mixing. These techniques will be put into practice in exercises and paintings starting from a variety of subject matter.

Thursday 10am-12pm

11 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£103



Drawing for Beginners

Jacky Gooding

This course is suitable for complete beginners or those wishing to refresh their skills. Demonstrations, examples and individual help will lead you through a carefully structured sequence of drawing exercises and subject matter. These will build the confidence to draw what you see.

Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm

11 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£103

Painting on a Friday

Sarah Deane

An opportunity for students who have had some experience in painting in either acrylics or watercolour to develop and improve their skills further. Students can opt to work in either medium or both. Classes will be steered towards thematic ideas with the intention of supporting individual development within the framework of the selected medium. The focus for lessons will be on techniques, colour mixing and interpretation of subject matter. A repeat of the Tuesday session.

Friday 9.30am-11.30am

11 weeks from 18th September

Centre Only

£103

Beginners and Intermediate Life Drawing

Lisa Bamford

Develop your drawing skills and confidence in this five-week taught life drawing course, working directly from a professional life model. Guided by an experienced tutor, these sessions will help you learn how to observe the human figure and capture proportion, gesture, and form. Suitable for complete beginners as well as those with some drawing experience, the course offers a relaxed and supportive environment where you can build your skills week by week.

Friday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 18th September

Centre Only

£125



Artistic Anatomy for Portraiture Charlotte Fone

This 3-week short course led by Charlotte Fone explores the anatomy of the head to support and strengthen your portrait drawing. Beginning with an introduction to the structure of the skull, you'll build your own model in clay to better understand form and proportion. Using this knowledge, you will sketch from a live model, learning to recognise the underlying structure as you draw. We'll also look at facial features and the neck, helping you observe more closely and capture shape, balance and expression with confidence. Charlotte is a classically trained painter based in Bedfordshire, who completed training at the internationally recognised Florence Academy of Art. With over a decade of teaching experience, she brings a strong focus on observation, anatomy and supporting each student to develop their skills with confidence.

Saturday 10am-12pm
3 weeks from 3rd October
Centre Only

£54

Starting After Half Term

Advanced Life Drawing - intensive course Lisa Bamford

Designed for experienced artists, this five-week advanced life drawing course offers the opportunity to deepen your understanding of the human figure through sustained observation and guided instruction. Working from a professional life model, these sessions will focus on refining drawing technique, strengthening anatomical awareness, and developing a more confident and expressive approach to working with a variety of materials. Led by an experienced tutor, the course encourages experimentation and critical discussion while providing individual feedback to help push your work further.

Wednesday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 4th November
Centre Only

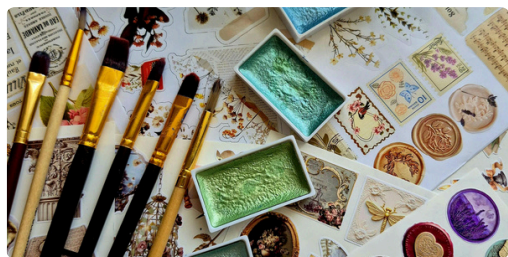
£125

Beginners and Intermediate Life Drawing Lisa Bamford

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Friday 2pm-4pm
5 weeks from 6th November
Centre Only

£125



Drop-In Art & Craft Sessions Self Led

Join one of our drop-in Art and Craft sessions to work on your own craft projects, share ideas, and connect with fellow artists. Whether you're sketching, painting, crafting or exploring techniques like batik, these sessions provide a welcoming environment for creativity and conversation. No structured lessons—learn from others, and enjoy the creative process at your own pace!

Wednesdays 12.15pm-1.45pm
Fridays 10am-12pm
Fridays (includes Batik) 11.45am-1.45pm
Centre Only

Drop-In £3

Creative Workshops

Discover your creative side with our inspiring programme of hands-on workshops. Explore a variety of artistic and craft techniques - from decorative arts and textiles to nature-based making and calligraphy. Led by talented local tutors, these sessions are perfect for trying something new in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Open to non-members.

Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th November
Full details and bookings open early next term – watch this space!
Know a local creative who could lead a workshop, then please let Kate know.

Art History

Discovering the Life and Art of Rembrandt

Lisa Bamford

Step into the extraordinary world of one of history's greatest painters. Join Lisa for a five-week seminar exploring the life, work, and legacy of Rembrandt van Rijn, the Dutch master whose dramatic use of light and deeply human portraits transformed the art of the 17th century. Across five sessions, we'll trace Rembrandt's journey from his early success in the Netherlands to his later years of personal hardship and artistic brilliance. Through guided discussions and visual presentations, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the stories, techniques, and emotions behind his most famous works. Perfect for art lovers, beginners, and anyone curious about the story behind the masterpieces.

Friday 10am-12pm

5 weeks from 18th September

Centre only

£54

Starting After Half Term

Picasso: Art, Inspiration and the Women who Shaped a Genius

Lisa Bamford

Discover the fascinating world of Pablo Picasso through this five-week course exploring his revolutionary artwork and the remarkable women who inspired it. From the Blue and Rose periods to the birth of Cubism and beyond, Picasso continually reinvented his style. Alongside this artistic journey were a series of powerful and complex relationships with muses who influenced both his life and his work. In this richly illustrated course, we'll explore how figures such as Fernande Olivier, Olga Khokhlova, Marie-Thérèse Walter, Dora Maar, Françoise Gilot and Jacqueline Roque shaped the imagery, emotion, and direction of Picasso's art. Each session combines art history, storytelling, and lively discussion, making the course ideal for both beginners and experienced art lovers.

Friday 10am-12pm

5 weeks from 6th November

Centre only

£54



Drama

The Sonnet: a course

Kathy Frost

Petrarch came up with the idea, Shakespeare developed it and Edna St Vincent Millay nailed it! In this course we will look at the structures of the sonnet and how its 14-line format helps, or forces, writers to condense their ideas. We will then select some to read and perform within the group – and may try writing some, but only if we want to.

Monday 2pm-4pm

6 weeks from 14th September

Centre Only

£68

Starting After Half Term

Christmas Reading

Kathy Frost

During this course we will work on verse and prose with a Christmas theme. Whether it's a poem to perform within the group or an extract from a story to read to children or grandchildren or just for fun, we will look at and work on techniques that will lead to greater confidence in reading aloud.

Monday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 2nd November

Centre Only

£54

Rothsay Ramblers

The Rothsay Ramblers are a warm, sociable walking group who enjoy exploring the beautiful countryside within a 20-mile radius of Bedford, including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Our primary aim is simple: to enjoy good company, gentle exercise, and the wellbeing benefits of being outdoors.

Our Walks

We run a programme of Monday-morning walks all year round. Walk lengths vary – 3, 4 or 5 miles, with occasional longer routes – and members are welcome to join any walk that suits them. Most walks start and finish at a pub, café, garden centre or village hall, where facilities and refreshments are usually available. Many of us stay for lunch or a drink afterwards, making the walks a wonderfully sociable way to start the week.

Look out too for special interest walks and London Bank Holiday walks throughout the year.

Basic walk details are available on our website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/rothsayramblers/> The homepage is public; once you join the group you can register for full website access.

Monday Morning

Various Start Times & Locations

All year

Live Class

£3 for the year



Summer Evening Walks

If you're curious about joining the Rothsay Ramblers or just fancy a pleasant evening walk with friendly company, then please do come along.

No booking or fee required

Check website for any up to date changes etc

Wednesday 15th July

Meet at 6.45pm

Walk begins at 7pm

Starting point: Rothsay

Education Centre, MK40 3QB

Thursday 30th July

Meet at 6pm

Walk begins at 6.15pm

Starting point: Kings Arms,

24 St Mary's Street Bedford

MK42 0AS

Wednesday 19th August

Meet at 6.15pm

Walk begins at 6.30pm

Starting point: St Peter & St Paul's Church, Court Road.

[what3words///hurtles.actors.bells](https://what3words.com/hurtles.actors.bells)

Health & Wellbeing

Connect, Communicate, Engage

supporting health and wellbeing by empowering our members with skills such as lipreading and bridge-building strategies to enhance confidence, social interaction and friendship.

Lipreading & Managing Hearing loss Joanna Steer

Lipreading is something we all do to a degree, but as your hearing deteriorates you rely on it more. These classes build on this skill in a supportive environment; building confidence in conversation, based on what you see as well as what you can hear. They offer coping tactics and reassurance while exploring communication in a fun and safe environment. This course is suitable if you have little experience in lipreading or need help having lived with hearing loss for a while. Commit to one term at a time, continuing for as long as you need: the theory stays the same, but the topics used to teach it, change.

Wednesday 10am-12pm
10 weeks from 22nd September
Centre Only £93

Beginners Bridge Pippa Green

Whether you're a complete beginner or have some knowledge of bridge, we will teach and consolidate your learning.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
10 weeks from 22nd September
Centre Only £93

Living Well With Hearing Loss Joanna Steer

This 3-week course is ideal for you if you, or someone in your family, is experiencing reduced hearing.

These welcoming sessions are designed to help you understand hearing loss and learn practical, everyday strategies for living well with it. You'll pick up friendly hints and tips that make communication easier and more enjoyable.

Together, we'll look at effective communication techniques, try a simple lip-reading exercise, and discuss how to create a supportive environment that helps everyone feel included.

Wednesday 2pm-3pm
3 weeks from 4th November
Centre Only £20

Improvers Bridge Pippa Green

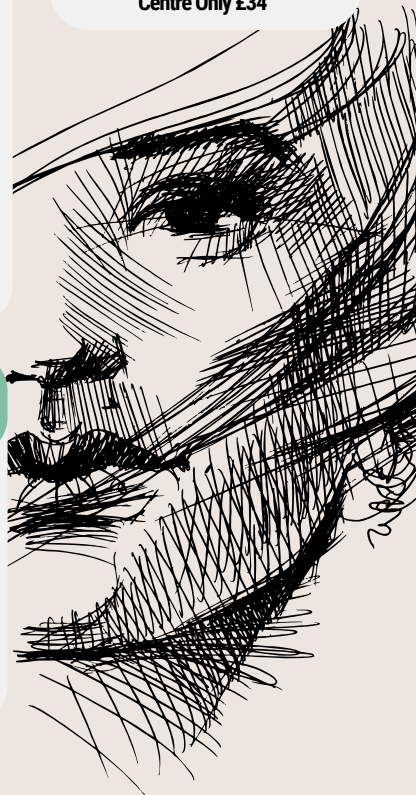
Improve your card play, plan your strategy, learn more convntions or develop your hand evaluation skills.

Tuesday 2pm-4pm
10 weeks from 22nd September
Centre Only £93

Practise your Sign Language Joanna Steer

Our students do not find lots of opportunities to use and maintain their British Sign Language ability. Joanna ensures you chat with a variety of people throughout the session, so that you can stretch your ability.

Wednesday 1pm-1.45pm
10 weeks from 16th September
Centre Only £34



Strength & Stay Active

enhancing posture, balance and overall wellbeing through programmes focused on improving flexibility, strength and confidence in movement.



Bodyaware Chris Butcher

Bodyaware is a great way to start an exercise programme or as a development to other forms of exercise and helps with body posture, function, movement and balance. We go through lots of variations of exercise to improve mobility (range of motion) and stability (control of motion). This course is for both beginners and advanced students.

Friday 1.00pm-2.00pm
33 weeks from 18th September
Russell Court £182

Seated Move Well. Live Fully. Neil Frankel

What does movement mean to us to live a full life? We'll explore strength, balance, flexibility and adaptability to expand our capability and promote longevity from a seated position. You don't require any particular level of "fitness" to attend these sessions. 'No-one left behind' We can tailor the exercises to your level.

Thursday 3.15pm-4.00pm
10 weeks from 17th September
Priory Methodist Church £63

Move Well. Live Fully. Neil Frankel

What does movement mean to us to live a full life? We'll explore strength, balance, flexibility and adaptability to expand our capability and promote longevity. You don't require any particular level of "fitness" to attend these sessions. 'No-one left behind' runs through the core of everything we do and we can tailor the exercises to your level.

Thursday 4.10pm-4.55pm
10 weeks from 17th September
Priory Methodist Church £63

Relax & Rebalance

promoting calm, flexibility and overall wellbeing through gentle Tai Chi, Pilates and yoga sessions designed to support relaxation, balance, stretching and mindful movement.

Tai Chi Chris Butcher

Tai Chi is a slow mind/body exercise using principles of balance, breath control and mindful movement to help improve how we move including correcting our breathing, posture, toning muscles, and improving flexibility. It is a walking exercise where we learn a set sequence of body postures called a form. This course is for both Beginners and Advanced students.

Tuesday 5pm-5.45pm £70
Tuesday 6pm-7pm £80
11 weeks from 18th September
Centre Only

Friday 2.15pm-3.45pm
33 weeks from 18th September
Russell Court & Online £196

Pilates Stephanie Smith

Pilates is a body conditioning method that works by targeting the deep postural muscles, rebalancing the body and toning and stretching the muscles.

Intermediate

This is a more challenging class for those who have done Pilates for at least 2 years. It is not suitable for beginners.

Friday 9.30am-10.45am
30 weeks from 18th September
Priory Methodist Church £196

Improver

This class is suitable for those with a basic knowledge of Pilates but not absolute beginners.

Friday 11.00am-12.15pm
30 weeks from 18th September
Priory Methodist Church £225

Yoga Jaswinder Challi

Multi-style and chair based yoga stretches for health and wellbeing of mind, body and soul. Classes will not take place on Wednesday 21st October, Wednesday 28th October and Wednesday 4th November.

Wednesday 12pm-1pm
10 weeks from 9th September
Priory Methodist Church £75

DISCLAIMER

Our health and wellbeing sessions are designed to promote relaxation and movement, but they are not a substitute for medical advice or treatment. Participants should listen to their bodies, modify movements as needed, and consult a healthcare professional if they have any concerns or pre-existing conditions. By attending, you acknowledge that you are responsible for your own health and wellbeing during these sessions. If you experience discomfort or adverse reactions, please stop immediately and seek medical advice. The Rothsay Education Centre and instructors cannot be held liable for any injuries or health issues arising from participation.

Literature

Homer's Iliad

Paul Drew

A term-long study of the cornerstone of Western literature and culture. With Emily Wilson's celebrated 2023 translation as the set text, composed in iambic pentameter, the course will include close readings of key passages, group discussions on themes such as wrath, the brutality of war, honour and eternal glory, as well as an exploration of the poem's cultural context and its enduring influence on art, literature, and psychology. Please bring a copy of Emily's translation (Homer. *The Iliad*. Translated by Emily Wilson, W. W. Norton & Company, 2023) to the class.

Monday 2pm-4pm

10 weeks from 14th September

Centre Only

£98

Writing your Memoirs

Dr Sharon Priestley

Would you like to write the story of your life or that of someone else? 'Writing your Memoirs' tells you how to plan, begin and structure your story. You choose what to write about; the course provides some techniques on how to write effectively. Participants can read their work aloud to gain positive feedback in a supportive atmosphere. Beginners and advanced writers welcome.

Tuesday 2pm-4pm

11 weeks from 15th September

Centre Only

£108



What did Katherine Mansfield notice?

Dr. Stephen Rogers

Philip Larkin praised Katherine Mansfield's 'noticings' and Willa Cather referred to her capacity for revealing the 'shades of sweetness and anguish' of daily life. In this course we will read nine of her best short stories to better understand how she noticed the hidden life.

Members will need to purchase a copy of the *Selected Short Stories* published by Oxford University Press.

Wednesday 10am-12pm

10 weeks from 16th September

Centre & Online

£98



The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark

Margaret Norwich

"One's prime is elusive. You must be on the alert to recognise your prime at whatever time of life it may occur. You must then live it to the full." So advises Miss Jean Brodie, an eccentric, inspired teacher at an elite school for girls in 1930's Edinburgh. Miss Brodie admires Mussolini and has a marvellous turn of phrase in and out of the classroom. Muriel Spark's stylish, mischievous prose style is admired worldwide: please join us to revisit or discover for the first time this sparkling, sometimes puzzling novel, a perfect start to the new academic year!

Wednesday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 16th September

Centre Only

£56

Creative Writing

Poppy Hollman

This flexible, workshop-based course will offer lots of practical opportunities to explore different forms of writing. Each week we will play with words and discover what the work of other writers can show us about narrative, character, dialogue, description and other elements of literature. You will be encouraged to share your work within the group. This course is open to everyone. Participants should bring along a pen and a notebook.

Friday 1.30pm-3.30pm
10 weeks from 18th September
Centre Only

£93



Writers in their settings

Paul Barnes

From before Chaucer (basing himself in The Tabard Inn), through Shakespeare in Shottery and Stratford, to Wordsworth in the Lakes, and to Housman on Wenlock Edge and beyond, writers have explored both their own geography and their society. Members will have much input into who we might focus our six weeks upon.

Thursday 2pm-4pm
6 weeks from 17th September
Centre Only

£74

Poetry Appreciation

Mark Steinhardt

This course fosters a love of poetry through the discussion of a variety of carefully selected poems. All thoughts and opinions are valid and welcomed and the experience of discovering a poem as a group is, in the opinion of current participants, both enriching and empowering. Do come and join us and share in the rewards of reading poetry together in a circle. No prior experience is necessary.

Friday 10am-12pm
10 weeks from 18th September
Centre only

£93

Love Poetry Through the Ages

Dr Gary Day

It would be unusual and indeed tragic for a person to go through life without falling in love at some point or another. But what is love? A feeling? An idea? A journey? How is it different from desire? Do the two always go together? One thing is for sure. Love is an experience, perhaps the greatest one we've ever had or ever shall have. We will use Jon Stallworthy's New Penguin Book of Love Poetry to explore this multi-faceted phenomenon or, if you prefer, many splendoured thing.

Thursday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 17th September
Centre only

£56

Starting After Half Term

Step into Creative Writing

Naomi Sparks

Join Naomi for a five-week beginners' creative writing course. If you're curious about starting to write, this is your chance to explore your creativity in a supportive and encouraging setting. Across five sessions, you'll discover sources of inspiration and learn how to develop ideas into stories; experiment with different forms and styles of writing through simple prompts; build confidence in finding your own voice and sharing your work and begin a piece of writing refining it week by week, with guidance and feedback. This course is perfect for anyone curious about writing or looking to nurture their creativity over time.

Tuesday 6pm-7.45pm
5 weeks from 3rd November
Centre Only

£54



Rebel
[rebl] Noun



Rebels - A Flexible Talk Series

Alan Marchant

Explore a variety of people who made their contribution to history by going against the grain. There will be themes and behaviours that connect these rebels but each talk is standalone, allowing members to pick and choose their favourite rebel.

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

10AM-12PM

Roger Casement; British diplomat, humanitarian and Irish nationalist.

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER

10AM-12PM

Dietrich Bonhoeffer; German theologian and anti-Nazi dissident

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

10AM-12PM

Millicent Fawcett; English leader of the Suffragists

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

10AM-12PM

Tom Paine; pamphleteer and revolutionary from Norfolk

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

10AM-12PM

Ned Kelly; Australian bushranger, gang leader and criminal

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

10AM-12PM

Dolores Ibarruri 'La Pasionaria'; Spanish politician, orator and communist leader

**Please note that each session must be booked separately.
Each session costs £17**

Humanities

Learning to Learn Tom Barwood

Are you born a good learner or is it a technique you can learn? Tom Barwood spent nearly 20 years of his life trying to convince one of life's toughest audiences - teenagers that it was the latter. In this course, learners will be taken on a journey through the world of learning looking at things like balancing the how and why, being able to develop a super memory and making sure that you can recall what you want when you need it. Peppared with interactive analysis, anecdotes and discussion this course will hopefully be enlightening, entertaining and eminently practical at any stage of life.

Monday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 14th September
Centre Only

£54

The Revolutionary Decade: Ireland 1912 - 1922

Mark McGuigan

The political upheavals of the years 1912 to 1922 set the political foundations of modern Ireland. Military mutiny, formation of paramilitaries, civil unrest, a crushed uprising - against the background of the Great War - were followed by guerilla warfare in the War of Independence, civil war, and partition. These turbulent years shaped the Ireland of today, and are key to understanding the political nature of the island, north and south. The course will examine these years and their significance for understanding contemporary Ireland.

Monday 2pm-4pm
5 weeks from 14th September
Centre Only

£56



The Nuremberg Trials Verdict Day, October 1st 1946; 80th anniversary talk Alan Marchant

After over ten months of high court room drama, the world's first international war crimes trial delivered its verdicts on leading Nazis. Twelve were sentenced to death, three to life imprisonment, four to long prison sentences, while the remaining three were acquitted. We follow the story of this unprecedented event. What were the key moments? Who were the main protagonists? Why is it regarded as such a seminal moment in global history?

Thursday 10am-1pm
1 day on 1st October
Centre Only

£25

Great Moral Issues in Contemporary Society Dr Karim Esmail

There are a number of issues which are of great moral concern in contemporary society. This course considers some of these issues: experiments on animals; abortion; euthanasia and physician assisted suicide; immigration; multiculturalism; freedom of speech and religion; capital punishment; war; world hunger; economic justice. In each case, we'll arrive at an understanding of the issue and then consider some of the debate surrounding it.

Tuesday 2pm-4pm
10 weeks from 15th September
Centre Only

£98

Economic Essentials: Understanding the Basics

Angela Pollard

This course is a beginners' introduction to Economics with the aim of making some of the regular news stories more readily understood. We will look at the key economic concepts and take a look at the Economists' 'toolkit' which lies behind government policy options. We will also explore issues such as wage gaps, market success and failure, inflation, unemployment and growth.

Thursday 10am-12pm
4 weeks from 17th September
Centre Only

£45

In the News

Tom Barwood

Interested in current news? Enjoy lively debate? Then this is the class for you. Current news forms the basis of spirited discussion with participants encouraged to contribute to the topics covered. There is no fixed syllabus; whatever is current in the news each week dictates the discussions of the day and we cover a wide spectrum of topics. It's a popular class so enrol early!

Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm
11 weeks from 17th September
Centre Only

£103



Russia 1815-1917

Andrew Bamford

This course will analyse how the Tsarist autocracy struggled to come to terms with the political, economic and social divisions of nineteenth-century Russia, ultimately leading to its overthrow in February 1917. It will explore the policies and strategies of both reactionary and reformist Tsars including Nicholas I, Alexander II and Alexander III and examine how opposition to Romanov rule developed, leading to the turbulent reign of Nicholas II. The role of foreign policy will be analysed as Russia sought to secure and expand its Great Power status.

Friday 10am-12pm
10 weeks from 18th September
Centre Only

£98

The Breakdown of International Order 1919-1939

Andrew Bamford

This course will examine how the hopes of a new international order in 1919 were dashed in the inter war period. What were the long-term consequences of the peace treaties of 1919-23? Was the League of Nations doomed to failure? How important was the Great Depression in the outbreak of war? The British and French reaction to Hitler's foreign policy will be analysed and whether an alternative strategy might have avoided war debated as well as the foreign policies of Italy, USSR and Japan. This is a repeat of a course held earlier this year.

Friday 2pm-4pm
10 weeks from 18th September
Centre Only

£98

Starting After Half Term

Sunni and Shia:

Frank Livesey

The course will examine the events and circumstances which provoked a major discord among the followers of the Prophet Muhammad, and will trace the history of relations between them through the centuries that followed, both in times of cohabitation and of conflict. It will also look beyond the Middle East to take in the Indian sub-continent, as well as Afghanistan.

Thursday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 3rd November
Centre Only

£56

Capitalism – Rise, Crack, Collapse?

Joe Enright

You were told the system worked. That hard work was rewarded. That wealth, if left to flow freely, would eventually reach everyone. That the market knew best. What if the people who told you that had read the wrong books – or hadn't read them at all? Adam Smith promised the invisible hand would lift all boats. Thomas Piketty proved it had been picking pockets all along. Yanis Varoufakis watched the whole edifice quietly collapse. This interactive course traces capitalism's extraordinary three-hundred-year journey: from Smith's elegant Scottish vision of self-correcting markets, through Piketty's devastating lifetime of data proving the system was rigged from the start, to Varoufakis's bombshell conclusion – that capitalism is already dead, replaced by something older, darker, and far harder to resist than anything Marx ever imagined. No economics degree required. Just curiosity, life experience, and a willingness to ask the question that three centuries of powerful people have worked very hard to prevent you from asking:

Was the promise ever real – and who exactly was it made to? This is an interactive course which will involve discussions and pair/ small group work.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 3rd November
Centre Only

£56

Five World Cities

Michael Barber

An informative, entertaining and eclectic look at 5 Great World Cities. The 5 cities will be Venice, San Francisco, Mumbai, Liverpool and Buenos Aires. Please note that Michael's course will now take place on a Wednesday afternoon from Autumn 2026.

Wednesday 2pm-4pm
5 weeks from 4th November
Centre only

£54



Kant and Heidegger

Dr Gary Day

Have you ever wanted to understand these two philosophers? Both are important. Kant because he puts 'reason' at the heart of his philosophy, Heidegger because he puts 'experience' at the heart of his. Both thinkers shaped our ideas about ourselves and the modern world. This short course will provide a clear introduction to their main ideas, put them into their historical context, and consider what relevance they may have today. Spoiler alert. A lot.

Thursday 10am-12pm
5 weeks from 5th November
Centre Only

£56

The twin crises of Suez and Hungary 1956; 70th anniversary talk

Alan Marchant

After over ten months of high court room drama, the world's first international war crimes trial delivered its verdicts on leading Nazis. Twelve were sentenced to death, three to life imprisonment, four to long prison sentences, while the remaining three were acquitted. We follow the story of this unprecedented event. What were the key moments? Who were the main protagonists? Why is it regarded as such a seminal moment in global history?

Thursday 10am-1pm
1 day on 5th November
Centre Only

£25



Criminology, Crime and Policing

University of Bedfordshire

Back this Autumn with a selection of new topics, this ten-week course will explore a number of issues related to crime, offending behaviours and policing, including miscarriages of justice, dealing with anti-social behaviour, women in policing, white collar crime, forensic psychology and rehabilitating offenders and cybercrime.

Friday 10am-12pm
10 weeks from 18th September
Centre Only

£98

Sciences

Numbers, Numbers, Everywhere

Colin Jones

A look at the role that numbers play in our everyday lives: in art, in sport, in design, in game playing, in music, in life.

Thursday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£54

A Beginner's Guide to Classical Physics and Quantum Physics

Tim Parrott

Quantum Physics describes the fundamental interactions of the physical world. In the last couple of decades, expert Physicists have reached out to a fascinated public in an effort to share the principal discoveries. This 5-week course (for the mathematically innocent) will help you engage with that noble effort.

Thursday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£56

Controlling and Using AI Wisely

Jon Parry

This short two-week course provides a practical, non-technical introduction to artificial intelligence and how to use it effectively as part of your everyday life. Participants will explore what AI is and how to control and influence what it produces. This focuses on practical skills such as prompts, tone and style, and iterating to improve outputs. The course also addresses the limitations and risks of AI, including hallucinations and bias. Participants will learn how to critically evaluate AI outputs, understand when AI is (and isn't) appropriate to use, and apply it in a safe and responsible way.

You will need access to a computer and some familiarity with the use of AI. We will help you set up an account with Google Gemini or Chat GPT so you can use AI at home.

Saturday 10am-12pm

2 weeks from 10th October

Centre Only

£31

Children and Young People Today: Social Science Perspectives

Fiona Factor and isabelle Brodie

The nature and experience of childhood and adolescence are changing - as we notice from remembering our own childhoods, and from observing the experiences of our children and grandchildren.

This course returns and will offer the opportunity to dip a toe into social science and to consider what these changes - social, economic, technological and political - mean for different groups of children and young people in our communities. We'll be thinking about who is included and excluded as a result of these changes, and how they relate to issues of poverty, crime, abuse and care. The course will draw on social science theory and research, but will include lots of opportunities for discussion and reflection.

Thursday 2pm-4pm

5 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£56



Starting After Half Term

Psychology – science, statistics and human experience

Judy Lindsay

To what extent is the rigour of scientific investigation and numerical data relevant to our understanding of the complexity of the human experience? What kind of data constitute meaningful evidence to advance our understanding of other people and ourselves? These questions will be at the heart of our discussions as we explore research in the field of Psychology which seeks to advance both our knowledge of and insight into human behaviour. No prior knowledge of Psychology is required and whether you are new to this topic or can bring expertise and insight, all are welcome.

Thursday 10am-12pm

5 weeks from 5th November

Centre Only

£54

Languages

Learn a Language from beginner to advanced. With our annual courses, we can help you progress or just enjoy learning a language with no pressure, in small groups of like-minded learners.

The Rothsay Education Centre provides a relaxed, welcoming and supportive environment to learn a language, whether you are starting from the beginning

or you are fluent and want an opportunity to speak more regularly and fine-tune your skills.

We're different from other language providers because we regularly host language meetups and have fun, conversational classes to help learners practice speaking and build friendships with other learners. We organise cultural events that enrich our language learning emphasizing the importance of cultural understanding. If you've been trying with Duolingo at home, now's your chance to meet others and have real-life conversations.



Fancy trying out a class?

Speak to us about booking a taster session.

We understand signing up for our lengthier courses can be a big commitment. That's why we offer free taster sessions giving you a chance to meet the tutor and gauge teaching style and level.

Book your taster session with the office and try something new!

Taster sessions are open to members and non members. Subject to place availability and course duration of 3wks+

E-mail admin@recbedford.co.uk
to book.



Spanish for Holiday

Fina Sims

Planning a trip to Spain or a Spanish-speaking country and want to feel more immersed in the culture? Whether you're dreaming of sunny plazas, bustling markets, or relaxed seaside cafés, this course is your first step toward enjoying your journey in the Spanish-speaking world with confidence. You don't need any previous experience — just curiosity and a willingness to try.

Tuesday 5pm-6pm

10weeks from 15th September

Centre Only

£68



Ancient Greek Deborah Day

We will be continuing to develop our knowledge of this most fascinating language, which has made its way into so many English words but has also made invaluable contributions via its culture to modern life. We will be reading a wide range of material, which will naturally be of increasing but accessible complexity. New members with some basic knowledge of the language are welcome. All materials are provided on a weekly basis. Please note that the course is an 8-week course and will run on 17th, 24th Sept, 1st, 8th, 15th October and then will restart on 19th Nov until 3rd Dec.

Thursday 10am-12pm

8 weeks from 17th September

Centre Only

£90

Language Levels

Absolute Beginners class: Do you fancy learning a language? Our Absolute Beginners classes focus on learning through basic every day useful conversation scenarios. We build foundational knowledge and begin understanding and forming simple sentences. Join our friendly and welcoming class that will help you get to grips with this new language!

Beginners' Plus class: You've learnt this language before and understand familiar everyday expressions. In this beginners' plus class, we focus on expanding vocabulary, learning simple grammatical structures and developing conversational skills. We aim for you to be able to communicate in simple routine situations when visiting or on holiday.

Improvers' class: You've studied this language before and can understand common expressions related to personal life, work and routine matters. We focus on enhancing your vocabulary, introducing more complex sentence structures and increasing fluency in everyday conversations. Your goal is to become more confident and comfortable in everyday situations.

Intermediate Class: You've studied this language before and can understand and participate in conversations on a variety of topics and describe experiences in detail. We will focus on more complex grammar and sentence structures and improving vocabulary related to different themes each week. Your goal is to express yourself clearly and effectively and to handle more challenging listening tasks.

Advanced Class: You're confident speaking the language and reading about a wide range of topics. We use authentic materials to help you refine your language skills and perfect your grammar, while keeping your speaking abilities active and rooted in cultural context. Advanced conversation classes are also available in some languages.

German

30 weeks from 15th September

German Beginners Plus

Rosemary Adams

Fri 12.30pm-1.30pm

£116

German Improvers

Rosemary Adams

Tues 1pm-3pm

£231

German Lower Intermediate

Rosemary Adams

Fri 2pm-4pm

£231

German Upper Intermediate

Rosemary Adams

Tues 10am-12pm

£231

German Advanced Conversation

Rosemary Adams

Fri 10am-12pm

£231



Rosemary earned a BSc (Hons) from the University of Surrey. After working as a bilingual personal assistant, she joined us in 1992 and has been sharing her love of German with learners ever since. She is also Secretary of the Bedford Bamberg Association.

Italian

33 weeks from 15th September

Italian Absolute Beginners

Maria Taverna

Tues 12.30pm-1.30pm

£128

Italian Beginners Plus

Maria Taverna

Weds 12.30pm-1.30pm

£128

Italian Improvers

Maria Taverna

Tues 2pm-4pm

£255

Italian Intermediate

Maria Taverna

Weds 2pm-4pm

£255

Italian Advanced

Maria Taverna

Weds 10am-12pm

£255



Maria, of Sicilian origin, has been teaching Italian here at the Rothsay and at Bedford Sixth Form College since 1984. She integrates language learning with Italian culture and has earned an OFSTED grade 1 for outstanding teaching.

French

30 or 10 weeks from 14th September

French Absolute Beginners
Marion Moutel-Davesne
Weds 12.15pm-1.15pm £116

French Beginners Plus
Isabelle Awan
Tues 4.15pm-5.15pm 10 weeks £68

French Improvers
Marion Moutel-Davesne
Weds 10am-12pm £231

French Lower Intermediate
Isabelle Awan
Thurs 12.15pm-1.45pm £173

French Intermediate
Isabelle Awan
Thurs 10am-12pm £231

French Upper Intermediate
Marion Moutel-Davesne
Mon 10am-12pm £231

French Conversation Intermediate
Christine Bailey
Weds 10am-12pm £231

French Conversation Inter/Advanced
Christine Bailey
Thurs 10am-12pm £231

French Advanced
Marion Moutel-Davesne
Mon 1.30pm-3.30pm £231



Marion studied English and Spanish at the University of Caen before working as a Language Assistant at Roedean School. She earned a BA in teaching French and has spent the last twelve years teaching here with us.



Christine, originally from France, moved to England at 19 and later settled after marrying an Englishman. She has been teaching French conversation here with us since 2003.



Isabelle, born and educated in France, spent a pivotal year in Chester as a French Assistante in 1983 before settling in the UK. She has since taught French in primary schools and led adult classes here with us.



Spanish

30 weeks from 15th September

Spanish Absolute Beginners
Carmen Hardisty
Tues 2.15pm-4.15pm £231

Spanish for Holiday
Fina Sims
Tues 5pm-6pm 10weeks £68

Spanish Beginners
Carmen Hardisty
Tues 12pm-2pm £231

Spanish Improvers evening
Fina Sims
Tues 6pm-7pm 10weeks £68

Spanish Lower Intermediate
Carmen Hardisty
Weds 2pm-4pm £231

Spanish Improvers
Carmen Hardisty
Tues 10am-11.45am £202

Spanish Advanced
Carmen Hardisty
Weds 12.15pm-2pm £202



Fina was born and raised in Mexico and moved to the UK in 1995 after completing studies in Merida. Since 2012, she has worked at St James Primary School in Biddenham and recently began sharing her love of Spanish at the Rothsays.



Carmen, born in Buenos Aires, earned her PGCE in MFL from De Montfort University in 1995. She has lived in rural Bedfordshire with her husband for over 30 years, teaching in various colleges and at the Rothsays since 2007.

Music & Film

Movie Mix

Caroline Bacon

Each week we will look at a film available to watch on television from any period, genre, or country, one that can be deemed Film of the Week. Full film notes will be provided before you watch the film at your leisure, and prior to class discussion via Zoom. An ideal course for film novices and buffs alike. Most films will be on the BBC, BBC iPlayer, Talking Pictures TV, or Film 4

Wednesday 6pm-7pm

11 weeks from 16th September

Online Only

£56

Prokofiev - life and works

John Dawson

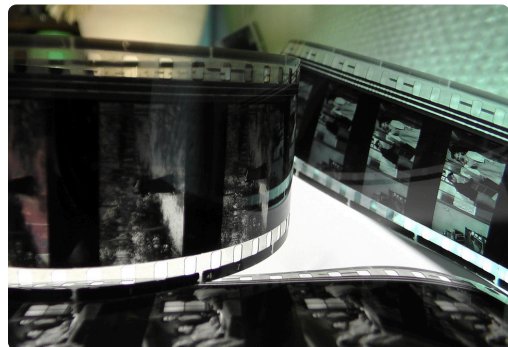
A small section of the Prokofiev canon is extremely well known: not only does almost every child in the country know Peter and the Wolf, but even football fans and viewers of TV's The Apprentice will recognise the extract from Romeo and Juliet that seems to appear whenever an ominous, powerful march is required. Prokofiev enjoyed a long and prolific career, beginning as an enfant terrible in pre-revolutionary Russia, turning down an offer to write music for Walt Disney, and ultimately engaging in a dangerous game of political cat-and-mouse with Stalin. We will explore his career, compare it with those of his two great Russian contemporaries, Stravinsky and Shostakovich, and shine a light on many masterpieces that have been left in the shadows for far too long.

Friday 9.45am-11.45am

10 weeks from 18th September

Centre & Online

£98



Singing for Pleasure

Caroline Muzolf

If you are looking to join a choir that is friendly and enthusiastic then Singing for Pleasure is the group for you! The sessions consist of vocal warm-ups, some easy songs to sing along to and songs in parts which will be taught in a call and response format. We learn a variety of songs including suggestions from the group.

Friday 2pm-4pm

11 weeks from 18th September

Centre Only

£103

Starting After Half Term

Is it really all over when the fat lady sings? Dispelling misconceptions about opera!

Sarah Aylen

Opera is an all-encompassing theatrical entertainment which can include words, a story, singers, dancers, actors, an orchestra, a stage, costumes, social and political comment, and scenery. A veritable feast! In a good production the audience can be captivated by the action and drawn into the emotional roller coaster of the narrative. We shall explore a variety of operatic works from the beginnings in the late 16th century to the present day.

Wednesday 2pm -4pm

5 weeks from 4th November

Centre only

£56



Discover the joy of music

with our welcoming annual courses in guitar and recorder, suitable for all levels from beginners to advanced. Our structured programmes help you build confidence, technique, and enjoyment at your own pace.



Recorder for Intermediates

Jane Edis

Ensemble playing forms a large part of what we do; the combination of several relatively simple parts provides a fun way to learn, and enjoy, the classical guitar. This isn't a beginners class so prospective new members should have a very rudimentary acquaintance with classical guitar technique together with some music reading ability (approaching grade one).

Tuesday 9.15am-10am
30 weeks from 16th Sept £87
Centre & Online

Recorder Ensemble

Jane Edis

The Recorder Ensemble is a friendly group of players who enjoy exploring works of composers from the 13th century to the present day. The Consort plays in parts Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass, and individuals are encouraged to develop their skills to allow playing independently one-to-a-part at times. New members are very welcome but need to have a good standard of reading and playing on at least one instrument.

Tuesday 10.15am-12.15pm
30 weeks from 16th Sept
£231
Centre & Online

Learning Music and Recorder for Beginners

Jane Edis

Have you wondered about learning to read music and play an instrument? If you haven't played an instrument before, or played only a little at school, then join our friendly beginner's class. We gradually learn to read music and play the recorder in a friendly and supportive group.

Tuesday 12.30pm-1.15pm
30 weeks from 16th Sept
£87
Centre Only

Learn Classical Guitar

Boe Pyne

Ensemble playing forms a large part of what we do; the combination of several relatively simple parts provides a fun way to learn, and enjoy, the classical guitar. This isn't a beginners class so prospective new members should have a very rudimentary acquaintance with classical guitar technique together with some music reading ability (approaching grade one).

Monday 10.30am-12.30pm
33 weeks from 15th Sept
£255
Centre & Online



Saturday 3rd October

Sergei Rachmaninov: The Man and His Music

Jonathan Blackledge

This lecture explores the life, artistry, and enduring legacy of one of the greatest composers and pianists of the late Romantic era – Sergei Rachmaninov. Blending biography, musical analysis, and historical context, the session offers an in-depth portrait of a man whose music continues to move audiences around the world with its emotional depth and technical brilliance. Key works such as the Piano Concertos, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, and the All-Night Vigil will be explored.

Saturday 3rd October 10am-12pm
Centre Only

£17

Psychology and Adolescence

Judy Lindsay

The topic of adolescence appears to be ubiquitous across our media sources. We will explore the contribution Psychology can bring to our understanding of this important and often challenging phase of development. However, you interact with adolescence, your voice will be welcome as together we investigate the theories, research and lived experience.

Saturday 3rd October 10am-12pm
Centre Only

£17

Alice in Wonderland

Gary Day

Alice in Wonderland is a children's classic. It has never gone out of fashion. The story contains a fabulous gallery of characters from the White Rabbit to the Queen of Spades, all a delightful mixture of whimsy and nonsense, vividly brought to life by John Tenniel's illustrations. But Alice's interactions with these various creatures also reflect aspects and concerns of Victorian society and it is these, for example the White Rabbit's obsession with time, which will be our focus.

Saturday 3rd October 10am-12pm
Centre Only

£17

Beginners' Calligraphy

Julie Kent

Come along and try your hand at the art of calligraphy. In this three hour workshop, you will learn how to write with a broad edged fountain pen and progress from writing the alphabet to composing some simple sentences. Some techniques may be more challenging for left-handed writers due to pen angle and ink flow but please do let us know and we can advise accordingly.

Saturday 3rd October 10am-1.00pm
Centre Only

£25

The Science of Taste and Flavour

Anne Harnan

Why do some foods taste irresistible while others divide opinion? What makes chocolate comforting, lemons refreshing, or parmesan deeply savoury? Why do we crave sweetness, how can we create umami flavours, and what is the role of sour and bitter flavour? In this interactive workshop, we explore the role of taste, how it evolves over time and how we can enhance flavours in our food. Led by Anne Harnan, food writer, judge and development chef we'll explore the fascinating world of taste and flavour, uncovering how our senses shape the way we eat.

Saturday 3rd October 10am-3.30pm
Centre Only

£50



Afternoon Tea & Tales: That's How the Light Gets In

Mark Steinhardt

Join Mark for afternoon tea and tales. In late 1608, Maria, twenty years old, took one of the mountain paths south through the Pyrenees, crossed from France into Spain and arrived at her home village. She was carrying an infection, an infection of the mind. Witchcraft. The disease spread from village to village through the mountains, terrifying everyone, threatening complete social collapse. Only one thing to be done. Call the Inquisition...includes afternoon tea.

Saturday 3rd October 2pm-4pm
Centre Only

£13.50



Love your Clothes for Longer

Jane Neesam

Learn how to care for and repair your clothes with this practical, hands-on workshop. You'll be guided through five essential mending skills to help you keep your favourite items in good condition for longer.

You'll learn how to:

- Thread a needle
- Sew on a button
- Fix the hem of trousers or a skirt
- Repair a split or tear
- Stitch a hole in a jumper

This is a relaxed and supportive session—just bring along your own items to mend and give them a new lease of life.

Saturday 3rd October 2pm-4pm
Centre Only

£20

Also starting today:

Artistic Anatomy for Portraiture

Charlotte Fone

This 3-week short course led by Charlotte Fone explores the anatomy of the head to support and strengthen your portrait drawing. Beginning with an introduction to the structure of the skull, you'll build your own model in clay to better understand form and proportion. Using this knowledge, you will sketch from a live model, learning to recognise the underlying structure as you draw. We'll also look at facial features and the neck, helping you observe more closely and capture shape, balance and expression with confidence. Charlotte is a classically trained painter based in Bedfordshire, who completed training at the internationally recognised Florence Academy of Art. With over a decade of teaching experience, she brings a strong focus on observation, anatomy and supporting each student to develop their skills with confidence.

Saturday 10am-12pm
3 weeks from 3rd October
Centre Only

£54

Saturday 10th October

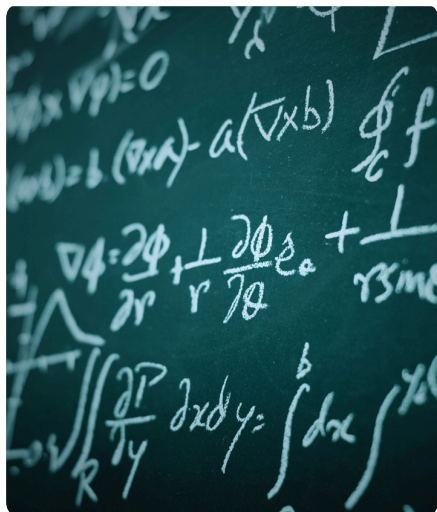
George Green

Jonathan Blackledge

George Green (1793–1841) was a self-taught mathematical genius whose work quietly transformed physics and engineering. He developed deep insights into electricity, magnetism, and potential theory—fields that would later underpin modern physics. The presentation discusses the background to Green's life and his achievements, emphasising the importance of his work in the history and development of applied mathematics and theoretical physics

**Saturday 10th October 10am-12pm
Centre Only**

£17



Remember October 1976?

Paul Barnes

As a sort of taster for our Jubilee in 2027, and for the relevant '50th' courses in the first months of next year, let's study October 1976. What do you recall from then, what was the world worrying about, what literature was appearing...? Lots to look at in two hours.

**Saturday 10th October 10am-12pm
Centre Only**

£17

The Cold War Part 1

Alan Marchant

The Cold War referenced much of our lives and was fought on so many levels. In World War Two the common enemy of fascism brought the USA and the Soviet Union together in their goal to defeat it. However, their fundamental differences were exposed in the post 1945 era. We will chart the course of their increasing rivalry and conflicts during the years up to and including the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the closest the Cold War came to going 'hot'.

**Saturday 10th October 10am-1pm
Centre Only**

£25

Carole King and the making of "Tapestry"

Stephen Barnard

Recorded at modest cost in just three days in early 1971, Carole King's album 'Tapestry' not only launched her as one of America's foremost singer-songwriters, its eventual worldwide sales of 25 million eclipsed even those achieved by any of the Beatles' LPs. Yet she was no stranger to the record charts as a composer, having created scores of major hit songs with her lyric writing husband Gerry Goffin since their meeting as students a dozen years earlier. In this workshop we'll explore how those early years laid the ground for her performing career, the sometimes surprising influences that shaped her music, and the particular qualities that made 'Tapestry' and its homespun songs so engaging, so resonant and so enduring in appeal.

**Saturday 10th October 10am-1pm
Centre Only**

£25



Lino Printing: Portraiture

Sarah Deane

Come and join Sarah to develop linear portraits using lino printing. This all-day session will focus on the work of Expressionist artists, along with a nod to more realist representations for those who are feeling more ambitious. Lino cutting is an easy and satisfying medium that offers the opportunity to create multiple designs and prints. We will develop images using photographic resources, alongside references to key artists.

Saturday 10th October 10am-3.30pm

Centre Only

£48

The First Golden Age of English

Choral Music

Sarah Aylen

The Tudor period was an extremely fertile time for the composition of both sacred and secular choral music, much of which still delights audiences today. Come and revel in a selection of this glorious repertoire. No prior musical knowledge is necessary.

Saturday 10th October 1pm-3pm

Centre Only

£17



Also starting today:

Controlling and Using AI Wisely

Jon Parry

This short two-week course provides a practical, non-technical introduction to artificial intelligence and how to use it effectively as part of your everyday life. Participants will explore what AI is and how to control and influence what it produces. This focuses on practical skills such as prompts, tone and style, and iterating to improve outputs. The course also addresses the limitations and risks of AI, including hallucinations and bias. Participants will learn how to critically evaluate AI outputs, understand when AI is (and isn't) appropriate to use, and apply it in a safe and responsible way. You will need access to a computer and some familiarity with the use of AI. We will help you set up an account with Google Gemini or Chat GPT so you can use AI at home.

Saturday 10am-12pm

2 weeks from 10th October

Centre Only

£31

Saturday

17th October

Chinese Brush Painting Autumn and Winter Flowers

Marion Dearlove

We will be looking at Chinese brush paintings in Xieyi style focusing on Chrysanthemum, Camellia and Plum Blossom. This module is suitable for beginners and improvers. Please check our website for materials required.

Saturday 17th October 2pm-4pm

Centre Only

£17

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Gary Day

C.S. Lewis' The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe is one of the most successful children's novels ever written. Lewis wrote the book for his god-daughter, Lucy Barfield, whose father, Arthur, was a philosopher and poet. There is a tension in the story between the Christian message and the way it is depicted and this will be our focus. I will also be referring to The Magician's Nephew, the novel which explains how Narnia came into being.

Saturday 17th October 10am-12pm

Centre Only

£17



Beginners' Creative Writing

Naomi Sparks

Join tutor Naomi for a warm and inspiring introduction to creative writing, exploring what makes a good story and what keeps us turning the page. You'll reflect on the books, films, and moments that have stayed with you, using these insights to guide your own writing. Through gentle, practical exercises, you'll begin shaping ideas, with opportunities to write, share, and refine in a supportive setting—leaving with the beginnings of a piece to develop or a clearer sense of how to get started.

Saturday 17th October 10am-1pm
Centre Only

£25



The history and development of the violin

Jonathan Blackledge

The lecture traces the rich history and evolution of one of the most expressive and enduring instruments in Western music – the violin. From its humble origins in 16th-century Italy to its central role in orchestras, chamber ensembles, and solo performance today, the lecture explores how the violin has developed in form, sound, and cultural significance over five centuries.

Saturday 17th October 10am-12pm
Centre Only

£17

Reflections of a former military intelligence officer

Join us for an afternoon with a special guest, who will present an engaging introduction to what intelligence is and how it helps reduce uncertainty for military and national-security decision-makers. Hot drink and cake included. This is a repeat of a session held in May 2026.

Saturday 17th October 1pm-3.30pm
Centre Only

£13.50

Taking the long view on childhood and adolescence

Isabelle Brodie and Fiona Factor

Children and young people are in the news - social media, knife crime, grooming gangs, mental health problems and school non-attendance. But what is the evidence - does the media provide an accurate picture? What do children think? How has childhood changed - or maybe it hasn't? What are the benefits and harms associated with changes in the experience of childhood? Drawing on your experiences as participants, and a range of social science research, this workshop offers the opportunity to reflect on and discuss some of these issues.

Saturday 17th October 2pm-4pm
Centre Only

£17

Key Dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026 (11 weeks)

Monday 14th September–Friday 4th December 2026

Half-term:

Monday 26th October–Friday 30th October 2026

Spring Term 2027 (11 weeks)

Term: Monday 4 January 2027–Thursday 25 March 2027

Half-term:

Monday 15 February 2027–Friday 19 February 2027

Summer Term 2027 (11 weeks)

Term: Monday 19 April 2027–Friday 9th July 2027

Half-term:

Monday 31 May 2027–Friday 4 June 2027

All information is correct at time of printing.

Please visit our website for updates.

www.recbedford.co.uk



Autumn 2026

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