



# FLAG News

Registered Charity No. : 1165681

Spring 2019, Issue No 43

## Dates for your Diary 2019

**2nd May**  
Drop-in

**9th May**  
Drop-in

**16th May**  
Tea, Coffee, Cake  
Social Afternoon

**23rd May**  
Drop-in

**30th May**  
AGM / Supper  
(evening)

**6th June**  
Drop-in

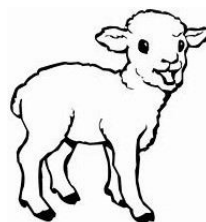
**13th June**  
Drop-in

**20th June**  
Tea, Coffee, Cake  
Social Afternoon  
with "Ark Farm"

Continued back page

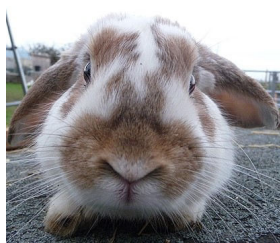
## Spring 2019

Spring has sprung  
The lambs are having fun.  
But no doubt of course,  
They'll soon be on your plate with mint sauce.



## Ark Farm

The **20th June** is a Tea/Coffee Afternoon and we will be having a visit from the "Ark Farm" who will be bringing in a range of small animals including Bantam Chickens, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits, 1 or 2 friendly Labradors, some Pygmy African Hedgehogs, Horsfield Tortoises, Sugar Gliders and even a Barn Owl. It will certainly be a fun, furry & friendly indoor experience with Members being able to touch and pet the animals. FLAG is paying for this experience and would love to see as many members as possible on the afternoon to make it worthwhile. Get to Priory from 1.30pm, Ark Farm will be there from 2.00pm.



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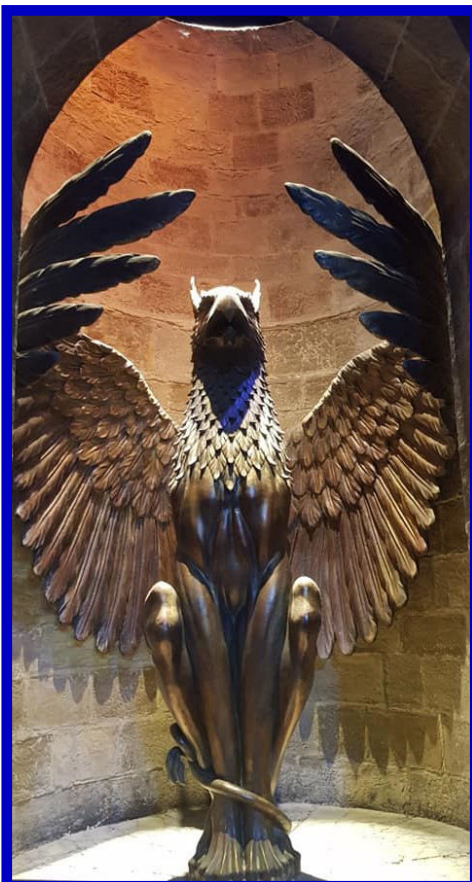
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Summer Fundraiser, 5p Challenge.

## Harry Potter Studio tour. 14th March 2019.

In February of 2016 30 FLAG members enjoyed a trip to the Harry Potter Studios so much that many of them asked to go again. So three years later we decided to organise it again and so 27 members enjoyed another trip to the studio's.

It was a bit of a wet day but most of the tour was indoors so it didn't spoil the day.





## Harry Potter Studio tour.

14th March 2019.



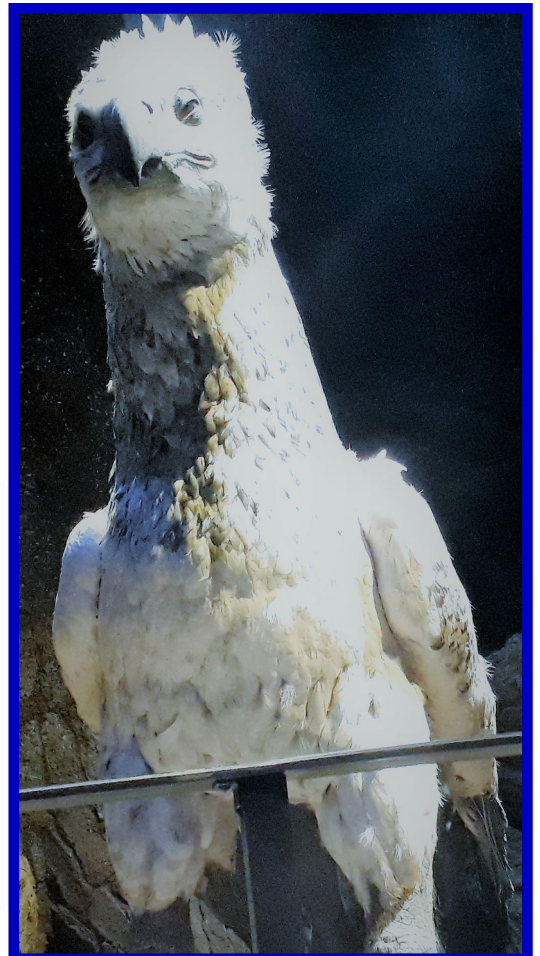
The coach, with Steve the driver, left from the White Horse pub about 10.00am and arrived at the studios at 11.00am. Our tour was not until 1.30pm so we had plenty of time to get a bite to eat and look around the gift shop. Some members mentioned how pricey the stuff was but it always is at these places.





## Harry Potter Studio tour.

14th March 2019.





## Harry Potter Studio tour. 14th March 2019.

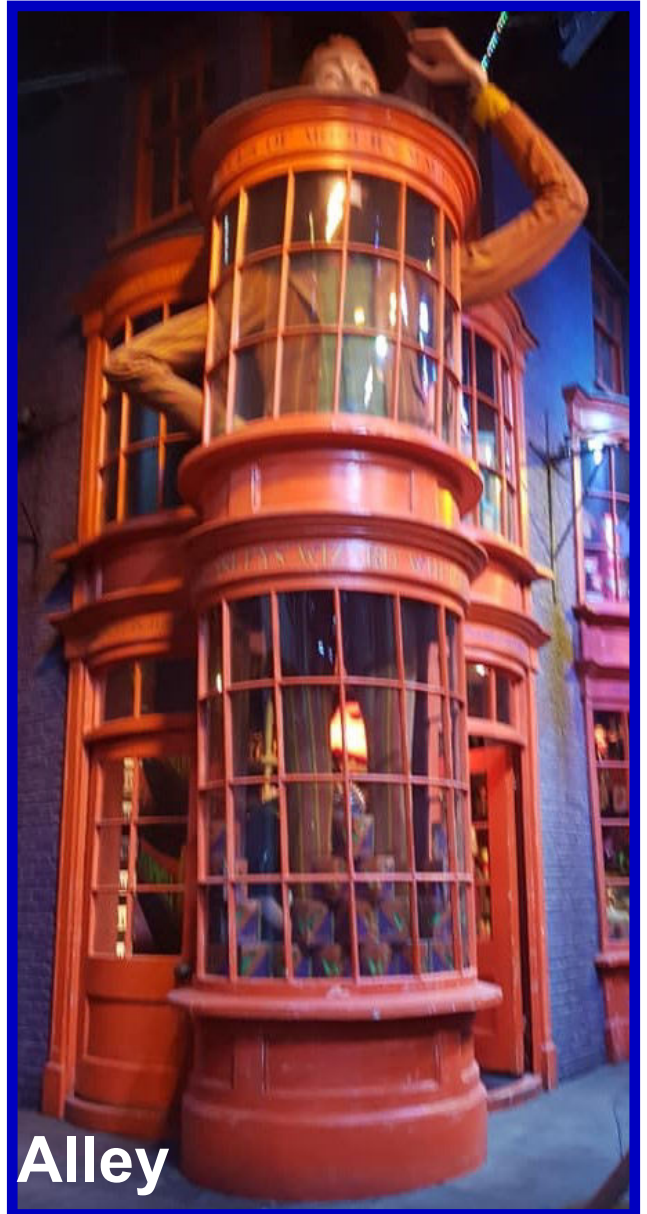
At the railway station Gerard, Kelly and Ann try to push the luggage trolley through the wall to get to Platform 9<sup>3/4</sup> and to the Hogwarts Express.





## Harry Potter Studio tour.

14th March 2019.



Daigon Alley





## Harry Potter Studio tour.

14th March 2019.

This part of the tour was outside. It had stopped raining so we were able to casually stroll around.

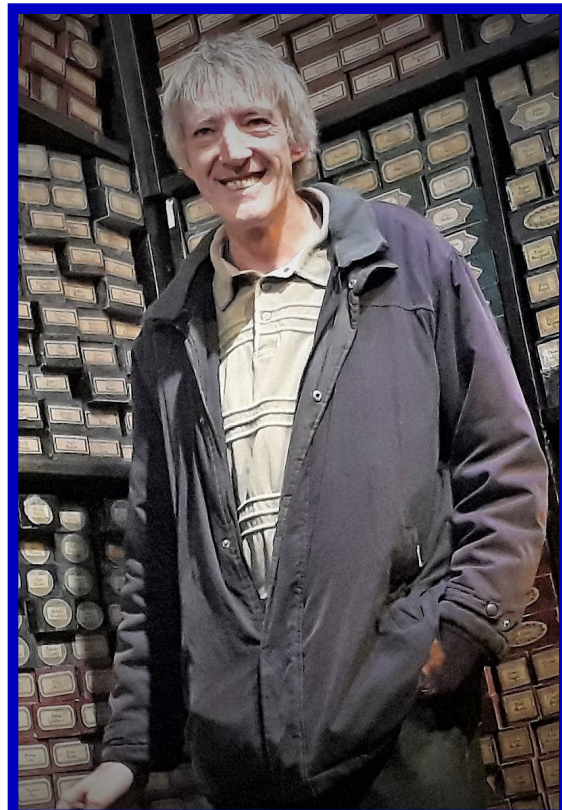
Thank you to Kerry, Ann & Gerard for some of the Harry Potter photo's.





## Harry Potter Studio tour.

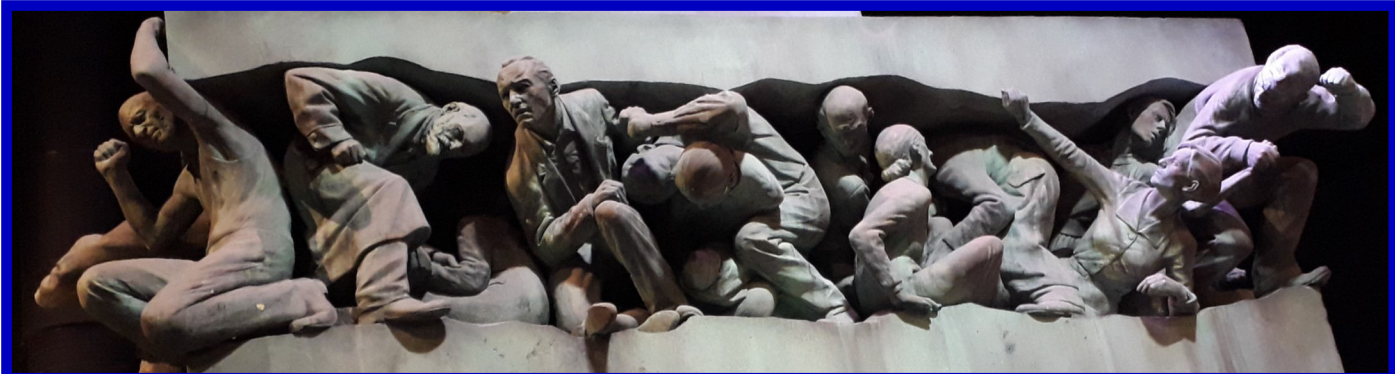
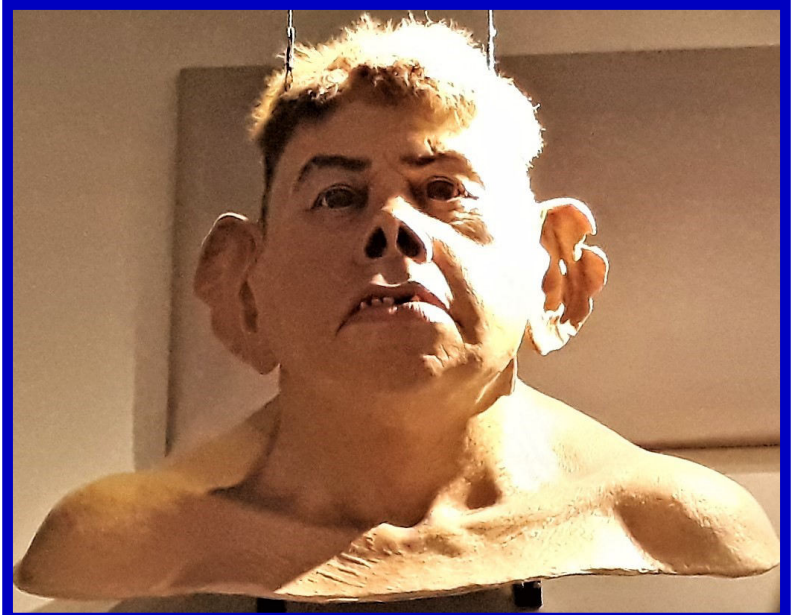
14th March 2019.



I think Simon  
enjoyed his  
day out.



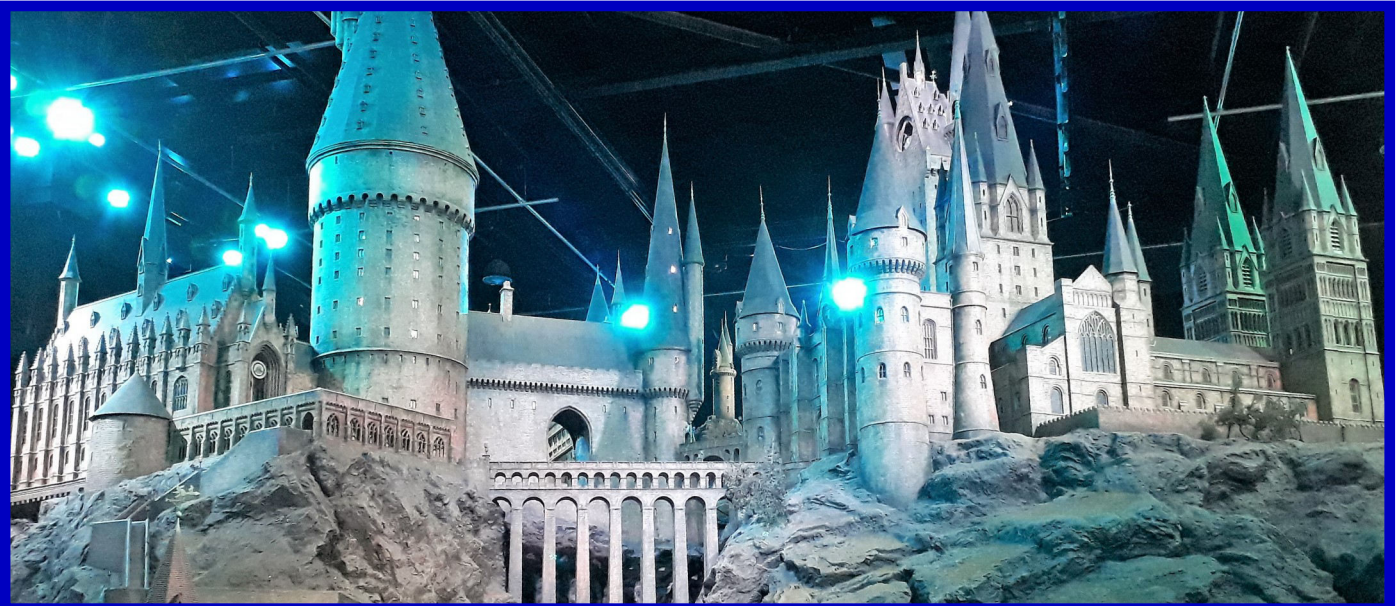
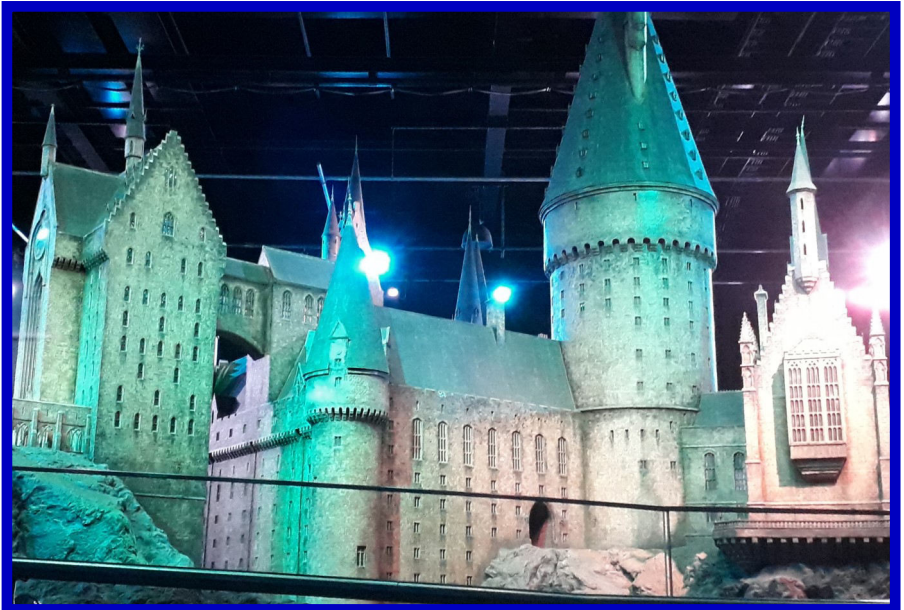
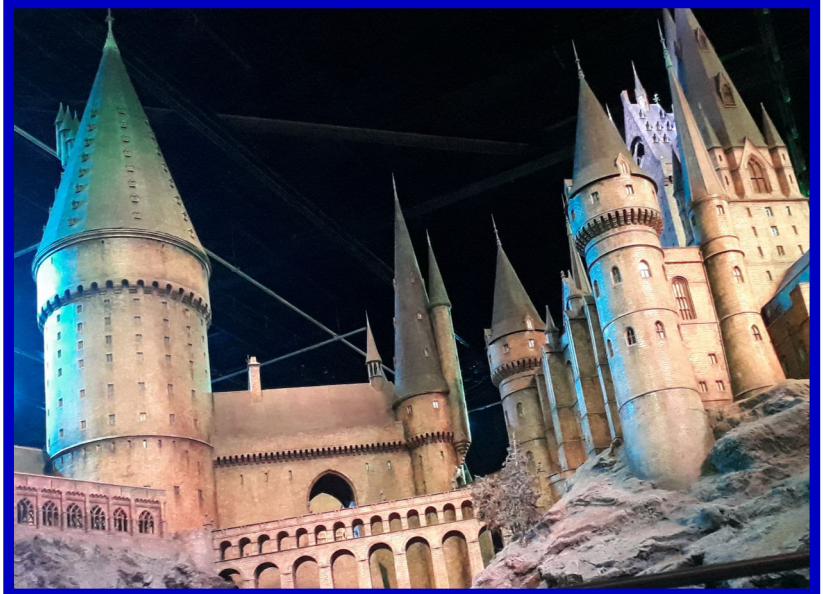
## Harry Potter Studio tour. 14th March 2019.





## Harry Potter Studio tour. 14th March 2019.

Towards the end of the tour you come across the brilliant scale model of "Hogwarts". It must have taken hours and hours and hours to make it look so good. I love it.





## Harry Potter Studio tour. 14th March 2019.

At the end of the tour we arrived back at the gift shop. There were so many tempting things to buy until you saw the price. Just look at the photo and all of the different wands that were available to buy. I have to admit I did get a bit carried away by buying a pair of trousers, shorts, top, pencils, fridge magnet and a cuddly toy.



I had time for a cup of coffee and then met up with the others and we all boarded the coach and arrived back at Bedford just after 6.00pm. I think everyone enjoyed the day. If you ever have problems on one of our trips or think we could do better please speak to one of the Committee. Or if you have an idea for a future trip let us know.



Thank you to everyone who came on the trip, especially our volunteers who did a great job on the day. Without them our trips would not be possible.

by Tracey  
Brightman

## The cost of The Harry Potter Studio tour trip.

The following table shows how much the trip actually cost. The total cost of the trip was £1315.00 with FLAG paying £895.00 and members paying £420.00 FLAG paid a big 68% subsidy for this trip.

Description	£	Comment
Event Tickets	£640.00	Tickets were £40.00 each, carers free.
Coach Hire	£595.00	
Taxi Fares	£80.00	
Total Costs	£1315.00	
Members Fees	£420.00	Members, carers paid £20.00 each, volunteers free.
FLAG Costs	£895.00	

We asked members to pay £20.00 each. The actual tickets were £40.00 each, so even without the cost of the coach you got a really good deal. If FLAG did not pay any money towards the trip it would cost each member £62.00 which I think you would agree is too much.



## **Charging for Events.**

Setting a fair price for events is one of the hardest tasks the Trustees have to do. FLAG aims to subsidise events by 40% with Members paying 60%. The subsidy for 2018-19 was closer to 51% for FLAG and 49% for Members. In addition to the subsidy many members benefit from having their taxi fares reimbursed or transport to and from events by our dedicated volunteers. FLAG also has many hidden costs such as Room Hire at Priory, Insurance, Administrator Salary, Printing, Stamps, the list goes on. Most of these expenses we try to cover with Grants which are often for very specific purposes (restricted) and we are unable to spend the money on anything else.

Below is a summary of FLAGs policies on how and why we set event prices:

### **Coaches.**

This has to be one of our biggest expenses and usually costs around £600 to £700. Where possible FLAG aims to obtain Grants for our coach and if lucky enough to do this then this cost does not feature in the event cost for Members (but of course the FLAG bank balance goes down).

### **Room/Venue Hire.**

FLAG applies for funding for our weekly meetings but not events. For example the Room Hire for our AGM and Fish and Chip supper, held at Priory, does form part of the event cost. In order for us to enjoy our lovely, spacious Christmas Meal FLAG had to pay for a minimum of 46 people. We didn't get 46 attendees so the difference was justified as Room Hire.

### **Tickets / Menu Prices.**

FLAG often has to pay for tickets in advance, this is really hard as we do not know how many people are coming. Harry Potter tickets were £40 per person, we had to order them two months in advance. Indications from the events choices we did last year suggested it was going to be popular so FLAG purchased 38 tickets (the number of people we can fit on a coach). However, only 28 people attended, fortunately we managed to get a refund, Phew!

### **Carer Prices.**

It is FLAG's policy that if a member needs a carer then that carer comes for the same subsidised price as the member. We have this policy as for the vast majority of events there is a cost for that carer. The vast majority of people with a disability do get some contribution towards the care they need, this also includes the Trustees! When we looked into dropping participation costs for carers it was discovered that nearly £5 would have to be added to every event cost to members, the Committee all felt this was unfair.

### **Volunteer Costs.**

The difference between a volunteer and carer is a carer is there to assist 1 person, a volunteer is devoting their time for free, is available to assist any FLAG member who needs it and often transporting members before and after events using their own cars. For this reason the cost of the volunteers is included in event prices.

### **Taxi Fares.**

Although taxi fares generally don't come under event charges there have recently been some changes. At Christmas it became apparent that while the £20 per event covered members who could transfer or get into a standard taxi, it did not cover the additional cost of a wheelchair taxi. Last year only wheelchair users contributed to their taxi costs of more than £20. FLAG did not feel this was fair so the new taxi policy is:

- FLAG will pay up to £20 per event for a standard taxi.
- FLAG will pay up to £40 for a wheelchair taxi.
- Charges are per taxi not number of people in the taxi.
- Out of Borough members receive the same taxi subsidy as those who live within the Borough.



## Thursday Afternoon Crafts

The two Thursday Afternoons before Easter a few of us had a go at decorating Easter Bunnies. These are some of the results.



Don't forget our Thursday Afternoons at Priory Methodist now run from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Come along.

## Tea / Coffee Afternoon - Prize Draw

When we make stuff at a Craft Afternoon we charge £1, of which 50p goes towards buying new craft stuff and 50p goes towards a Prize Draw at our monthly Tea / Coffee Afternoon. The winner of this months draw on the 18th April was Ann Bartram who won £6.50.

## Fundraising

A big thank you to the following Charitable Trusts for their generous Donations to FLAG.

<b>Waitrose Bedford</b>	Jan 2019 received <b>£212.00.</b>
<b>The Gale Charitable Trust</b>	Mar 2019 received <b>£2000.00.</b>
<b>Mrs BL Robinsons Charitable Trust</b>	Mar 2019 received <b>£250.00.</b>
<b>The Harpur Trust</b>	Apr 2019 granted <b>£6631.00</b> over 2 years for our Administrator's Salary and Room Hire.
<b>Bedford Borough Council</b>	Apr 2019 granted <b>£1000.00.</b>



**Dates for your  
Diary 2018**

**27th June**  
Drop-in

**4th July**  
Drop-in

**11th July**  
Committee  
Meeting

**18th July**  
Canal Boat day trip

**25th July**  
Drop-in

**1st August**  
Tea, Coffee, Cake  
Social Afternoon

**8th August**  
Drop-in

**15th August**  
Drop-in

**22nd August**  
Summer  
Fundraiser  
Afternoon

**29th August**  
Committee  
Meeting

**5th Sept**  
Drop-in

**12th Sept**  
Model Village  
day trip

**19th September**  
Tea, Coffee, Cake  
Social Afternoon

Please note dates &  
times may change.

## 2019 Summer Fundraiser

Our annual Summer Fundraiser this year will be on Thursday 22nd August from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Last year we had Cakes and the year before we had Scones and Cream. We will be having a vote at the AGM on 30th May to decide what Members prefer.

## 5p Challenge

At last years Christmas Meal we received the last of members 5p collections. One of our volunteers, Roger Gaunt, had the unenviable job of counting them all and then banking them. So for 2018 we raised a total of £315.10, which will all go to FLAG funds. The people who collected the most 5p's will be announced and given a prize at the AGM in May. Keep collecting those 5p's for FLAG.



2016	£472.35
2017	£388.95
2018	£315.10
Total	£1176.40

## FLAG Bedford

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**FLAG**  
Bedford



Friendship Link  
& Action Group