

Inform

News from Information Services

Bedfordshire Libraries

Asian Bedford - a world on your doorstep



Bedfordshire Libraries recently launched 'Asian Bedford' a guide to all aspects of Asian life in the town and surrounding area.

The aim of this publication is to interest people in many different communities in the town and to guide them to further information. Asian Bedford includes information on the Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Mongolian and Pakistani communities as well as many others. The guide covers topics such as art, books, culture, heritage, dance, festivals, health, places of worship and sport.

The guide was written using library information sources, contacts within the community and first-hand research such as visits to specialist food shops in Queens Park (hard work but someone had to do it!). Many enticing things were found: "huge frozen catfish from Thailand and Burma, superior ready-made curries from India, and a wonderful selection of herbs and spices as well as a large range of Chinese and Thai foods."

Asian Bedford is available on the Internet (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk click on Libraries, click on Local Information) where it will be constantly updated and revised.

We hope that many people will enjoy reading this booklet as well as finding it a useful source of information. We welcome any comments and look forward to suggestions with interest.

Please contact us on the web at www.bedfordshire.gov.uk click on Libraries, click on Contact Us, or by telephone at Bedford Central Library 01234 350931.

Issue 5
Newsletter
Spring 2006

Inside this issue:

<i>'Enquire' service</i>	2
<i>Helpsheet update</i>	2
<i>Coming soon - Oxford Reference Online</i>	3
<i>Britannica news</i>	3



'Enquire' National online enquiry service



A free 24/7 real-time service which works like instant messaging or a chat session is now available nationally.

Someone asks a question on the Enquire web form and a member of library staff responds online to deal with the enquiry in real-time. Replies may also be sent by email if appropriate.

Nearly 100 English library services, including Bedfordshire, are working together with library staff internationally to deliver Enquire around the clock. Libraries in England staff the service from Monday to Friday, 9am till 5pm, and international library partners cover other times.

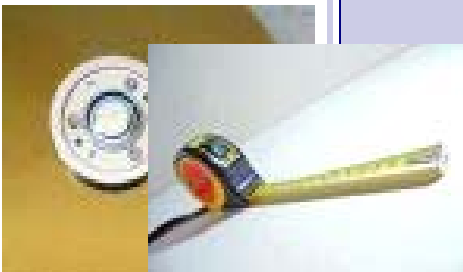
If you would like to find out more visit <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/> and click on 'Enquire'

Information Helpsheets

During recent weeks a number of new helpsheets have been added to the Virtual Library.

These include the following

- 'British Standards' (click on Information and Reference, click on A-Z How to Find Information, click on Business)
- 'Price Indexes and Inflation' (click on Information and Reference, click on A-Z How to Find Information, click on Statistics)
- 'What else happened on the day you were born?' (click on Information and Reference, click on A-Z How to Find Information, click on History and Archaeology)



Oxford reference books online Oxford reference books online

Bedfordshire Libraries has recently added to its virtual reference collection by purchasing Oxford Reference Online: the Oxford Premium Collection, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and the Oxford English Dictionary Online.

These services will be available to library members from spring 2006 onwards.

The Oxford Premium Collection offers:

- 100+ quick reference titles
- 50,000+ in-depth articles from the *Oxford Companions* series
- All 20,000+ quotation entries from the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*
- 5,300+ illustrations, including full-colour maps, line diagrams, tables, etc
- Timelines
- 36,000+ bibliographies
- 1,400+ external web links

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography offers:

- 55,000 lives in 63 million words
- 10,000 portrait illustrations

The Oxford English Dictionary provides:

- Authoritative definitions of over 500,000 words
- A history of the usage of words from their first recorded occurrence in the modern period through 2.5 million quotations from a wide range of international language sources



Encyclopaedia Britannica Online on the Virtual Library - New Features

Now, in addition to thousands of articles and illustrations and features such as web links, timelines and video clips, the vast Encyclopaedia Britannica Online gives you even more:

- 'World Data Analyst' - masses of country statistics from around the world
- 'Gateway to the Classics' - the complete text of over 220 works by 140 well-known authors
- 'Notable Quotations' - over 4000 quotations that you can browse by subject or by author



Bedfordshire Libraries

Bedford Central Library

Harpur Square Opening Hours

Bedford Central Library

Bedford

Monday to Friday: 9.00 am - 6.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am-5.00pm

Telephone:

Reference Library - 01234 270102

Main Library - 01234 350931



Opening hours for branches vary.

Other Bedfordshire Libraries

Amphill Library 01525 402278

Barton Library 01582 881101

Biggleswade Library 01767 312324

Bromham Library 01234 824391

Dunstable Library 01582 608441

Flitwick Library 01525 715268

Houghton Regis Library 01582 865473

Kempston Library 01234 853092

Leighton Buzzard Library 01525 371788

Potton Library 01767 260740

Putnoe Library 01234 353422

Sandy Library 01767 680384

Shefford Library 01462 639070

Stotfold Library 01462 873626

Toddington Library 01525 873626

Wootton Library 01234 766061



Bedfordshire Libraries Virtual Library
<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk>
click on 'Libraries'

Bedfordshire
county council