

We are on our way!

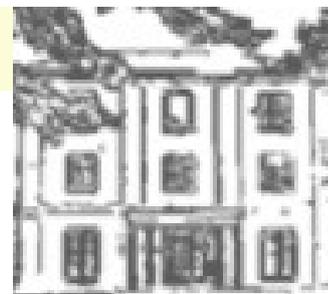


Ken Daniels, Chair of York House Centre, and Lee Hart of Hart & Son Contractors of Old Wolverton sign the contract for our building project for the back of York House. The work includes the demolition of the existing single storey block; the construction of a new kitchen and servery; a new 300 ft2 meeting/activity room; improvements to the existing staircase; recladding the stairwell; and new external lights. Hart & Son start work on 11 March and should finish this first phase by September.

The Centre is to remain open throughout the work with pedestrian entry and exit still available at the back although vehicular access will be restricted. A temporary kitchen is to be installed in the main hall. There may be occasional days when the work disrupts the operation of the Centre but users will be informed in advance. For example the Centre will be without power on Tuesday 26 February to allow for the diversion of our electricity supply and the installation of a new meter in the main hall.

We have arranged a presentation at York House at 8 pm on Monday February 25. This will allow the project to be explained and the effect of the construction work on our users and neighbours to be discussed. Please let us know if you intend to come to this presentation or would like more information.

The project is funded by Barratt Homes via Milton Keynes Council; the town council; the Garfield Weston Foundation; Milton Keynes Community Foundation; and WREN from the Landfill Communities Fund.



## Lanterns 2012

This year's Lantern Project was a sell-out success with 290 lanterns made! The frame-making sessions at local schools and 2 weekends of workshops at York House Centre were really well attended with a great community atmosphere and Muffins provided a fabulous café running all day for homemade cakes and bacon butties.

The theme of 'Christmas Under the Sea' inspired an AMAZING array of colourful lanterns from jellyfish, turtles and tropical fish to sunken ships and mermaids plus the obligatory sprinkle of Sponge Bobs, of course....

Many thanks, as always, to the unstoppable team of Lantern Volunteers who give hours of their time and a massive amount of energy to make this spectacular community project possible. And a big thank you to our funders – Milton Keynes Community Foundation, Stony Stratford Town Council and the Business Association.



**Stony in Bloom at York House 4 Events in 1!!**

**Saturday 13 April 9.30 am to 12.30 pm**

**Plant Sale**

**Spring Coffee Morning**

**Plant the "York House Edible Sharing Bed" @ 10.30 am "3rd Seedy Swap"**

London Road Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JQ

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[www.york-house.org.uk](http://www.york-house.org.uk)

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## The 9th Cock and Bull real beer festival

Back for number 9!

Friday 22 &  
Saturday 23 February  
noon to 11 pm  
both days  
at  
York House Centre

The doors of York House Centre will again be open to welcome discerning drinker of real ales and ciders. There'll be another fine selection of twenty local-ish beers, supplemented by some "foreign" (ie more than 50 miles away) brews. Five real ciders (including appley joy from Wolverton and Woughton) and a perry add to the pleasure.

There will be Fairtrade wines, juices and snacks, AND Devine hot food. Saturday evening will see (and hear) some jolly musical entertainment from Saturday Sun and eye2eye .

And it's FREE to enter!

The beer festivals have been a jolly social occasion for hundreds of Stony-ites and visitors and has been a welcome fund-raiser for York House Centre, the town's only publicly-owned community centre.

The festival is brought to you by the Cock & Bull Society, whose mission is the dissemination of humour and pleasure. [www.cockandbull.org.uk](http://www.cockandbull.org.uk) or [clayton@cockandbull.org.uk](mailto:clayton@cockandbull.org.uk)

BAR STAFF WANTED! It's easy. It's enjoyable; AND you get to sample some fine beers and ciders. email [jukeofstony@btinternet.com](mailto:jukeofstony@btinternet.com)

[stonyaha.co.uk](http://stonyaha.co.uk)

## York House Centre Salutes the Sea!

York House Centre and The Cock & Bull Society combined forces to host "S.S.Shanty!", an evening of sea-shanties and maritime music in aid of RNLI. The event raised £735.15 for RNLI and £400 for York House Centre. A splendid night was had by all, thanks to some jolly performances by 5 Men Not Called Matt, Sloop Groggy Dogs (I'm afraid so), and The Harmanics. Malcolm Jones (well-known Bullfrog) performed his shanty



on the works of local boat-builder, Edward Hayes, and the new Bard of Stony Stratford (one Richard Frost – chief Scribal Gatherer) took us on a poetical crawl round Stony pubs. Captain's Daughter, Michele Welborn took time off from the cooking, washing and ironing, to perform three excellent pieces – one of them her very own.

It was a sell-out, and the absolutely-not-press-ganged 100-strong audience gave full voice to all the choruses. {{{Sceptics said "sea-shanties in Stony Stratford???"}. The Cock & Bull Society responded "Why not? Lord Nelson was born about 30 miles from the sea and he didn't even have a bicycle."}}}}}

S.S.Shanty! was the second of a planned series of concerts at York House, when the accent will be on "roots" music, ie folk, blues, jazz, international.



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