

European Bedford Home



Art & Music

At Your Library

- Browse the shelves at [your local library](#) for books on **different periods of European art history**, individual artists and sculptors and art forms.
- Music from Europe? Have a look at Bedford Library's selection of books and CDs. Or you can search the online catalogue for art and music at www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Do it Online then Search and Request



Locally

- **The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum**
www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk
The Higgins includes a superb collection of European ceramics and works by European artists. It is currently being refurbished and will re-open in 2013. To find out what's happening, go to:
www.thehigginsbedford.blogspot.com
- **Anglo-Italian Music Society**
Brings young talented Italian and English musicians together in Bedford.
Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh



On the Virtual Library

- **Oxford Art Online (Grove Art)**
An in depth encyclopedia covering Western and non-western art.
- **Oxford Music Online (Grove Music)**
Includes expert articles on all aspects of music.

Free access with your library card and PIN.
www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Online Resources



Online

- **Web Gallery of Art**
www.wga.hu/
Covers European painting and sculpture from the 11th century to the middle of the 19th century. Excellent images.
- **Tate Galleries**
www.tate.org.uk/art
Check the Style or 'ism' link for examples from 19th and 20th century European art movements.
- **Music Net**
Find European classical composers by nationality. Good links section.
www.classical.net/
- **Ramdam**
French popular music links.
www.ramdam.com/
- **MIZ online**
Music in Germany.
www.miz.org/sitemap.html
- **Sounds of Europe (Guardian Newspaper)**
Music from France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Poland, The Netherlands and Germany.
www.guardian.co.uk/music/2012/jul/13/sounds-europe-explore-continent-10-songs

Did you know ...?

There is a statue, a memorial to Italian immigrants, by Professore Giuseppe Martignetti, in Bedford? Look out for it on the Greyfriars roundabout.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

Country Information

At Your Library

- [Your local library](#) can provide **books on the history of Europe and individual European countries**. If you are travelling, have a look at guidebooks and maps on the countries, regions and towns of Europe. You can search the Virtual Library catalogue online too.
www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Do it Online then Search and Request



- **Europa World Year Book**
Find this in Quick Reference- extensive, annually updated, information about all the countries of Europe and the rest of the world.

On the Virtual Library

- **Credo Reference** includes articles about Europe and its individual countries.
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** online
Substantial articles about Europe and individual European countries.

Free access with your library card and PIN.

www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries

Click Online Resources

Online

- **BBC Country Profiles**
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
Useful for outlines of history and politics, a timeline and links to selected news items about European countries and elsewhere.
- **CIA World Factbook**
www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Find information and statistics about European countries.
- **European Statistics**
- <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>
Download statistical data from the official statistical organisation of the EU.
- **Michelin Maps**
www.viamichelin.co.uk/web/Maps
Navigate your way round Europe.
- **DB Bahn Rail Planner**
www.bahn.de/i/view/GBR/en/index.shtml
Plan your rail journeys in Europe.

Did you know ...?

From the 8th to the 11th centuries Bedford was repeatedly attacked and sacked by the Danes. Bedford was a frontier town, on the line between the Danish and Saxon areas.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

Books, Films and Newspapers

At Your Library

- At [your local library](#), **our foreign language section** has grown! Borrow books in these European languages ~ Dutch, French, German, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Czech, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian and Russian.
- Look out for our selection of **European cinema DVDs** to borrow.
- If you want to keep up with **news or gossip** you can read the following at Bedford Central Library ~
 - ❖ Corriere della Sera
 - ❖ Dziennik Polski
 - ❖ Oggi
 - ❖ Paris Match



Locally

- **Bedford Film Society**
www.bedfordfilmsociety.org.uk
An eclectic programme each year of 20 films which often includes European cinema.

Online

- **Grant & Cutler at Foyles in London**
www.grantandcutler.com/
Very useful, a foreign-language bookseller which specialises in Western European languages, stocking books, DVDs etc.
 - **Cineuropa: European Cinema Portal**
www.cineuropa.org/2011/p.aspx?t=index
'Site dedicated to European cinema, films, actors, filmmakers, professionals, producers, distributors, sales agents, scriptwriters, film finance and the film industry as a whole...'
 - **Cinema of Europe**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Europe
Comprehensive overview from Wikipedia.
 - **European Newspapers**
www.netmasters.co.uk/european_newspapers/
Read national newspapers online.
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Languages

At Your Library

- Learn a new language – there are **courses** to borrow from [your local library](#) in several of the European languages.
- Consult **dictionaries** in all the major European languages.
- At [your local library](#), **our foreign language section** has grown! Borrow books in these European languages ~ Dutch, French, German, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Czech, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian and Russian.



Locally

- **Cercle Français de Bedford**
Practice speaking French, the Cercle Français has a programme of talks in French about the life and culture of France.
Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh
- **La Petite Ecole Francaise**
Fun French classes for children aged 2-9 years old.
Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh
- **The Polish School in Bedford**
Runs a Saturday School for children offering Polish language classes, Polish classes for adults and an ESOL course.
For more information contact The Polish School.
1 Lurke Street
Bedford MK40 3TN
Tel.07840107510
info@polishschool.co.uk
www.thepolishschool.co.uk

On the Virtual Library

- **Oxford language Dictionaries Online**
Consult comprehensive French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish dictionaries online and translations for Portuguese and Polish words. Add-ons include letter templates, a grammar section and other learning tools. An excellent site for language learners.
Free access with your library card and PIN.
www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Online Resources

Online

- **BBC Languages Across Europe**
www.bbc.co.uk/languages/european_languages/
A snapshot of 40 main European languages.
- **A Map of the European Languages of the European Union**
www.eurominority.eu/version/maps/map-european-languages-eu.asp

Did you know ...?

'There are about 225 indigenous languages in Europe - roughly 3% of the world's total.' (European Day of languages web). Bedford Library has courses and dictionaries for the major ones!

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

Religion and Festivals

At Your Library

- Find books at [your local library](#) on **the major religions** practised in Europe and their traditions and festivals.



Locally

- **Greek Orthodox Church of St Mamas**
Meets at Church of Transfiguration, Bedford Road, Kempston MK42 7EZ
- **Italian Church: St Francesca Cabrini, Bedford**
Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh
- **Polish Church: Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Cuthbert, Bedford**
Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh
- **Serbian Orthodox Church**
Meets at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square MK40 1SQ
Tel. 01536 261499 Priest Vido Vukovic
- **Ukrainian Church of Byzantine Rite: St Josaphat**
York Street, Bedford MK40 3RJ

Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.

www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh

Online

- **BBC Religions**
Covers all aspects of the major religions - beliefs, holy days/festivals, rites, symbols and important texts.
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/
- **Interfaith Calendar:** primary sacred times for world religions.
www.interfaithcalendar.org/
- **Religion in Europe**
Information from Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Europe



Culture and Heritage

At Your Library

- Find books **on European culture, heritage, history and cookery** at your [local library](#).

Locally

- Not surprisingly, you don't have to look far for an **Italian restaurant** in Bedford – details are in the Yellow Pages.

Spanish restaurant - Andaluz, 120a, Castle Road, Bedford MK40 3RG

<http://andaluzshop.co.uk/index.html>

Café, deli and shop.

Portuguese restaurant – Baia de Cascais, 4 Newnham Street, Bedford MK40 3JR 01234 364400.

www.baiadecascais.co.uk/

- And for **delicatessens**:
Foods of Italy
75 Bower Street
Bedford
MK40 3RB

The Italian Deli
50 Ford End Road



Bedford
MK40 4JW
Tel. 01234 355737

Lituanica Bedford
73B Tavistock Street
Bedford
MK40 2RR
Tel. 07783 026429
Fine Eastern European foods – Polish, Lithuanian, Russian,
Latvian, German, Romanian and Slovakian.

Polish Specialities
75 Midland Road
Bedford

All the local organisations listed below are on the Local Information Database ~

<http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh>

- **Cercle Français de Bedford**
Has a programme of talks in French about the life and culture of France.
- **Bedford-Bamberg Association**
Bedford is twinned with Bamberg. The association promotes social and cultural links with Bamberg in Germany.
- **Anglo-Italian Music Society**
Brings young talented Italian and English musicians together in Bedford.
- **Club Prima Generazione Italiani**
Social club for all Italian senior citizens living in Bedfordshire.
- **Italian Society of Bedford**
Holds meetings which cover Italian Art, Culture, History and Language.
- **Polish British Integration Centre (PBIC)**
'PBIC provides information and free confidential advice to the Polish and British community on any subject including housing, benefits, employment and education.' (PBIC leaflet).
- **Polish Club House**



On the Virtual Library

- Search for articles on European culture, heritage and history on **Credo Reference online**.
Free access with your library card and PIN.
www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Online Resources

- Search for European family connections on **Ancestry Library Edition**. Free access with your library card and PIN.
www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Click Local and Family History
NB Ancestry can only be viewed in a Bedford Borough or Central Bedfordshire library

Online

- **European Commission : Culture**
Heritage Days, Capitals of Culture and EU Culture Prizes...
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm
- **BBC Recipes from Around the World**
Choose from, French, Greek, Italian, Mediterranean and Spanish recipes.
www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/

Did you know ...?

Bedford is twinned with Bamberg in Bavaria, Germany and Rovigo in Veneto, Italy.

www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/tourism_and_travel/town_twinning.aspx

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

European Connections

At Your Library

Read more about the growth of **Bedford as a multicultural town**.

- Ring-binders of newspaper cuttings and articles delving back into the 1950s are available at Bedford Library.
- For books documenting the history of Italian community in Bedford, search the library catalogue under 'Italians' AND 'Bedford'.

https://libraries.bedscc.gov.uk/02_Catalogue/02_001_Search.aspx



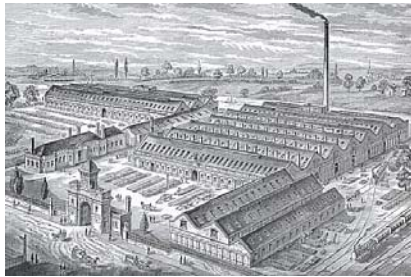
Locally

- Looking for links to Europe? You will find **clubs and organisations** listed on the Local Information Database. Search by entering the country name.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh

On the Virtual Library

- Read about the **Arrival of the Italian Community in Bedford** on the Virtual Library.
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised_resources/bedford_digitisation_az_italiancommunity.htm
- Follow the **Multicultural Timeline** on the Virtual Library
www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised_resources/multicultural_timeline.htm

Did you know ...?



In 1864 **General Garibaldi** (1807-1882) visited Bedford. He was a hero of the Risorgimento (a period of Italian cultural and political activism leading to the unification of Italy). He led 1,000 volunteers known as "Red Shirts" in the capture of Sicily and Naples (1860). His conquest led to the formation of the

Kingdom of Italy. During his visit Garibaldi went to the Britannia Iron Works in Bedford where he inspected the factory, inscribed his name in the visitors' book, and planted a tree as a memento of his visit. Following this he went on to Clapham Park Farm, to see a demonstration of steam ploughing in the company of Mr. James Howard.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

Facts and Figures

Online

Find out more about the demography of the European communities in Bedford.

- Bedford Borough **Statistical Profile**: demography www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/borough_statistical_profile.aspx
Click on 'Demography'.
- **Neighbourhood Statistics**
www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

Search as follows:
Bedford and Local Authority



Bedford

People and Society: Population and Migration

Country of Birth Table UV08

- For more data go to:
www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/other_data_sources.aspx
 - And for further information contact:
intelligence@bedford.gov.uk
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