

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS
AND MEETINGS**

January 12

Annual Meeting – Dues for 2005 payable

April 6

Board of Directors Meeting

April 23

St. George's Day

June 6

61st Anniversary of D-Day at the National D-Day Memorial

June 15

Board of Directors Meeting

July 14

Bastille Day Celebration at Liberty Lake Park

September 1-7

English citizens to visit Bedford – numerous special events planned

September 21

Board of Directors Meeting

October

French Association members visit Bedford

November 2

Board of Directors Meeting; 2005 planning and plans for Member Social Event

November/December

Holiday Social for members



Visit our website to see the latest updates:

www.bedfordva.gov/alliance

We Welcome English Friends to Bedford in September

The Bedford International Alliance and its members will greet 11 people from England in September. Our visitors will be in Bedford Thursday, September 1, through Wednesday, September 7. The six men and five women will be staying with host families in our area.

Members of the Bedford / England Unity Committee have planned both sightseeing and shopping excursions along with lunches and dinners which give our English guests a chance to meet the people of Bedford.

The tentative agenda is on the following page. There are several opportunities for BIA members to participate in activities and meet and get to know the English.

Our guests will be here for Labor Day and host families are encouraged to make them feel at home by including them in their celebrations. For a real treat, the BIA will sponsor a hot dog and hamburger cookout in the early evening on Labor Day at Liberty Lake Park in Bedford.

Information will be mailed to members before the event. The BIA will provide the meats, breads, condiments and picnic supplies with members bringing side dishes and desserts.

BIA members are invited to attend the ceremonies at the D-Day Memorial on Monday morning followed by a catered lunch at the Bedford Visitor's Center, and the dinner cruise on the Southern Belle on Tuesday evening.

Lunch at the Visitor's Center will be approximately \$10 a person. The cost for the dinner cruise on the Southern Belle will be approximately \$27 per person, and at this time, there are about 20 seats available. These will be on a first-come, first serve basis to members..

If you would like to attend the lunch and/or the cruise call Pearl Broesamle at 540-586-1087 or Meg Ballard at 540-586-1406 by July 7 to reserve your spot. A non-refundable deposit of \$15 will be due by July 21. Those who call to reserve a spot will receive details of both events by mail.

If you are not hosting a guest but would like to help, please contact Pearl Broesamle, or any member of the Social Committee, to find out what you can do.

Please join us in welcoming friends from England. Let's all help make their trip a memorable one.



Tentative Agenda

- Thursday, Sept. 1 . . . Arrival in Bedford, greeted by the BIA, and go home with the host families.
- Friday, Sept. 2. The host families will entertain their guests all day.
- Saturday, Sept. 3. . . . Drive and lunch on the Skyline Drive followed by covered dish dinner at Avenel in Bedford. BIA members are welcome to bring a dish and join the celebrations.
- Sunday, Sept. 4. Late morning or church with host families followed by afternoon shopping trip.
- Monday, Sept. 5 Ceremonies at the D-Day Memorial with English visitors. Tour Visitor's Center and catered lunch. BIA members invited to join visitors for lunch, at their own cost.
Hot dog and hamburger cookout for guests and BIA members at Liberty Lake Park. BIA members to bring salads, vegetables and desserts.
- Tuesday, Sept. 6 Shopping day for English guests. Dinner cruise on the Southern Belle located at Campers Paradise on Smith Mountain Lake. BIA members are welcome to join the group for the dinner cruise, at their own cost.
- Wednesday, Sept. 7. . Departure from Liberty Lake Park in Bedford for airport and home to England.

New Members Wanted

The Bedford International Alliance would like to expand its membership base in our community. If you have friends, co-workers, or family members who would like to broaden their awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the rich historical legacy between Bedford County and the City of Bedford and certain towns, villages, and communities in Normandy, France and in England, please let them know about the Alliance.

Our goal is to pursue and cultivate educational exchanges and twinning alliances within the three regions. To do the Alliance sponsors several social gatherings a year for members, a student exchange with England and France, occasional travel opportunities for members, and opportunities to host visitors from the England and France to Bedford.

If you need membership details, call Al Vincent at 540-586-0219 or Meg Ballard at 540-586-1406. Membership dues are just \$10 a person a year and everyone is welcome. Join us to share in history and to make new friends here and abroad.



Visitation Plans Changed

It was reported in the last newsletter that visitors from Normandy would be coming to Bedford in June. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the visit has been postponed until October. Details will be sent to the membership in the next newsletter.

The Alliance has also been working on a Student Exchange from England and France in July. This exchange proved to be more involved than anticipated for the English and French and they have been unable to organize in time for a visit this year. Just one French student will be visiting Bedford in

July. He will be at the Bastille Day Celebration and we encourage you to attend and meet him.

The BIA's Student Exchange Committee will be working on a trip by Bedford students to England and/or France in 2006. Details will be sent to members later in the year.

SOLEMN SHORE

NEALA SCHWARTZBERG pays her respects at a **BRITISH MEMORIAL** hidden away on a North Carolina coastal island.

I DROVE DOWN the narrow lane, tucked my car into the shoulder of the road, and walked up the gravel path to the British Cemetery on Ocracoke Island, on North Carolina's Outer Banks. This small patch of land, surrounded by a white picket fence and tall trees, contains two identified graves and two of unknown sailors.

The tiny town of Ocracoke is a most improbable locale as a final resting place for British sailors. The grave's origins go back to World War II, when German U-boats shadowed the Eastern seaboard of the United States, sinking merchant ships to hinder America's ability to supply overseas allies.

In the early years of World War II, the United States was not well prepared to defend against these attacks. Protection, initially, came from the British. In May of 1942, the HMS *Bedfordshire* was to escort a small band of merchant ships to safe anchorage. The *Bedfordshire* never arrived. On the morning of May 14, the bodies of two of the ship's crew washed up on the shores of Ocracoke Island. The British sailors were interred in a quiet corner of the village graveyard.

But American soil didn't seem appropriate as the final resting place for the British seamen. A lease for the tiny 2,290-square-foot plot was given to the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission by the state of North Carolina for as long as the piece of ground remained a cemetery, and the land is now British soil.

An annual memorial service, held on the Thursday and Friday closest to May 11 (when the *Bedfordshire* is believed to have been sunk), commemorates the sailors. Locals turn out to honor the men buried in their village, and the British consulate

sends a representative.

A plaque at the cemetery contains part of a poem written by British poet Rupert Brooke:

*If I should die think only this of me
that there's some corner of a foreign field
that is forever England*

And so there is. ★

NEALA SCHWARTZBERG has written for *Redbook* and *Parade* magazines.

THE TICKET
The British Cemetery is located off Highway 12 on British Cemetery Road, in the village of Ocracoke.



Scenes from Ivybridge



Ivybridge Tourist Information Centre & Bookshop



Ivybridge Methodist Church



The First & Last Bistro in Ivybridge



Millswood School (Nursery)



Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Photos above from <http://www.ivybridge.devon.co.uk/community.htm>

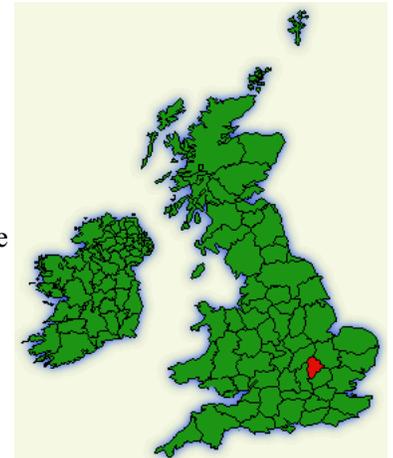
Bedford County / Bedfordshire

What is the connection?

We know Bedford County as one of 95 counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is located in southwestern part of the state, between the cities of Roanoke, to the West, and Lynchburg, to the East. It is bounded on the North by the Blue Ridge Mountains with the majestic Peaks of Otter, and on the South by Smith Mountain Lake, and on the East by the James River. The estimated population in 2004 was 63,788. This was an increase of 5.66% from the 2000 census.



The County of Bedfordshire is the smallest of the 'Shires' and is in the South-Eastern part of central England. Bedfordshire has no cities but can boast the fine market towns of Bedford, Luton, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. From the Southern borders of the County to London it is just 30 miles. It is a rural County which borders Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. Popular attractions in the county include Woburn Abbey, home of the Duke of Bedford and Whipsnade Zoo.



Named in honor of...

Native American Indians had lived in the area for several thousand years before the English colony of Virginia was established in 1607. The new colony was divided into eight shires in 1634. The shires were subsequently subdivided into large counties, and then smaller counties.

Bedford County was formed from Lunenburg County by an act passed Dec 13, 1753, to take effect on May 10, 1754, with the seat of government to be the community of New London.

The county was named Bedford in honor of John Russell, the fourth Duke of Bedford, who was Secretary of State of Great Britain at the time.

Settlers came to Bedford to farm and to exploit the natural resources of timber and fertile

lands, well watered by springs, creeks and streams fed by rains coming off the mountains.

A new county seat was created in 1782 on a 200 acre site in the heart of the county and named Liberty in honor of the Colonial victory over Cornwallis at Yorktown. Liberty became a town in 1839, the first town in U.S. history to bear this name. Subsequently, the town

expanded, changed its name to Bedford, and became a city in 1968.



Visit Bedfordshire Without Leaving Home

Want to see the English countryside around Bedfordshire but don't have the time or money for a visit? Then take an on-line tour. The web sites below are just a few of the sites that will give you both information and beautiful photographs of the area. Happy surfing!

<http://www.picturesofengland.com/>

<http://www.picturesofengland.com/England/Bedfordshire/pictures4>

<http://www.frithphotos.com/pageloader.asp?page=/home.asp>

<http://www.sanddancer.co.uk/beds.htm>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/eng-bdf.htm#General>

<http://www.turvey.homestead.com/>

What does the British flag look like?

Britain does not have a flag. Do you mean the flag of the UK?



The UK flag is called the Union Flag. It is sometimes wrongly referred to as the **Union Jack**. It is the flag of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The flag is actually three flags in one. It is made up from the **England flag**, the **Scotland flag** and the patron saint of **Ireland's Flag**.

The emblems (flags) that appear on the Union Flag are the crosses of three patron saints:



This is Scotland's Flag.

Scotland is represented by the flag of St. Andrew. It is called the "St Andrews Flag".



This is England's Flag.

England is represented by the flag of St. George. It is called the "St Georges Flag".



This flag is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

On the Union Flag, Northern Ireland is represented by the flag of St. Patrick.

Together they make the UK Flag



Why doesn't the Welsh dragon appear on the Union Flag?



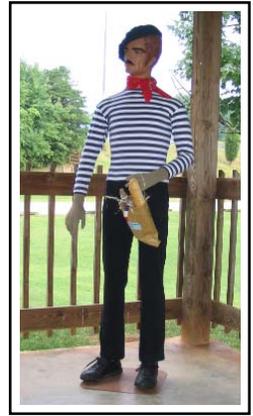
The Welsh dragon does not appear on the flag because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England. Wales was conquered by England in the 13th Century. In 1536, under Henry VIII, the Act of Union joined England and Wales officially. Therefore Wales is represented by the English Flag instead of the Welsh dragon.



The Bedford International Alliance invites
you and your family to the Fifth Annual
BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION

To party, eat, and remember Bedford's friends in
Normandy, France

Thursday, July 14, 2005
6:00 p.m. gathering, 7:00 p.m. meal time
Large pavilion at Liberty Lake Park



Those with last names beginning with *A through H* should bring a dessert
Those with last names beginning with *I through P* should bring a vegetable dish
Those with last names *Q through Z* should bring a salad dish
Hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, plates & utensils provided
Each family should bring their own drinks

RSVP TO Connie Messier at 586-3059 or Nita Holt at 239-6392 by July 7

Bedford International Alliance, Inc.
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