



Biggleswade Community News

JULY 2021



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SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE CONSULTATION

Launched on 23rd June, a consultation on changing schools in the Biggleswade area into primary / secondary schools will run for 14 weeks until the 21st September.

Local schools have been collaborating with Central Bedfordshire Council for some time. Over the next few years a new primary and secondary school are planned on land off Baden Powell Way. The council supports Stratton School and Edward Peake C of E School becoming secondary schools, with each of the current lower tier schools moving to become primaries. When the new schools are built, the final relocations from various sites will be finalised.



The change to the primary / secondary model would also bring schools in the area in line with the rest of the country. This would reduce the disruption of pupils having to change schools twice, as they currently do, helping them to get the most out of their education, while enabling schools to retain and attract the best teachers.


For more details visit the Central Bedfordshire website for Schools for the Future – Biggleswade,
www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/plans/biggleswade/overview

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Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and Eateries. Also online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Free of charge but donations towards costs are welcomed.

ABOUT THE TOWN

SAFER STREETS: Bedfordshire's new Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye, has been awarded £432,000 for projects to make our streets safer and tackle violence against women and girls. In March, the Home Office reopened its call for evidence on violence against women and girls, to hear views on this important issue, and will publish its report later this year.

 **Home Office** The Home Office is also working closely with police on a new online tool aimed at women and girls, which will allow people to pinpoint locations in their local area where they have felt unsafe.

Health and wellbeing kiosks at Saxon Leisure Centre

Keep track of your health and wellbeing with Boditrax kiosks

You do not have to be a member to use these new kiosks available at Saxon Gate Leisure Centre. Using two different electrical frequencies that pass through your bare feet, they provide up to 15 different results in 30 seconds, including weight, fat mass, muscle mass, metabolic rate, visceral (abdominal) fat level. You can self monitor by running a body composition scan, complete a questionnaire and set goals, track progress, create a personal account using self help guides for exercise, diet, nutrition and mental health.



A planning application has been submitted for the currently empty Pizza Express building on the High Street to convert it into 'The Big Theatre'. The application states that it will be 'a dynamic new arts destination. This exciting new venue will be a community arts hub complete with a multi format, flexible performance space, 100 seat theatre and a contemporary cafe / bar foyer space that will serve as a gallery for local artists.'

<http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/AcolNetCGI.gov>



Recently there has been a push to jab as many over 40s and those under 40 who have already received a first Astra Zeneca jab, with their second dose of that vaccine. Jardines Pharmacy Group will be leaving the Weatherley Centre later this month after administering nearly 40,000 vaccinations and perhaps helping to reduce the number of covid cases in Biggleswade - fewer than in some other local towns.

The site is closing because those under 40 now require Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and these need to be given at sites that can accommodate the low temperatures those vaccines need to be stored at. Those appointments can be booked by visiting www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination or phoning 119.

A big thank you is owed to Jardines and to the staff team at the Weatherley Centre for the kindness and support they have given to everyone. Weatherley staff have made a tremendous effort to keep the centre gleaming and covid free, and the receptionists, led by Manager Helen Ashton, have fielded numerous phone calls with enquiries from the public. Thank you also to all those covid support volunteers who have supported and guided the public for the past six months.

Many of those members of the public may have visited Weatherley Centre for the first time. A private charity, governed by a group of local trustees, the Community Centre was finally built in 1979 with the help of a large legacy from a local business owner, Mr Weatherley. In 1971 he provided a lease until 2014 and tasked a small group of trustees to secure a Community Centre for the residents of Biggleswade and its surrounding area.

We feel sure Mr Weatherley would be proud of how the Centre his legacy helped to build, has helped combat serious illness in our area. Thank you all very much indeed.

BAPTIST CHURCH 250TH CELEBRATIONS POSTPONED

As covid restrictions were not lifted on the 21st June, the proposed anniversary celebrations will not now take place. They are being postponed until after the school holidays.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Central
Bedfordshire
Council

Tell Central Bedfordshire Council where you need Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points in your area

The Council receives many requests to install new electric vehicle charge points, and aim to develop a properly coordinated network of charging points across Central Bedfordshire that will give people the confidence to use electric vehicles.

To help the Council understand where to prioritise the installation of charge points, they need to hear from you. You can visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/253 to complete a form giving your views on where these charging points should be located in your area.

If you need to know where there are charging points locally or beyond you can find out by visiting Zap Map at www.zap-map.com/live/ or by downloading the Zap Map app on your smartphone. Currently there seems to be just one local location for EV charging points, and that is at Asda, Biggleswade.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE'S TRACK AND TRACE

We learnt at a recent on-line meeting with the NHS that Central Bedfordshire Council's Track and Trace service, originally one of 5 new schemes piloted across England, has been the first to implement their own local tracing system. Their team is now reaching 80% to 100% of all track and trace referrals, using a number of methods including knocking door to door if necessary. It is being shared nationally as an example of how their system can effectively reduce covid transmission. Well done.

Visit www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk to register to receive your copy via email or make a donation towards our costs.

How to get referred to the Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles service Over 18 and living in Central Bedfordshire? Your GP or health professional can refer you to to Active Lifestyles. These help people that are currently sedentary, inactive and have a health condition or other health risk factors to become more physically active. They are also for those who would benefit from being more physically active to help their medical conditions.

Whether or not you are completely new to sport or physical activity the Active Lifestyles team can help. The scheme offers you motivation, advice and support that may help you to improve your current health and well being. After referral a member of our active lifestyles team will contact you and arrange a consultation. The scheme involves regular consultations where together you can explore your personal pathway, looking at programmes or services that appeal to you and the ones that will suit your lifestyle. The team can support you for as little or as long as you need – up to a year if it helps. We can signpost and encourage you to make healthier lifestyle changes and by working closely with a number of leisure centres and services across Central Bedfordshire you are able to benefit from the expertise available.

You will also have the opportunity to complete a body composition assessment to help track your progress. Speak to your GP. For more information ring 0300 300 6372 or 0300 300 5125 or email: active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES: WALKING FOOTBALLis what it says - a different version of the beautiful game.....at a slower pace. Walking football has all the same rules as football but with NO running, only walking. Adaptations of rules may be made dependant on the size of the area playing on. To book your place visit:

<https://bookwhen.com/activelifestyles#focus=ev-sgve-20210713140000>

The session will take place in the Multi Use Games Area. You will need to park your car next to the changing rooms and the toilets are currently shut so you need to go match ready. ☎ 0300 300 8305 Email: active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Tues 2-3pm 6th to 27th July Harvey Close, Upper Caldecote, Biggleswade SG18 9BQ

Vic Brunt –died 7th June 2021 aged 96 years

One of the reasons you are reading this newsletter today is thanks to Vic and his wife Doris. They were founders of the weekly Biggleswade 60+ Lunch Club 40 years ago, and I met them in early 2017 when my late husband, Brian, and I took over its running until it closed in February 2020. All ex local councillors from opposite sides of the political divide, we gelled immediately.

Ever thoughtful and knowledgeable, it was they who suggested Talk of the Town Community Transport when Central Beds Council had to stop providing their minibus and escort. That team collected our more vulnerable members from their homes and picked up the popular hot meal supplied by Stratton School. Without that help the Lunch Club would have closed then.

To its credit, Central Bedfordshire Council were generous afterwards with their annual donations to the Lunch Club and it is what was left of those donations that helped our team launch this newsletter, at the suggestion of Vic and Doris. 'Put it to the newsletter' they said at our final outing.

A mine of information and steeped in public service for most of their adult life, Vic and Doris were involved in setting up or running many local services. Vic died unexpectedly, but thankfully quite swiftly, at the age of 96. Our hearts and thoughts go out to Doris, his partner for over 70 years.

We were neighbours and Vic was regularly seen walking with his walking aid through our local streets. Active, helpful and determined to the end. A man to envy for his capabilities and to thank so much for his thoughtfulness and support for Biggleswade and its community.

I met their son, Mark, recently and asked him what it was like growing up in the Brunt household. 'Madness!' he said I should imagine it was very busy but very interesting! Thank you Vic for everything. Rest in Peace. You won't be forgotten.

Shirley Legate

St Andrews Mini Concert Festival 9th to 11th July 2021

(book a place at www.collectivel.org)

Having been starved of live music and cultural events for so long due to Covid, CollectIvel would like to offer the people of Mid Beds the chance to hear top notch musicians perform concerts of high quality. Our musicians 'CollectIvists' trained at European Conservatoires, played with UK-based professional orchestras and performed worldwide. We will also showcase some extraordinarily talented up-and-coming musicians, to our socially distanced audience of 75 people.

On Friday 9th July at 7pm Eden Baroque, a duo partnership, will perform 'Summer Serenade'; uplifting music from the 17th and 18th century, for voice, violin and harpsichord. **Tickets £12**

On Saturday, 10th July, we are holding a fabulous lunch-time concert of organ music on the newly restored organ at St Andrew's Church, by award winning organist Michael Overbury; his varied programme will take us on a journey spanning the centuries from music by Frescobaldi to that of Eric Coates, with a chance to hear a newly commissioned work, Toccata Festiva by Guy Turner. **Tickets free.**

This will be followed at 7pm by Corno-copia! featuring Peter Moutoussis in a programme of the Mozart Horn quintet and Telemann Horn Concerto. Peter is a young horn player currently completing his MMus at the Royal College of Music. He loves to engage with his audiences, so feel free to chat to him after the concert. **Tickets £12**

Our final concert, outside the church on Sunday 11th July, is a picnic concert featuring Home Brass; a proudly Home-County-based young ensemble. Formed in 2017 during their studies at the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music and Trinity Laban Conservatoire, their repertoire reflects the varied freelance engagements of its individual members (including at Inferno's Nightclub in Clapham as part of the 2018 World Cup festivities). They enjoy playing musical theatre favourites and jazz numbers in schools. **Tickets free**

So bring a rug, chairs and a picnic, and join us for the fun-filled festival conclusion....

COLLECTIVEL

NEED A LITTLE HELP?

IVEL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Are you recently bereaved?
Have you been struggling with
coming to terms with your loss?
Would it help to talk to someone?
For more information telephone

07704 734225

(Monday-Friday 9am-6pm)
And speak to one of our

Bereavement Support Volunteers



*Sharing your loss can
make the burden of grief
easier to manage.*

Please don't grieve alone.



Nkay Care

Do you or someone that you know need a bit of help with daily tasks? Resident Nkiru (Bridget) Abraham is a fully qualified carer available to support people in their own homes in Biggleswade.

**Call her on
07375 536363**

Support is available, both locally and nationally, to anyone who is experiencing abusive behaviour.

If you feel unsafe and need help you are not alone. Call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 or visit the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website at <https://bedsdv.org.uk> for more information about local and national support for all, including men, children and young people, older people and people from the LGBT+ community. In an emergency, always dial 999.

If you suspect domestic abuse and don't want to reveal your identity, talk to CrimeStoppers Domestic Abuse by calling 0800 555 111. Or visit their website at

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/personal-safety/domestic-abuse> where you can anonymously complete an online form.

"I'm worried about my own behaviour" Visit Respect Phone line at <https://respectphoneline.org.uk> or call free on 0808 802 4040 and talk to an advisor. You won't be judged or shamed.