



# Biggleswade Community News

MAY 2022



Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 448954



## **CHANGE AT THE TOP AT STRATTON SCHOOL**

After 15 years teaching at Stratton Upper School, Roz Hodges, currently the school Principal, is retiring at the end of the 2022 summer term. No doubt the school and its pupils will give her a great send off!

Following a comprehensive recruitment process Sam Farmer will be joining the school as Principal in September 2022. He is currently the Principal at Robert Bloomfield Academy, a middle school in Shefford and part of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust. He therefore brings with him considerable Bedfordshire knowledge and experience.



## **This newsletter is produced and distributed by volunteers.**

However publishing it on paper and online incurs costs, so we rely on donations to help fund it. If you can, please help us make it available to everyone in a form that they can access. To donate please go to [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk/donate.html](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk/donate.html) or phone us on 01767 448954.

**We are keen to support local businesses. If you advertise with us we can help each other! ADVERTISING RATES** are from £10 to £20 per edition. Our circulation is approx 1700 households each month. Advertorials are also available at an agreed price depending on size.

# NEWS FROM BIGGLESWADE ORGANISATIONS



## BIGGLESWADE HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk](http://www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk)

The Society's next two meetings are linked with **R101 Airship**. On Monday 9th May, there will be a talk by Alastair Lawton on "Airship R101: The Golden Age of British Airships" focusing on the connection with Cardington. 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome at £3.

On Monday 6th June, there is a follow up to the above, with a visit to Cardington Church with Revd Stephen. Meet at the Church door for 7.30pm start. £3 per person. Non members £4.

The Society meets on the first Monday of the month (date changes if this is a bank holiday) at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street.

Biggleswade History Society is urgently seeking photos of events and places in the town dating from about 1946 to 1955. Especially needed is material relating to the Coronation in 1953 - street parties, fetes, building projects, etc. We would be happy to accept such material as a donation to our archives, or, to borrow and copy. Please contact [historychairman20@gmail.com](mailto:historychairman20@gmail.com) or phone 01767 313407.

## LADIES CIRCLE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

07791 330391 [biggleswadecircle@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadecircle@gmail.com)



Are you new to Biggleswade, looking to make new friends in the area, have some fun and give back to the community? If so why not try out Biggleswade Ladies Circle? A friendship organisation for ladies between the ages of 18 and 45. There is a grand reopening on the 3rd May and the team would love to see you there. If you do not see this by the 3rd, please contact us and we will join you up for our next get-together. Past 'activities' have included Cheese & Wine, Gliding, Christmas Weekend away in London, Theatre Trip, Belly Dancing, Pitch & Putt and Dog Racing.



Not to be left out men aged 18 to 45 have their own organisation, Round Table International. To join visit their website at [www.roundtable.co.uk](http://www.roundtable.co.uk) phone 0121 456 4567 or text 'Join' and your postcode to 60066.



# BIGGLESWADE SANDY LIONS CLUB (CIO)

[www.bslions.org.uk](http://www.bslions.org.uk) 01462 814 693

Our motto is "We Serve" and we serve our community in many ways, some of which result in donations of cash, others by identifying their problem and putting them in touch with the right contact to help them solve it. Our fundraising committee is tasked with raising funds to help with all our projects through our Easter Egg Raffles, side shows at fetes and Santa collections. If you hear of anyone who may need our help please contact us.

2024 is the year of the next Scout Jamboree in Southern Korea. Two scouts from our Lions Club area have been selected to go, and we are one of their sponsors. Each scout will need to raise a sizeable sum, but also demonstrate that they put in their own efforts to do so. They will also make a presentation to our Club when they return.

*John Bennewith Public Relations Officer*



**IVEL FLIX**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CINEMA**

**The last film for this season is** "The Assistant" on Saturday 14th May. Jane (Julia Garner) is a recent college graduate, who has landed her dream job as a junior assistant to a

powerful movie mogul. As Jane follows her daily routine, she grows increasingly aware of the questionable behaviour of her boss toward her female peers. CERTIFICATE 15.

Subject to funding being available Ivel Flix will resume in September after the summer break.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

The weather was kind and there was a good turnout for the annual walk of witness on Good Friday. Having assembled at Dan Albone Car Park the procession followed the Cross via Trinity Methodist Church and on to the Town Centre. The service in the Market Square was led by St Andrews Church and reflected on the Bible account as it may have been for those present. At the end attendees lingered to chat and enjoy a hot cross bun.



# ABOUT THE TOWN



## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY 2022

All meetings take place at The Town Hall, 4 Saffron Road, SG18 8DL and start at 7pm. Visit their website for more details or ring 01767 313134. Their offices are open 9am-5pm Monday to Thursday and close at 4.30pm on Fridays.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May Annual Statutory Meeting

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May Town Centre Management

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May Full Council

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May Personnel

## Number Plate Security Kit



With an increasing number of local car number plate thefts, our police team are advising you to use security fixings and report the theft, as your plates could be used on vehicles involved in future crimes. These are available at the Town Council offices.

## IVEL RIVER CLEAN – A REAL COMMUNITY EFFORT What a fantastic Riverside Clean!

A total of 25 adults, 10 children and 3 dogs joined the recent event and cleared an awesome 61lbs (27.67kgs) of litter from the stretch of the riverside between Sandy and the A1 tunnels towards Langford. We were beyond amazed and grateful for everyone's efforts and support.

Tanya Cormano was brilliant, as always, methodically sorting out and weighing the "rescued" litter (details of which will be reported to Surfers Against Sewage, of which Plastic Free Biggleswade is part). Thank you, also, to Fairtrade Association Biggleswade, Biggleswade Good Neighbours and St Andrews Church for supporting the event by providing much needed refreshments, which were kindly donated by the Co-op. And thank you to Biggleswade Town Council for providing litter pickers and bag hoops!!! You're all absolutely, fantastically brilliant!!



## **THE RED LION**

The Town Council has raised a number of objections to the application to convert this listed building into a private residence.



**NHS**

## **PERHAPS OUR LAST COVID UPDATE**

Now that Central Bedfordshire Council are unable to report ward wide Covid figures, and with no more free testing, except for those on the clinically extremely vulnerable register, it has become harder to know how cases are running in our town. With yet another new strain which is more transmissible, it is now down to individuals to decide how best to live their lives.

Vaccinations are available at Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, SG18 0EL for all ages and can be booked on-line at the national booking service or by phoning 119. For those that are clinically extremely vulnerable it will be their 5<sup>th</sup> jab.

All parents of children aged 5 to 11 years are now offered the chance to have their child vaccinated with a lower dose of the vaccine. These can be booked as above. Parents will be given a dated card to keep safe and take along for the second dose which will be available in 8-12 weeks time.

Spring Boosters are now available for adults over 75 years, residents in care homes for older adults, and individuals aged 12 years and over who have a weakened immune system. The NHS will contact those who are eligible asking them to make an appointment.

Those on the clinically extremely vulnerable register should by now have received free lateral flow tests, and previously have received a PCR test kit to keep for if they test positive on a LFT test. Obtaining a positive PCR test should trigger a supply of anti viral drugs delivered to your home, to be taken as soon as possible to avoid serious illness. People in this group are still advised to take extra care when going out or meeting unfamiliar people. But we all now have to decide individually how we can best live with Covid.

**(Not Strictly) JAZZ**

Featuring Dave Foster & Gavin Skeggs.  
Their quartet will perform songs from  
The Great American Songbook.

5pm-7pm,  
May 8th, 2022



Tickets: £20  
10-18 years: £10  
(refreshments included)

Fairfield House, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0AA  
sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk • tel: 01767 312176

## WHAT IS ON IN MAY .....

**Mon 2nd** May Day Celebration in Ickwell and Northhill: Procession and Morris Dancing. A selection of stalls, refreshments and entertainments are available opposite the Maypole arena on Ickwell Green from 10am onwards. Biggleswade FAB will have a stall with a tombola and games for all ages. [www.ickwellmayday.co.uk](http://www.ickwellmayday.co.uk)

**Sat 7th** Craft Fair at Biggleswade Social Club supporting local businesses. 10am to 3pm.

**Sat 7th** Bobby Davro Comedy Night Weatherley Centre phone 07725 069170 or 07921 860617 for tickets or info... Food from 7pm.

**Sat 14th** Robbie Williams Tribute Show 8pm at the Biggleswade Social Club £5 on the door or telephone 01767 312409.

**Sun 15th Christian Aid Week:** A Joint Service will take place at St Peter's Catholic Church at 6pm.

**Sat 21st** Dunton Boot Sale Sellers from 1.30pm; Car £5, Car & trailer £7, Van £10. Buyers from 2pm.

**Sun 22nd** Hardy Plant Society Grand Plant Sale Weatherley Centre 10am - 2pm Contactless payments. Free admission but please bring your own bags.



**healthwatch**  
Central Bedfordshire

**'Just Ask' 2022**

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire's community engagement programme, 'Just Ask', is coming to Market Square in BIGGLESWADE, on Tuesday, 24th May 2022

Those joining us include:

- Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes CCG
- Bedfordshire & Luton Recovery College
- Carers in Bedfordshire
- Morelife
- Respite at Home Volunteers



T: 0300 303 8554

E: [info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk)

## ..... AND JUNE

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>** A Jubilee Cream Tea £4 at Trinity Methodist Church, in Shortmead Street from 2-4 pm.

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>** A Beacon Evening in the Market Square at 7.30pm. (The Beacon will be lit at 9.20pm).



**JUBILEE IN BIGGLESWADE**



**BEACON LIGHTING**  
THURSDAY 2 JUNE  
7:45PM – TOWN CENTRE

Help get the Jubilee weekend off to a great start with acoustic acts on stage, supported by a patriotic choral performance, and beacon lighting from 9:20pm.

With food and drink provided by local businesses, there's no better place to be on Thursday night!



**JUBILEE ON THE SQUARE**  
SUNDAY 5 JUNE  
MIDDAY – TOWN CENTRE

Join Town Centre businesses out on the square for Biggleswade's biggest ever street party

With plenty of food, drink and family-friendly entertainment throughout the day, it's certainly not to be missed!



## Let's Celebrate



**Come and join us for a Jubilee Cream Tea**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**



**2pm – 4pm**

**Only £4**



**Trinity Methodist Church**

Shortmead Street

**Biggleswade**

'Opening Doors for the Community'

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** There will be Jubilee events in the Market Square all day.

Also it is **Pentecost** and St Andrews Church will host the usual Churches Together afternoon service, hopefully outdoors.

As it is also the Platinum Jubilee it will be preceded by a picnic event together with tea and cakes that can be bought.

**REMEMBER** – if you can't access the Internet ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try to assist. Or if you can go to [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) for updates.

## ENERGY BILLS REBATE FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



In February the Chancellor announced that all owners or tenants of property in Band A to D would receive a £150 'rebate' to help pay for significantly increased energy bills in 2022. These would be administered in the same way as used for collecting council tax.

**YOUR COUNCIL TAX ANNUAL BILL HAS NOT BEEN REDUCED BY £150.** Our Council will credit the bank account used to collect each household's Council Tax. The first households to receive this will be those paying by direct debit, **AND THEN ONLY ONCE THE FIRST PAYMENT FOR 2022/23 HAS BEEN COLLECTED**, usually during April. **DO NOT CONTACT THE COUNCIL – THEY WILL CONTACT YOU.**

The scheme finishes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, by which time anyone eligible for this should have received it. If your rent includes energy bills paid for by your Landlord they will receive the rebate.

For those who do not pay by direct debit Central Bedfordshire Council will contact you to find out how it can be paid. **THE POLICE ARE ALREADY WARNING OF TELEPHONE SCAMS**, so please be sure that you never give your personal and bank details to anyone that you are not absolutely sure is genuine.

The Government has also released £155million to assist vulnerable households, or those on low income in the other Council tax bands. Details will be available shortly and we will publish them in a future newsletter. Each local Council may administer this slightly differently, but the above is what can be expected to happen for those households in Central Bedfordshire.

For vulnerable or low income households there is also the Warm Front discount, mentioned in a previous newsletter, administered through the larger energy companies, so you need to contact your energy supplier for more information.

In addition the Government is loaning each household the sum of £200. This will automatically reduce your annual energy bill for 2022, **BUT UNLIKE THE ABOVE IT IS NOT A GRANT AND WILL BE REPAID VIA ENERGY BILLS OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS**, at zero interest. You don't have to do anything at all as this will be done automatically by the Government and the Energy companies.

As already stated, no household should need to contact their local Council or their energy supplier, but if you feel your household qualifies for either of the above, but does not receive it, we will endeavour to find out what you can do and let you know via this newsletter.