



Biggleswade Community News

APRIL 2023



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

EASTER GREETINGS



On Good Friday 7th April, Churches together in Biggleswade invite us all to join in a Walk of Witness. Assemble on the grass adjacent to the Dan Albone Car Park on Shortmead Street, at 10.30 am. We will proceed past Trinity Methodist Church where toilets are available and people can join in for a shorter walk.

The destination will be The Market Square, where there will be a service with live music led by Biggleswade Baptist Church. All welcome to attend.

For updates see <https://biggct.org>



Easter Craft Fair At Biggleswade Social Club A supporter of St John's Hospice is holding an Easter Craft Fair on 1st and 2nd April from 10am - 3 pm. Entry is free, but a lucky dip for £1 will go to Sue Ryder St John's Hospice. There is a range of activities including an Easter Quiz for under 12's and on Sunday from 11am there will be a face painter.

Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163

Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers. Or you can read it online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

NEWS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Royal Artillery Association Ex Service personnel who wish to share the camaraderie are welcome. The Branch meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Sea Cadets Hall, Biggleswade starting at 1.30 p.m. Please contact the Chairman Ted McKenzie on 07900 806235 or email exboysra.tm@gmail.com for more details.



OUR PARTNERS

A group of Biggleswade residents who volunteer their time to assist any resident of Biggleswade.

Contact them on 07771 104255

Or via biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com

They distribute paper copies of this newsletter to their clients and volunteers.



Future Action Biggleswade

A group of volunteers who care about social and environmental justice.

On Mayday they will be at the fair on Ickwell village green. Call by for a chat and free games for children.

They are a Co-op Local Community Cause

On their Web site They have a "Thoughtful Shopper Guide" to help you find local businesses which supply goods in line with "Think As You Shop" principles.

The volunteers meet regularly to plan activities. The next meeting is at 8pm on Wednesday 19th April at Cafe Mocha in the High Street.

See fab@fabweb.org.uk for details.

Biggleswade Library closed on Saturday 24th December 2022 for a major refurbishment. It is planned to re-open this Summer



Biggleswade's Community Agent Continues to Help

We are sad to say farewell to Lisa King, Biggleswade's Community Agent since 2020, who is now retiring – but we are delighted to welcome Julie Balaam who takes on this role from March 2023.

Community Agents are employed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire which has a proven track record supporting local people built over the past 70 years. Julie's role is primarily funded by Biggleswade Town Council which has generously done so right from the launch of the project back in 2016.

Julie is available to provide free support, particularly for isolated and vulnerable residents. This can include help obtaining practical support to feel safer at home; or help with accessing pensions and benefits, local volunteering opportunities, transport options, and much more. This support can enable people to remain independent and be a positive part of the Biggleswade community.

Julie said:

"It's a real privilege to be working in this new role, particularly at a time when so many people are struggling with difficult issues affecting their income levels and their wellbeing. It's often hard to know who to turn to for specific support or information and that's where I can help, by listening, and then either helping directly if I can, or linking people to other appropriate services or groups."

"There's so much going on in Biggleswade that could be helpful, particularly for residents who may be feeling lonely or isolated, so part of my job is to learn more about what's available so I can help people to find what's right for them. Sometimes just chatting things through and coming up with a plan is a huge step forward, so if there's an issue you'd like to discuss please do get in touch."

All Community Agents are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and adhere to GDPR data protection regulations.

If you'd like to contact Julie, you can email her at julie.balaam@bedsrcc.org.uk or ring her on 07534 484750.

You can find out more about Julie and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity's Village and Community Agents at bedsrcc.org.uk.

ABOUT THE TOWN



A new store in Biggleswade ..

is now OPEN! The Willow shop the first outside Hertfordshire, is a welcome addition to the High Street and sells a wide range of high quality donated goods, from clothes and shoes to books and bric-a-brac.

The ribbon was cut by Grant Fage, Mayor of Biggleswade at 10am on Saturday 4 March.

"Every year thousands of 16-40 year olds in the UK are newly diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. When they should be enjoying the prime of life, they're dealing with stress, isolation, medication and hospital appointments.

Willow believes that every moment should be precious and is dedicated to helping young adults take much needed time out from the reality of living with serious illness, creating magic moments that become lasting memories.

From Special Treats to Days at Home for all the family. From fun-packed Days Out to quiet Special Breaks away from it all they offer the chance to meet heroes and legends or the opportunity to fulfil a lifelong dream" <https://www.willowfoundation.org.uk>

Be Reassured

in the home with a Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

Home Fire Safety Visit

1 Are you or is someone you care about... over 65? Or...live alone, have a disability, have adult social care needs, smoke or have a substance or alcohol dependency and/or live in a cluttered environment.

1 Book a free Home Fire Safety Visit today!
visit bedsfire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-visit, or email homefiresafetyvisit@bedsfire.gov.uk, or call 0800 043 5042.

 **Bedfordshire**
Fire & Rescue Service



Former Councillor and ex Mayor Tim Woodward has died

aged 55 on 7th

March. During a long period of illness he was joyful and determined not to stop his activities in the local community.

Tributes are being paid to him, a well known figure in the town and local area.

STRATTON SCHOOL REUNION.

A 50 year reunion is to take place for Pupils of Stratton Grammar School. It is for students that were in the first year intake of 1966. The event will include a gathering at the school plus an evening with dinner at Stratton House Hotel for those who want it, It will take place on Saturday 10th June For more information email jonathan.needs@hotmail.com or phone 07702 027846.

AROUND AND ABOUT

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS ... (on Monday 1st May Bank Holiday) start in the car park of **The Crown Public House, Northill** at 11.30 am: Morris Men dance. 1.30 pm: The procession leaves for Ickwell Green - a half mile walk down the village road.(This road is closed to vehicular traffic for the duration of the procession)

At Ickwell Green there will be a selection of stalls, refreshments and entertainments available opposite the Maypole arena from 10 am onwards. 2 pm Crowning of the May Queen, followed by dancing by children and adults from within the Parish.

Car parking and toilets are available and there is disabled car parking close to the arena in Ickwell.



Summer Fun with DRA & Friends!
Saturday 24th June 2023
12-4pm

Dunton Recreation Ground,
Horseshoe Close,
Dunton,
SG18 8RY
Contact 07714209013

Carboot pitches available at £5 per car. Please book in advance to secure your spot!

Pitches available for stalls, £20 per stall, please pre book.
Contact
07714209013 or email
duntonrecreation@gmail.com

Something for everyone... Plate smashing, Bouncy castle, Cream Teas, Bar, Stalls, Raffle, Jo's Ices, Entertainment, Creme Catering, Music, Games, Car boot stalls and much much more!

Please note, some stalls are cash only!

Free Entry and Dogs on Leads welcome!

DUNTON CAR BOOT on the LAST SATURDAY every month,

WHAT'S ON

Biggleswade Walk 4 Health

Weekly Walks for beginners and those looking to improve

Mondays at 9.30 am Walks with Gillian, approx. 30 - 40 minutes. Meet by the Beeston Notice Board on Beeston Green, Nr.The Crescent, Tel: Gillian on 07890 232685

Wednesdays at 10.00 am Walking with John and his team, approx. 40 - 90 minutes each. Meet at Dan Albone Car Park, Shortmead Street .Tel: John on 07710 657455
with the opportunity to stop for tea or coffee after the walk

Thursdays at 10.00 am Walking with Mary, Rosario & team, approx. 40 - 90 minutes each. Meet at Stratton School, Eagle Farm Road. Tel: Mary 07855 632021

**NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP
- WHY NOT TRY THEM ALL?**

Mondays at 2 pm Walking with Janette: approx. 90 - 120 minutes For those looking to do a serious walk of 5 miles plus. Start points vary – phone or email Janette* for details. booking essential. **(This walk is not part of the Wellbeing Walks, walkers walk at their own risk and liability)**

For further information please contact:

Janette Sibley*

Tel 0777 154 0117 email janette@sibley.me.uk

Mike Fayers

Tel: 01234 832619 email: mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk

Biggleswade Evening WI - How To Enjoy Your Houseplants

Will have a talk by Susie Lickman about houseplants. Susie is passionate about her houseplants so this should be a vibrant evening. She will have some houseplants for sale so don't forget your purse.

The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade. Doors open at 7:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:45pm. Please take a reusable mug for refreshments Visitors are welcome to attend for £5. just turn up. They would love to see you!

THE FIRST BIGGLESWADE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

11-13 MAY

FREE ENTRY

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
 30+ ALES, CIDERS & PERRIES
 FOOD – SPACIOUS GARDENS

CO-HOSTED WITH EAST BEDS CAMRA AT
 BIGGLESWADE CONSERVATIVE CLUB,
 ST. ANDREW'S ST, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8BA

OPENS AT 3PM ON THURSDAY
 NOON ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY



Biggleswade History Society

Meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade at 7pm on Monday 3rd April for a short AGM followed by "London Underground Stations: 120 years of Architecture" - a talk by Mark Andrew Pardoe

All Welcome

For details contact
 Jennifer Topham
 01767 313407
 or see

www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk

Not Strictly Jazz

Sunday 16th April 5 - 7pm Tickets £20 (age 10 - 18 £10)

Refreshments included.

Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade. SG18 0AA.



For tickets contact
 01767 312176 or

sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk

A LITTLE HELP

Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby. In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe. The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert.

You may get alerts about severe flooding, fires or extreme weather

Emergency alerts will only be sent by the emergency services government departments, agencies and public bodies that deal with emergencies

When you get an emergency alert your mobile phone or tablet may

make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent, vibrate. read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds. An alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

You'll get alerts based on your current location - not where you live or work. You do not need to turn on location services to receive alerts. When you get an alert, stop what you're doing and follow the instructions in the alert.



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** or see www.nkaycare.org.uk

WARM SPACES. If you are feeling the cold check out the Biggleswade Warm Spaces! There was a list in the January edition and there are posters around the town.