



# Biggleswade Community News

MAY 2023



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## Stratton Community Farm

Following closure of the school farm at Stratton in 2019, some of the buildings remain held by a Community Interest Company (CIC). The Directors of the CIC have been in discussion with Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust and the new Stratton school administration about whether these buildings and some of the land around them could once again be used by the Biggleswade community for a growing farm.



While plans are being developed, local people are being asked for their input as to how the farm concept might be developed. Your views would be welcomed.

Please fill in the short survey on the Stratton Community Farm [Facebook page](#). Or email: [strattoncommunityfarm@gmail.com](mailto:strattoncommunityfarm@gmail.com) to receive the survey link.

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](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

**Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163**

Email: [admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk)

A group of volunteers working in the local community. We are planning to extend our activities to include the opportunity to meet up for a coffee and a chat. Also some joint events with our partners.

**UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS**



Contact them on 07771 104255

Or via [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com)

All Biggleswade Good Neighbours volunteers are invited to attend our AGM, which will take place on Thursday 18 May at 19.30, Biggleswade Baptist Church, London Road.

John Robertson, Erica Borgstrom and Chris Mattingley have indicated that they are willing to continue in their roles as chair, deputy chair and treasurer respectively. However, because of increased work commitments, Lucy Roy wishes to step down from the role of secretary. We are very grateful that Lucy has been willing to serve in this way for some years now. If any volunteer is interested in taking this on, please do let us know before the meeting and we can tell you what is involved.



**Future Action Biggleswade**

[fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk) [www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk)

On Sunday 7th May there will be a FAB stall offering refreshments at the River Clean event in Dan Albone car park from 10am until 12 noon.

On Sunday 11th June FAB will be promoting **Great Big Green Week** with stalls at the Carnival Duck Race.

**COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE**

We have obtained funding from Town Council to help us with the cost of printed copies of the newsletter. This is important to us as we want it to be available to all in a format that suits them. We are considering offering an audio version. The trustees had a productive meeting with Ivel Valley School and plan to work with them in future on this newsletter and other projects.

## Biggleswade Athletic Club

Biggleswade Athletic Club was saddened to hear the death of Des Ball one of the founder members of the Athletic Club in 1951. Des passed away on the 25th March at the grand old age of 96.



*The club 50 years ago, Des is in the middle at the rear.*

He used to organise the Easter Monday road races around Biggleswade and the cycle and track races in July at Fairfield. The club's original home was Fairfield until the building became unsafe to use and moved to Stratton. The County Council Mid Beds at the time offered to build a running track at Stratton but the Biggleswade County Councillors of the day opposed this being built in Biggleswade so the track was built in Sandy instead the present day home of Biggleswade Athletic Club.

Des was the Club secretary for nearly 40 years and along with his Brother Rex the treasurer they ran the Club. Des's input in those early days laid the foundations for the athletic club it has become today.

**Spreading the word** If you are involved with a Community Group or initiative, please let us have your updates and we will publish them if space permits and we receive them in good time. If you need advice about publishing your information online contact WebmanAlan on 01767 310163 for a chat.



## **Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club**

We hold 2 meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, starting at 8pm in the Sea Cadets HQ, Station Road, Biggleswade.

The 1st meeting of the month is slightly more formal where we discuss what we have been involved with, progress on community projects and fundraising and make plans for future events. If you are interested in finding out more about what we do with a view to becoming a Lion it is well worth paying us a visit.

The 2nd meeting of the month is our Speakers night. We have arranged an interesting variety of topics with experienced speakers in their field. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May the subject will be Domestic Violence (See the back page for details). These talks are free to attend, access is disabled friendly and refreshments are available. Everyone is welcome to attend so should a topic be of interest to you please come along.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us, either through this Facebook page or call/message Karen on 07943940021. We look forward to meeting you.

### **Tributes are being paid to a community Champion**

*Sadly Amanda Cawthorn has lost her long battle with cancer.*



She was dedicated and worked hard in the Biggleswade community. You may well have seen her helping with road closures for events such as Remembrance Sunday and the carnival. She helped on the the Biggleswade Community Safety Group stall at various events, giving advice and support. Also she was a member of the

Biggleswade Ladies Group, Speed Watch and Neighbourhood watch.

Amanda had been poorly for quite some time but it never held her back – nothing could stop her from helping in any way that she could. We will miss her!

## ABOUT THE TOWN

**healthwatch**  
Central Bedfordshire

**10**  
years

### **Just Ask kicks off Their 10 year anniversary**

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire is celebrating 10 years of helping local residents have a voice, and sharing their experiences of local health and social care services.

Our 'Just Ask' community engagement tour starts at Market Square in BIGGLESWADE, on Tuesday 18th May 2023 from 9am. We will be joined by representatives from Age UK Bedfordshire, Circle Integrated Care, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Public Health team, and Respite at Home Volunteers.

Please come along to find out more about local health, care and support services, and to ask for advice and guidance about accessing the services you may need.

**Biggleswade Veg Garden volunteers** is a group for like minded gardeners who want to grow a community veg garden and share the produce. They are holding a planning session for their new site which will be available soon. You can contact them via Facebook.

**Biggleswade Library** Is holding competitions - short story for children and poetry for adults. This is in celebration of the refurbishment. Entries should be posted in the box at Saxon Pool temporary drop off point,

**Biggleswade Town Council (BTC) operates six car parks** around Biggleswade: Chestnut Avenue, Dan Albone, Mill Lane, Rose Lane, St Andrews, White Hart. Five are within the Town Centre, with a further one located to the north of the Town.

They charge from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and are free at weekends.

See <https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/car-parks>

## WHAT'S ON

**OUR SUMMER FAIR NEEDS YOU!**

**DO YOU WANT TO HELP?**  
Stall holders wanted for a summer fair at Lawnside Academy.  
To register your interest, please email;  
[lawnsideacademypta@gmail.com](mailto:lawnsideacademypta@gmail.com)

**SELLERS- £5 PER PITCH**  
We can supply tables for an additional charge of £2 per table.  
The fair will be held outside, weather permitting.

**STALL SUGGESTIONS**  
Face painting  
Beauty products  
Home-made products  
Professional services  
Food stalls

**WHEN?**  
7th July 2023  
Starting at 3:20 till 5:30pm  
The grounds will open 30 minutes beforehand for set-up.  
Limited availability.

## Café Mocha

If you're in Biggleswade town and fancy a drink but would prefer not to be on your own then CAFE MOCHA is the place to come.

We are community at Cafe Mocha. You will get a warm welcome and there is always someone to chat to if you want to talk.

So next time you are in town drop in for a drink and some company.

## 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](mailto:jonathan.needs@hotmail.com) or phone 07702 027846.



On Saturday 20th May  
**The Wandering Minstrels**

return to Trinity Methodist Church at 7.30 pm with a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan music and songs.

Tickets are £10 and available by calling 01767 314566, from Biggleswade Express Shortmead Street or on the door.

**Dunton Dates**

CAR BOOT SALES on the LAST SATURDAY every month.

Fun Day Sat 24th June 12 - 4

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

**Events in Southill**

On Tuesday 23rd May from 2.30pm to 5pm, 'The Friends of All Saints Southill' are holding a private tour of Glebe House Garden, Southill Park followed by an afternoon tea in All Saints Church. For tickets at £15 please contact 01767 318117 or 01462 811927

'The Friends of All Saints Southill' present a Rock Choir Concert at Southill Park Cricket Ground on Friday 23rd June. Gates open 6pm. There will be a bar, hot dog stall and ice cream van or bring your own picnic and drinks. Tickets are £10 for adults and £2 for under 15's. Contact 01767 318117 or 01462 811927.

## A LITTLE HELP



**Community Catalysts** support people who are currently running or wanting to set up a community micro-enterprise that helps and supports disabled or older people at home and the community.

The aim of the project is to support and nurture local people to establish micro-enterprises to work locally, supporting local people in their homes, offering choice and control and to enable them to have a good life.

We would also like to stay connected with people, organisations, businesses or groups across the County who have an interest in building stronger communities.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email or call me

[mandy.burridge@communitycatalysts.co.uk](mailto:mandy.burridge@communitycatalysts.co.uk)

or 07741 260675



### DOMESTIC ABUSE



On Wednesday 17th MAY at 8pm Jenny from Independent Domestic Violence Advisers will be at the Biggleswade Sandy Lions Meeting presenting an informative talk regarding all aspects of Domestic Violence from the different types of abuse, identifying abusive behaviour, how to get help if you have concerns and the support available.

Anyone can be a victim of Domestic Abuse regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or sexuality. If you are affected please seek help. There is free confidential support and advice available to victims and concerned family members or friends 24 hours a day from the National Domestic Abuse Help line 08082 000 247 or The Men's Advice Line run by Respect 08088 010 327



By taking part in our short survey, telling us (in confidence) about your own experiences of domestic abuse, you could help us shape our future work to support others experiencing it. You can take part until Wednesday 31 May.

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/da-survey>