



# Biggleswade Community News

JULY 2023



Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 310163



Biggleswade lacks a theatre and the cinemas all closed long ago. Soon however, this will change. 36 High Street will be home to a dynamic, multi-use arts space complete with cafe / bar accessible to all, including wheelchair users. The BIGG

Theatre will play host to shows, cinema, comedy, music and much more, for the whole community to benefit.

As well as providing quality entertainment, the venue will be available to the entire community for all their artistic and creative pursuits including dance and fitness classes, group events, creative workshops, birthday parties, rehearsal space and youth clubs.

This exciting new venture is being brought to us by a group of influential professionals with West End experience, who now live locally. They are planning a grand opening with local dignitaries and other famous faces at the end of this summer.



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Email: [admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.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](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

## **Our partners**



Ivel Valley College, Contact Dean Hawkins -  
dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk - 01767 512080



**Future Action Biggleswade** [fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk)  
[www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk)

On Sunday 11th June FAB supported Great Big Green Week, with stalls at the Carnival Duck Race.



Contact them on 07771 104255

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

***We are keen to partner with more organisations to work together on events, publicity etc.***



## **Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club**

Hold 2 meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, starting at 8pm in the Sea Cadets HQ, Station Road, Biggleswade. The 2nd meeting of the month is a Speakers night. The talks are free to attend, access is disabled friendly and refreshments are available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us, either through Facebook or call / message Karen on 07943 940021. We look forward to meeting you.

### **19th JULY HELEN from St John Ambulance**

Helen will be instructing us on the basic 1st Aid skills we should all have and know to be able to help should the need arise and answering any questions put forward. Helen is an 'experienced trainer' with St John Ambulance both in Physical and Mental Health First Aid. Her approach to training is in a fun, informative, hands-on way, whilst providing a relaxed and supportive learning environment, ensuring everyone leaves feeling comfortable, confident and capable of assisting someone in need. St John Ambulance is a volunteer powered, charitable organisation dedicated to the teaching of First Aid. They support the NHS, provide medical Support at public events and run youth programmes throughout England.



## **Biggleswade History Society**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Biggleswade History Society is giving a guided tour of the Biggleswade Mosaics and will talk about the historic local events that this magnificent heritage trail illustrates.

It covers a small area within the town centre between The Crown (Wetherspoons) and Stratton House so does not involve a great deal of walking for those who are less mobile. Meet at the war memorial at 7:30 pm. BHS members free, Non-members £4.

## **Biggleswade Community Gardens**

There are regular monthly sessions usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Chestnut Avenue car park to maintain the flower garden there.

They recently signed an agreement with Grand Union Housing Association to use their land to continue growing flowers, fruit and veg for our community. On 29<sup>th</sup> May, they held their first event at the new site to plant up the raised beds at the back of the community centre, which was positively received by volunteers and local residents. There is now a mix of flowers, herbs and veg growing which will be available for use by the community when grown. There is also another site nearby that available to use and

it is planned to start working on this soon.

The group would welcome more volunteers who would like to join them or any donations of plants, soil and other equipment! You can find out on more



on [www.biggleswadecommunitygardens.org](http://www.biggleswadecommunitygardens.org) or on their Facebook Page.

## MORE NEWS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Amici Singers, founded in 1986 is a Ladies choir based in Biggleswade. They have just returned from a four-day tour in the West County where they sang two concerts and two church services in Bristol and Wells cathedrals as well as enjoying sight seeing and socialising.

On their return, they held their AGM to elect a committee to run the choir for the next year. Anne Bunker stood down after 11 years as chair and was warmly thanked for the superb work she has done. Elizabeth Gammell was elected as chair to follow Anne. The choir has a full programme of concerts and events planned up to 2025.

New members are always welcome. The choir does not have auditions. So just drop in at its first rehearsal at 7.30pm on September 7 in the Footsteps Hall, Trinity Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. Details about the choir can be found at [www.amicisingers.net](http://www.amicisingers.net).

Bedfordshire charity **Carers in Bedfordshire** has won a national UK award. It was one of six winners in the **UK Charity Governance Awards 2023**, which were announced during a live ceremony in London on 8 June. The six winning charities each took home a prize of a £5,000 unrestricted grant. Carers in Bedfordshire are carefully considering where these unexpected funds can be best utilised to support unpaid carers.

**Carers in Bedfordshire** won the 'Transforming with Digital' award in recognition of the success of its digital transformation plan. After redeveloping the website, automating its registration service and streamlining its data reporting process, the charity has achieved a number of successes – registrations have increased by 60%; staff can now spend 33% more time on frontline services; and public engagement with the website has almost trebled. [www.carersinbeds.org.uk](http://www.carersinbeds.org.uk)

Barclays Bank have announced that its premises at 45 Biggleswade High Street will shut from August 18.

### Electric Vehicle Charge Points for Residential Use



As part of Central Bedfordshire Council's work with BP Pulse, a project to install 96 new charge points is nearing completion. These residential charge points are spread over 12 sites across Central Bedfordshire, including **The Baulk Car Park, The Baulk,**

**Biggleswade, SG18 0PU.**

The project was supported by £360,000 of grant funding secured through the Government's On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme. This complements the work being undertaken to meet the Government's targets on transport decarbonisation and net-zero, and seeks to address one of the objectives in the Council's Sustainability Plan.

The Council's residential charge point rollout seeks to:

- Provide access to local charge points for residents who do not have dedicated off-street parking, therefore unlikely to have home charging facilities or might not feel comfortable transitioning to an electric vehicle.
- Find sites within a 5 to 10 minute walk from resident's homes.
- Cater for existing and future demand without the need for further construction works and inconvenience on site.
- Provide access to public charging in as many towns and villages as possible.
- Balance the impact on existing parking at sites with the need to provide options for charging for local residents.

Anyone can use them, but their primary purpose is to provide access to local charge points within a 5 to 10 minute walk of The Baulk for residents who do not have dedicated off-street parking. Usually, these residents are unlikely to have home charging facilities or feel comfortable transitioning to an electric vehicle if there is nowhere to charge either at home, or near to home.

For more information on electric vehicle charging please visit: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/sustainability](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/sustainability).

## WHAT'S ON

***If you are planning an event in Biggleswade or nearby tell us about it so that we can tell others!***

### **Bedford Brass Charity Concert**

Bedford Brass will be performing a Summer Charity concert at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton, Biggleswade on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3pm.

The concert will be raising funds for the CHUMS Charity. The Charity supports vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Band Member Gareth King said 'CHUMS Charity carries out amazing work in the Bedfordshire area and we are delighted to be fundraising for this important work supporting mental health and improving lives.'

Doors open at 2.30pm. Tickets available at the door- Adult £8.00 Children Free.



### **St Andrews Church Biggleswade**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July there will be an afternoon concert by The East Beds Chamber Choir in St Andrew's Church Churchyard.

Then at 6pm there will be Choral Evensong with a combined choir.

Tickets will be available soon

[www.](http://www.)

[standrewschurchbiggleswade](http://standrewschurchbiggleswade)

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



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

# AFTERNOON TEA

NORTHILL VILLAGE HALL

**SUNDAY  
SEPT  
17**

**£12.50**

TO INCLUDE  
SAVOURIES,  
SANDWICHES,  
SCONES, CAKES,  
TEA/COFFEE.  
ADD A GLASS OR  
TWO OF PROSECCO!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
CALL VAL 07871 118684  
OR SUE 07764 324349

Website: www.bedsrcc.org.uk



## Get Your Bike Marked & Registered **FREE**



By Biggleswade Community Safety Group.

Date 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Time 12:30pm to 3:00pm

Location Labour Hall, Crab Lane, SG14 0LN

BikeRegister deters cycle thieves and reunites stolen bikes with their owners.  
Working in partnership with all UK police forces.

[www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)

Facebook.com/BikeRegister

@BikeRegister #BikeRegister

BikeRegister is a registered trademark of:

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Secured by Design



Official Police Accredited

## WARDEN ABBEY VINEYARD

The Community Vineyard, near Biggleswade

### Wellbeing Project

Join us on our five-week nature and wellbeing project in the beautiful surroundings of Warden Abbey Community Vineyard. A chance to get active in nature, meet others and support your wellbeing.

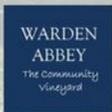
All are welcome.

Tuesday mornings 10am - 12:30pm  
Starting 27th June til 25th July

Places are limited so booking is essential. Please contact Nicola on [nicola.scholfield@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:nicola.scholfield@bedsrcc.org.uk) or call 07984 275652 if you'd like to take part or know more.

**FREE**





### HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

The Baptist Church are running 'Jungle Challenge' during the first week of the school holidays, 24th - 28th July from 9:30 - 12 each morning.

Children aged 4 to School Year 8 are welcome to join for a fun packed week of songs, bible stories, games, craft, drama and more. Contact: [hbc@bbchurch.org.uk](mailto:hbc@bbchurch.org.uk)

## A LITTLE HELP

### VOLUNTEER WITH US!



Home Safety Support

Fuel & Utilities Support

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Community Events

Community Safety

Admin Help

Resources Support

Diversity & Inclusion Advocate



Crisis Cafés are safe, non-judgemental spaces that you can come to if you find yourself in crisis or mental distress in the evenings. You will be met by a trained mental health worker who will listen and help you identify ways to address the problems you are facing.

The Biggleswade Crisis Café is open on Thursday & Friday from 5.30pm – 11.00pm. Crisis at The Lawns Resource Centre, The Baulk, Biggleswade, SG18 0PT



**Bedfordshire**  
Fire & Rescue Service

Phone 07543 301604 or email  
[janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk](mailto:janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk)



Grants are available to support community clubs, charities, and other organisations see <https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/grants> or contact 01767 313134 or email [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)

Completed applications can be posted to: Biggleswade Town Council The Old Court House 4 Saffron Road Biggleswade SG18 8DL or emailed to [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk). By 31st August 2023.

For further information on Councillors, meetings and many other Council services please visit: [www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk). If you are unable to visit the website please visit or contact the Town Hall and someone will help: Biggleswade Town Council, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade SG18 8DL. Telephone: 01767 313134