



# Biggleswade Community News

SEPTEMBER 2021



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## GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Events are being organised in association with Biggleswade Town Council to have fun while helping to build awareness and plan actions by all of us that will reduce the adverse effects of climate change worldwide.

This year's **Country Fayre at St Andrew's Church** will be from 10am to 3pm on **Saturday 18 September**. The theme: 'Our Changing World', focuses on the issue of Climate Change. It will support two charities: A Rocha, which campaigns for climate action and justice; and Christian Aid, which supports those around the world who suffer as a result of climate change.



There will be stalls, sideshows and games and an all-day Arena programme. Also an on the day raffle and a tea garden. Go along and enjoy all the fun of the Fayre. There will also be an exhibition in church to support the focus on the impact of Climate Change and our response to it.

**FAB (Future Action Biggleswade)** are planning an event with stalls from various organisations that will take place in the Market Square on **Sunday September 26**.



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

# ABOUT THE TOWN

## OUR CYCLING PAST MEETS THE FUTURE

Normally Biggleswade Sports Club run a cycle meet each year at Fairfield Sports Ground. Our town has strong historical links to cycling, and our Government and Councils are encouraging cycling. It was a disappointment to learn too late of an event closely linked to the town's social history, so we missed the opportunity to publicise it. We will ensure residents hear about it next year!

Earlier this summer the event attracted riders from all over England and included two national champions, Andrew Leveton and Joanne Smith. Local clubs were represented and the most successful one was from Ashwell.

Each year it showcases up and coming riders and one of its most successful past participants was Victoria Pendleton (former Olympic and World Champion). Her father lives nearby and is still associated with our local meet. 94 year old Des Bull still helps him to to arrange this. It would be good to see more of our own young cyclists coming along next year and we will make sure that we publicise it in plenty of time. Find out more at [www.bedsroad.org](http://www.bedsroad.org)

**DAN ALBONE** (1860-1906) had a well known Bedfordshire surname. Born and bred in Biggleswade, his family lived at The Ongley Arms Inn. A lodging house, which backed onto the River Ivel in Shortmead Street, from which he named his business. The Great North Road passed the front door. At 4 his father died and his mother when he was 11. Brother Edward was a carpenter and made a 'boneshaker' bicycle for Dan's ninth birthday. All the children wanted a go! At 13 Dan made his own cycle with his forge being the kitchen fire! It had no ball bearings but he managed to win most of the races he entered. That cycle was considered by all around as 'Invincible'. At around 13 he was apprenticed to local engineers in Hitchin Street.

Dan was a founder member of the North Road Cycling Club and The Biggleswade & District Cycling Club first met on May 11th 1880 initially at the Crown Hotel and had 232 members by 1898. At the humble but large Ongley Arms, the great Ivel Works was founded in 1888 where were produced many world-famous machines. Never aiming at mass production he produced a lightweight, effortless to ride cycle popular with racers. He was charming and good natured

which helped its sales and his popularity. His first catalogue, in the 1880s, offered the Ivel Roadster with a choice of handlebars, at a cost of £12 and 10 shillings.

In Dan Albone's honour let's make the 2022 annual Cycle Meet better known in our town, and hopefully encourage more young people like Dan Albone to take up cycling.

*(With thanks to the Biggleswade History Society)*

## **MANTLES COURT OPENING SOON**

The new Quantum Care care home at 115 London Road, Biggleswade SG18 8EX is due to open in October, and a show suite will be opening soon. If you wish to view the home, or are interested in the care it can provide or to apply to join the staffing team, visit [www.mantlescourt.co.uk](http://www.mantlescourt.co.uk) and complete an enquiry form, or email [mantles@quantumcare.co.uk](mailto:mantles@quantumcare.co.uk) or phone 01767 304701.

## **Co-op Jobs at its Biggleswade Distribution Centre**



To the rear of Biggleswade Business Park will be the biggest, most sustainable and high-tech depot in the Co-op network, opening in early 2022. They are recruiting now and over the next few months.

**September 2021** - Team Managers (across Warehouse, Transport & Stock) and Site Support Assistants

**October 2021** - Warehouse Operatives (on-going into 2022) and Support Assistants (across Warehouse, Transport & Planning)

**November 2021** - Stock Support Assistants

**December 2021** - Class 1 & 2 LGV Drivers and Shunters (on-going into 2022)

With up to 1000 new vacancies, you can join an employer with a social purpose. Visit [jobs.coop.co.uk/biggleswade-depot](http://jobs.coop.co.uk/biggleswade-depot) to see vacancies as they become available.



**Lidl Supermarket** is now open opposite the Retail Park in London Road. Opening Hours 8am - 10pm daily, 10-4 on Sundays

**Biggleswade Baptist Church** is celebrating their 250th anniversary during the weekend of 18th and 19th September. On the Saturday there will be fairground rides in the car park and tea and cakes available. On Sunday morning there is a celebration service starting at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome to all the events.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**healthwatch** Central Bedfordshire is the independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of the public

We heard from many people about their experiences of accessing health and care services during the pandemic –

[www.healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk/services](http://www.healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk/services)

Since Government restrictions have eased our local Healthwatch will be resuming face to face engagement, visiting local towns and villages across Central Bedfordshire for the remainder of the **Just Ask** programme. On **Tuesday, 21st September** they will be at the Market Square in Biggleswade. and will be joined by Respite at Home; Macmillan; Autism Bedfordshire and Central Bedfordshire Council Public Health Team.

If you would like more information about our outreach programmes, please get in touch on 0300 303 8554, or by email: [info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk)

### ***Ivel Sprinter***

Although not compulsory, masks are preferred on the Sprinter and most passengers are wearing one.

They are running their usual timetables, including Cambridge. though one of the buses has been off the road for repairs. However, numbers are not yet up to pre-Covid levels. They are short of volunteers who maintain the buses and also drive them when they are privately hired out, If you can help with driving these much valued buses, please let them know. Private hires are priced at £40 which includes 40 free miles. Extra miles are charged at £1 a mile.

For private hires phone 07748 088493 or email [hire.manager@ivelsprinter.org.uk](mailto:hire.manager@ivelsprinter.org.uk)

For general hours and timetables contact Terry Woods on 01767 261047

For new volunteers contact Martin Wilson on 01767 317103



## LIONS SPONSOR NEWSLETTER WEBSITE

Our newsletter team thanks Biggleswade and Sandy Lions Club for sponsoring our newsletter website for a year. We are grateful for their support, particularly at this difficult time for groups such as theirs, who raise funds and provide financial support to a wide range of community services and individuals.

Biggleswade and Sandy Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, a volunteer organisation with 1.35 million members in over 200 countries. They serve all the communities between Gamlingay, Moggerhanger, Clifton and Stotfold. For more information or to join visit their website [www.bslions.org.uk](http://www.bslions.org.uk) or their Facebook page. Or phone us on 01767 448954 and we will put you in touch.

### Another thank you goes to Biggleswade Town Council



who have given our group a donation to enable us to continue our link with Biggleswade Good Neighbours, who address and deliver over half our paper copies to their client households. This has allowed us to increase the number of paper copies we can circulate around



the town. Look out for a copy, subscribe to it at [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) or phone 01767 448954.



**PENSION CREDIT** Age UK have found that a large number of people are still not claiming Pension Credit. Visit [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator) to find out if you are eligible or phone 0800 99 1234

for assistance or phone Bedfordshire Age UK 01234 360510 or visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/bedfordshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/bedfordshire)

Both the **Daytime and Evening W.I.** groups are returning to the Weatherley Centre in September.



The daytime group now meets at 1.30 to 3.30 at the Weatherley Centre on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (*Not as per our last newsletter*). Guests and Members of the Public can attend meetings for a small fee. Email the evening WI at [biggleswadeeveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadeeveningwi@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook pages.

## NEWS and EVENTS



### HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS DISCO

*Saturday 30th October 7-11pm*

*Biggleswade Social Club, Church Street, SG18 0JS*

All ages welcome. Prizes for best costume. All funds will go towards the Biggleswade Community Carnival 2022. Adults £5 and Children £2.50. Buy your tickets at Sweet Alley sweet shop and at Sapphire Hair and Beauty Academy, Sun Street from the 6th September

**CALLING ALL POETS!** We've had a 'poetry table' in Biggleswade for 3 years. It's a place where you can bring any poem to the table to read aloud, just for fun and interest! Some of our members write their own poems, so in 2019 we gathered a special collection to raise money for the local BIGG Welcome project. There are only about 20 copies of our booklets left, at £5 each, so if you'd like a bit of Biggleswade history be sure to visit the Bamboo Turtle, Biggleswade's zero waste store, located in the Courtyard Centre at the bottom end of the High Street. The booklets are just £5 each and every penny goes towards the local BIGG Welcome project. Poems are written in a wide range of styles and about many topics.

We hope to have a regular meeting place soon, but in the meantime you can visit our Facebook page or email [leah.k.stewart@gmail.com](mailto:leah.k.stewart@gmail.com) or phone the newsletter number.

Bamboo Turtle Biggleswade opening hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am - 4pm, Fri 10am - 3pm, Sat 10am - 4pm.



### The Biggleswade Armed Forces and Veterans

Breakfast Club will restart with breakfast meetings but now they are held at The Crown Hotel Wetherspools in the High Street usually on the first Saturday of the month. For more details visit their Facebook page, or email [tomchef29@sky.com](mailto:tomchef29@sky.com) or phone him on 07904 253946. All eligible members are welcome.

### The Biggleswade Branch of the Royal Artillery Association

have successfully trialled a reopening of their monthly meetings and the next meeting is Weds 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Sea Cadets Hall, starting at 13:30





**BedsRCC win GOLD!!** Following on from winning the regional final in June, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BedsRCC) went on to win gold in the Community Business of the Year Award category, sponsored by Wembley Stadium, at the SME National Business Awards on 28th July.

The awards looked to recognise those small and medium-sized enterprises that had demonstrated the utmost dedication and innovation in the way in which they adapted to, and weathered, the Covid-19 pandemic. In the case of BedsRCC, this recognised the way in which their staff and volunteers have supported their local communities and those vulnerable residents over the last year.

Tracy Cowan, BedsRCC CEO said "I was honoured to pick up and accept this award on behalf of the whole of Team BedsRCC. This award is for everyone – our stupendous staff, terrific trustees, passionate patrons and our very special volunteers". Deputy CEO, Cliff Andrews, added "We are so proud of the amazing work our teams do that keeps BRCC the best Community Charity in Bedfordshire and in fact – after this award – the whole of the Country!"

Cliff Andrews developed last year's Green Infrastructure Plan community survey, identifying local open spaces and developing the Green Infrastructure Plan for Biggleswade. This has been adopted and will help inform the Biggleswade National Plan. BRCC also run Greensands Community Transport providing transport for residents who are unable to access public transport. BRCC also has a dedicated officer who supports local village halls and community centres within Bedfordshire.

**Rotary Biggleswade Biggleswade Rotary Club** has awarded Helen Ashton, Manager of the Weatherley Centre in Eagle Farm Road, their Service Recognition Award in acknowledgment of special services to the community. Many of you will probably have seen Helen when you attended the Centre for your Covid job. Answering numerous telephone enquiries from the public and making sure the Centre was Covid secure, she was regularly on duty throughout the lockdown. Well done Helen.

It is planned to restart **FLIX Cinema** in a new venue in October  
More details next Month or see [www.iveflix.org.uk](http://www.iveflix.org.uk)

## NEED A LITTLE HELP?



After visiting the recent Sight Concern open day at the Weatherley Centre, held in conjunction with Low Vision services, it was heartening to see the aids on display that can help you lead life to the full again. Sight Concern Bedfordshire can offer information, support with benefits, concessions and independent living, as well as home visits and befriending. There are portable aids to help you easily read packets and tins in a supermarket, or read the newspaper almost as you would before. There is a small screen magnifier that also speaks to you. Or like one of our team who had trouble driving at night with the so bright LED car lights, they can suggest overglasses of all different hues to help you find the one to suit your needs. Sometimes just improved lighting can make such a difference. You are able to refer yourself, so don't suffer in silence – contact Sight Concern at 01234 311555.

**POHWER** in Central Bedfordshire can help you to have your voice heard. Whether it be attending a PIP interview, or you need to better understand your rights, Pohwer can help you with

- NHS Complaints Advocacy
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Paid Representative Services (RPPR)
- Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA)
- Care Act Advocacy
- Community Advocacy
- Community Engagement

visit [www.pohwer.net/central-bedfordshire](http://www.pohwer.net/central-bedfordshire) to download an application form or phone them on 0300 456 2634 or email [pohwer@pohwer.net](mailto:pohwer@pohwer.net) There is a dedicated email address for the deaf community in Bedford to use: [deafbedford@pohwer.net](mailto:deafbedford@pohwer.net) or you can contact them by text by sending the word 'pohwer' with your name and number to 81025

***REMEMBER – if you can't access the internet, ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try and assist.***