

NEED A LITTLE HELP?



I CARE HOME SUPPORT

*Committed to Care
for a Quality of Life*

iCare covers Biggleswade, Potton, Sandy, Gamlingay and surrounding areas. My aim is to provide a local Companionship and Home Support service to help individuals stay independent in their own home, including:

**Sitting and Befriending Service
Respite for Family Care Givers
Personal Care & Daily Home Support**

I am fully DBS checked with business insurance and own transport with D Licence. Phone Kelly on 07812 746939 or email me at

icarehs@hotmail.com

IVEL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Are you recently bereaved?
Have you been struggling with coming to terms with your loss?
Would it help to talk to someone?
For more information telephone

07704 734225

(Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm)
And speak to one of our

Bereavement Support Volunteers



Free and Confidential
(Donations Welcomed)

*Sharing your loss can
make the burden of grief
easier to manage*

Please don't grieve alone



Biggleswade Community News

DECEMBER 2021



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 448954

Christmas in The Market Square

Friday December 3: Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Saturday December 4: Visit Santa at his Magical Grotto; Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Sunday December 5: Sunday on the Square 10am to 4pm

Friday December 10: Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Saturday December 11: Visit Santa at his Magical Grotto; Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Friday December 17: Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Saturday December 18: 10.30 am St Andrew's Christmas Tableau, Visit Santa at his Magical Grotto; Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Saturday December 24: Light Show and Music 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Appointments for Santa's Grotto must be made in advance. £5 for a 15 minute slot. Phone 01767 313314, or visit the Town Council's offices at The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, SG18 8DL between 9am and 4.30pm (closed 12 noon to 2pm)

BCG MONDAY DROP IN

Biggleswade Community Group (BCG) Monday Drop In has now opened in the Weatherley Centre, 10.30-12 noon. Entry is £1.50 and hot drinks 50p. The Centre now has a new door security system so just push the button on the top of the keypad and one of us will come and meet you. BCG was set up to reduce isolation and share information and knowledge. If you have a query or just want a listening ear, please call in at no charge and we will try and help.

ADVERTISING IN BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY NEWS

You will have noticed a few adverts in the newsletter now, in answer to approaches by local organisations, and interest is growing. We hope to expand our pages to 12 next year to give even more space, funding permitting. We aim to keep costs to a maximum of £20 a time, with initial discounts. If you wish to promote your service and support us, please telephone 07988 822678 or email us at the newsletter and Shirley will be happy to help you. We are now reaching approximately 2000 households.

Published by Biggleswade Community Group tel: 01767 310163

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and Eateries. Also online at

www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

Free of charge but donations towards costs are welcomed.

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

NEWS FROM BIGGLESWADE ORGANISATIONS

BIGGLESWADE SANDY LIONS are unable to carry out their door to door collections this year, so will be depending on their Christmas Tin Shake collections at the following locations in December:

Sat/Sun/Mon	11th/12th/13th	Asda Biggleswade
Thurs/Fri	16th/17th	G&M Growers
Sat/Sun/Mon	18th/19th/20th	Sainsbury's Biggleswade

Biggleswade Churches Christmas 2021

Sun 19th Dec

10.30am Family Service with Sunday Club Baptist presenting 'The Impossible Promise'

6pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols St. Andrew's

6pm Candlelight Carol Service Trinity

6.30pm Carol Service Baptist

Wed 22nd Dec

6pm Carol Singing in the Churchyard St. Andrew's

Christmas Eve

6pm Crib Service with Sunday School St. Andrew's Nativity

10pm Midnight Mass St. Peter's (Please book place via email - ordering@st-peters.uk)

11.15pm Midnight Communion Service Trinity (Preceded by coffee & mince pies)

11.30pm Festival Midnight Mass (Sung) St. Andrew's

Christmas Day

10am Festival Holy Communion (Sung) St. Andrew's

10am Christmas Day Worship Baptist

10am Christmas Morning Service Trinity

11am Christmas Day Mass St. Peter's (Please book place via email - ordering@st-peters.uk)

Boxing Day

10am Holy Communion St. Andrew's

For more information and other services, please visit individual church web sites via www.biggct.org

Thousands of Crocus Bulbs have been planted in Biggleswade by Biggleswade Rotary Club in partnership with the Town Council. The purple crocus is the symbol of the Rotary's Polio Relief Fund.

BEDFORD BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT *Brass, Bells & Tinsel*

Saturday 11th December 7pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets Adult £5.00 Children/Students £3.00 (No card payments) It's jingle all the way when Bedford Brass will be giving a traditional Christmas Concert. This will be their first concert since before March 2020 and will be raising funds for Sue Ryder St. John's Hospice. Band Member Jenny Gellatly said, 'We are delighted to be bringing back the sound of Christmas in 2021'.



Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charities (BRCC)

is the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire. The tearoom at the Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre is one of their community projects along with Warden Abbey Vineyard, Greensands Community Transport, etc. Based in the Old School,

Cardington their staff rely on the support of their volunteers. If you can help please phone 01234 838771, email info@bedsrcc.org.uk or visit www.bedsrcc.org.uk



Sunday December 19th 5-7pm at Fairfield House, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade SG18 0AA. Featuring Vocalist Gavin Skeggs accompanied by the inimitable Dave Foster on keyboards. The quartet will perform seasonal songs and jazz standards from The Great American Songbook. Tickets £20 (Children 10-18 £10) (includes a glass of wine or tea/coffee and a mince pie) from sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01767 312176

Fairfield House is a Grade II listed building located at the end of Fairfield Road, turning left just past the cricket and football pitches. It is also the home of Fairfield Studios which offers rehearsal space for local bands. The studio also makes multi track recordings for bands or solo artists. For more info call 07795 803352

NEWS and EVENTS

CASTLE COMEDY Saturday 11th Dec 7pm-11.15pm

Zoe Lyons, Luke Toulson and Nik Coppin are the lineup for Castle Comedy's second event at the Weatherley Centre. Hosted by Paul Revill it should be every bit as enjoyable as their October show. Doors and bar open at 7 pm with the show starting at 8pm. Tickets hotline is 07736 060541 and they cost £16.50 each or visit www.castlecomedy.co.uk/biggleswade-home

(Castle Comedy's next show at Weatherley is on 5th February 2022)

Christmas Concert at STRATTON SCHOOL

Monday 13th Dec at 7-30

Entrance £10 (incl refreshments & raffle)



Dunton Church Christmas Fair is from 12pm to 3pm on Sunday, December 5. There will be stalls and refreshments. Something for all ages.

KRAFTY SHED

Pottery Painting and Arts & Crafts Studio, Handcrafted Keepsakes
Unique and Personalised Gifts

Krafty Shed is a family and pet friendly pottery painting and arts & craft studio in the Market Square, Kings Reach. We have lots of activities to choose from and a wide selection of beautiful keepsakes and personalised gifts. Our prices start from £5 and include all equipment and resources required to complete your project, and we do not charge any additional studio fee

We also serve alcohol, coffee and soft drinks

DECEMBER AT BIGGLESWADE SOCIAL CLUB Church Road, Biggleswade SG18 0JS 01767 31240

- 4th One Eyed Cats Rock'n' Roll £5 on the door
- 17th Xmas Bingo eyes down 7.30. One flyer min £50 free entry, fun raffle.
- 18th Xmas Pool Knockout 8pm start £1 single £1 double more entries = bigger prizes
- 19th Club's Xmas Children's Party, with Santa and Big Elf
- 26th Boxing Day disco 1pm to 6pm
- 31st New Year's Eve disco. Ticket only £5
4 to 14 yrs £2.50 under 4s no charge

(January 29th Robbie Williams tribute night £5 on the door)

6th Dec BIGGLESWADE HISTORY SOCIETY are holding a talk by David Fowler on 'WWII the Americans and Glen Miller' including music. 7.30 for 8 Trinity Church, Shortmead Street.

11th Dec IVEL FLIX The Sense of an Ending (PG13) mystery drama film starring Jim Broadbent, Charlotte Rampling, 2.45pm Trinity Church, Shortmead Street. £4 on the door. Free parking.

REACHING NET ZERO

Richard Fuller, MP for our area, has been visiting local schools to hear pupil's views on climate change, prior to attending COP26 in Glasgow. As a member of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee, he recently questioned expert witnesses attending that Committee, for their views on the Government's recently unveiled Heat and Buildings Strategy. He stated that there is a need for transparency, as some of the changes may require higher taxes or taxpayer funding, particularly for technologies yet to prove themselves. He went on to say that intelligent choices will need to be made to limit costs to the taxpayers and ideally create export opportunities for British businesses as we move towards Net Zero. But he fears this message may not have fully got across to the witnesses that day. You can sign up for his newsletter or email him at richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



FREE ON LINE ADULT LEARNING COURSES

BESS Adult Learning is partnering with The Learning Curve to provide Central Bedfordshire residents with flexible, online learning opportunities. Courses, for those 19+, are free (subject to eligibility) and delivered through distance learning in bite-sized chunks at flexible times and pace. The diverse nationally accredited courses can help with finding work, career progression or a change of career. Courses cover a range of qualifications in business, retail and hospitality, IT and digital skills, mental health, wellbeing and inclusion, working with children and young people and mental health and social care.

For more details visit <https://www.learningcurvegroup.co.uk/learners> and follow the links.



COMMITMENT TO CARERS

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire are undertaking surveys in early December with Carers who have had family or friends or the person they care for admitted to hospital for elective or emergency admissions in the last six months. The aim is to understand, from a carers perspective, what processes/outcomes are most important to get right before leaving hospital. The interview can take place in your own home at a time most convenient to you, or in a setting of your choosing. All participants will be offered a £15 gift voucher for taking part as long as the person they care for meets the criteria of someone who was recently discharged from hospital. Once all the interviews are completed we will arrange a focus group with representatives from the local authority, social care, acute hospital, Carers lead/discharge team leader, and a health commissioner involved in the discharge process to feedback the results, and to ask what actions they will take as a result of the feedback provided.

If you would like to take part please contact Annette Brown, Engagement Officer at Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire by email to annette.brown@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk or telephone the office on **0300 303 8554** and speak to a member of the team.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS Local vaccination sites, in the old Registry Office, London Road and Lloyds Chemist, Market Square, are by appointment only through the national on line booking service or by phoning 119. Boosters and third jabs will normally be Pfizer or Moderna. You will need to ask, but Astra Zeneca is available for those prone to allergies. Nearest walk in Centres are the old Argos Store, Garden Square Shopping Centre in Letchworth, Council Offices, Chicksands (Priory House) and Robertson House in Stevenage.

Biggleswade Town Council has an annual Grants Application process and will be pleased to receive applications for financial assistance from local groups and services, when it is apparent Biggleswade Town residents will benefit from the support provided. For an application form see: <https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/grants/> email enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk or call



their office on 01767 313134. Completed forms should be sent to Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade SG18 8DL or to the email address above. Applications are considered annually each January by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 December 2021.

Green Homes Grant for cavity and loft insulation Homeowners living in Central Bedfordshire can now apply for grant funding to pay for loft and cavity wall insulation from the government's Green Homes Grant Scheme. Terms and conditions apply and only private homeowners with a combined annual income of up to £30,000 will be eligible. You must also have an Energy Performance Certificate for your home of E F or G; for loft insulation your loft needs to be totally clear. Telephone 0300 300 8767 or email psh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

BIGGLESWADE TOWN CENTRE SURVEY Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) have launched a town centre survey asking Biggleswade residents what they think is good and what could be improved. CBC want to better understand why people visit the town centre as well as whether COVID-19 has impacted on how you use the town centre now and also how you propose to do so. Let CBC know your views on what they could improve. To complete the survey visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Biggleswade21 (If you wish to give your views but do not have access to the internet – ring us on 01767 448954 and we will help you)