

## NEED A LITTLE HELP?

### 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**

### Lions Message in a Bottle

Fill in the form in the bottle, put it in your fridge, put a sticker on the fridge and on the INSIDE of your front door, and paramedics and health professionals will have access to all your important health details, next of kin, etc. Particularly good if you live alone or are hard of hearing or have sight impairment.



### Gain qualifications to improve your CV and boost your employment opportunities

**BESS Adult Learning** is working in partnership with Best Practice People to provide Central Bedfordshire residents with courses to build skills and knowledge, that support job applications and career progression. These are free to those 19+, subject to eligibility, which includes those who are

receiving Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit, or those who are employed and earning less than £17,374.50 per annum. Visit the Best Practice website at <https://bestpp.bpweb.net/index> email [skills@bestpp.co.uk](mailto:skills@bestpp.co.uk) or phone 0800 888 6064

### REMINDER SIGHT CONCERN ROADSHOW RETURNS



Sight Concern Bedfordshire, together with Professional Vision Services Limited will be holding a Low Vision drop in day at the Weatherley Centre, Biggleswade on Wednesday 16th February from 10am - 2pm, no appointment necessary.



## Biggleswade Community News

FEBRUARY 2022



Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 448954

### BIGGLESWADE CARNIVAL

**THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE** has a number of ideas starting with three week's worth of events, to run up to the Carnival on **Saturday 18th June**. The month will kick off with a Jubilee Dinner Dance which will coincide with the official **Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend** which runs from **Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June, 2022**.

Over the following three weeks there will be Let's Go travel themed activities such as a The Duck Race fete, Quiz, Darts night, Pamper Evening, Games Night, Bingo Evening, Raffle etc. The Committee require affordable entertainers for the Dinner Dance, Road Closures Team and volunteer marshalls for **the Carnival Procession on Saturday 18th June**.

To start the ball rolling there will be **the Carnival Court Selection** afternoon to choose the Carnival Queen, Prince and Princess on **Sunday 24th April** at Biggleswade Social Club in Church Street. Application forms will be available at Sapphire Hair and Beauty Academy in Sun Street, Sweet Alley Abbots walk, Subway or The Therapy lounge Hitchin Street with others to be confirmed. If you have any further ideas for activities in the run up to the Jubilee Carnival or wish to join the committee or would like to hold a stall at the **Duck Race Fete on the 12th June 2022**, please email [hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk](mailto:hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk)

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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)

## NEWS FROM BIGGLESWADE ORGANISATIONS



Are you unsure about joining us to watch a film on the big screen? Not sure about our venue? We recently relocated to the

Footprints room at the Methodist Church in Shortmead Street. It has disabled access and on site parking, or the town centre car parks are free at weekends. You can also walk down Chapelfields, which is the path at the side of Asda. Our entrance is opposite part of the primary school site. We have spare masks, sanitiser at the entrance and additional bottles at the ticket/raffle point. We will space out chairs for family groups so you do not have to sit next to someone you may not know.

Our next film is Lynn and Lucy on 12th February (15) about the relationship between two young mums who were school friends. In March we are showing Bought a Zoo. In April it will be Eat Pray and Love and in May, The Assistance. Posters are displayed around the town before each film. For more details see [www.ivelflix.org.uk](http://www.ivelflix.org.uk). Films start at 3pm. Admission is £4 per person



**THINK AS YOU SHOP:** FAB (Future Action Biggleswade) are once again planning an event to encourage us to consider the implications of decisions that we make when we shop. Due to the current situation, with some people reluctant to attend live events indoors, it will be online. It will take place during Fairtrade Fortnight (Monday February 21 -

Sunday March 6) They are inviting local organisations with an appropriate message to take part. The brief is wide! Not just Fair Trade but buying local, supporting a small business and the local economy, environmental concerns such as plastic packaging, reducing air miles, sustainability.... If you would like to take part please see [www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk) or call the Chairman, Neil on 07910 211824.



**ERRATUM** Quantum Care Mantles Court. We apologise for printing an incorrect phone number for Mantles Court in London Road, Biggleswade, in our January edition advising readers that the Care Home is now open. The correct phone number is 01767 304701

## COVID UPDATE



**The NHS is setting up Nightingale surge hubs, temporary 100 bed structures across the country. For East of England this will be at Lister Hospital in Stevenage.** Placing them in hospital grounds makes for more flexibility of staff

and equipment, with access to diagnostics and emergency care if required. The move comes as hospitals are currently using hotels, hospices and care homes to safely discharge as many people as possible.

**COVID-19 UPDATE** Cases of Omicron have reduced in our area but are still very high and may not yet fully reflect the effect of Christmas and going back to school and work. Central Bedfordshire has a high incidence of residents with booster jabs at 66% of the population compared England average of 59%, but there are still areas with lower takeup. **Covid Jabs are still offered at the Old Registry Office in London Road, and Lloyds and Jardines Chemists.**

There is now a service for those with **a phobia of needles**, who email [elt.tr-bedfordiapt@nhs.net](mailto:elt.tr-bedfordiapt@nhs.net) or ring 01234 880400 for more information.

**Lateral flo testing kits** are delivered to **libraries** if available and there is a reserved stock for key workers. The nearest three walk in centres are in Stevenage, Letchworth, and at the Council Offices in Chicksands. Patients can request to be given Astra Zeneca instead of the normal Pfizer or Moderna for boosters at these centres, but they must be booked. Boosters are now available for over 16s, First doses are available for children aged 5-11 who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). Letters will be sent out via pupils' schools. Priority PCR testing kits have been sent out to the 500,000 CEV adult patients by the national NHS service, sometimes without the normal text or letter notice. It is to be used only by that person if they show symptoms or have a positive lateral flo test.

CEV adult patients are having difficulties booking their booster jabs 3 months after their 3rd jab, and this was a question to the Prime Minister at PMQs on 19th January who will look into this.

**The rules and guidance have regarding masks and working from home and isolation periods** have been changed. However we are still encouraged to be careful and take precautions for our own safety and that of others.

## NEWS and EVENTS



### The Big February Show

Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road

Saturday 5<sup>TH</sup> February 7pm Show Starts at 8pm

**TICKETS £15.40** (Licensed Bar)

[www.wegotickets.com/event/529392Doors](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/529392Doors)

**PAUL SINHA** 'The Sinnerman' from ITV's 'The Chase' & 'Beat The Chasers' where he regularly chases down opponents. He is also a regular on the Radio 4 favourites News Quiz and The Now Show.

**PATRICK MONAHAN** known for working a room and quite simply is the nicest man in comedy – an audience favourite

**DAVID WARD** from BBC Three's We Are Klang and is one of comedy's most sought after presenters, hosting the heats for the BBC's New Comedy Awards.Plus Biggleswade favourite

**Paul Revill** will host the show.

### SOUL NIGHT RETURNING TO BIGGLESWADE

Jon Coopland's Northern Soul and Tamla Motown Night is returning to the Weatherley Centre,On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 8pm to midnight Tickets £10 on the door or telephone Jon on 07955 132397



**Shuttleworth in Old Warden** is introducing lunchtime talks for generalists plus those with an interest in the specific topics.

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> February: Dan Albane meets Colonel & Mrs Shuttleworth**

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> February The 200 year history of the Swiss Garden**, from its creation by Lord Ongley to the changes and restorations made by the Shuttleworth family.

Visit [www.shuttleworth.org/events/talk-programme](http://www.shuttleworth.org/events/talk-programme) for tickets which cost £21.50. The event starts at 10.30 with a hot drink and cake and the talks last from 11.00 to 12.30pm. The admission ticket also includes 30 days access to the Visitor Attraction .

### BIGGLESWADE SANDY LIONS CLUB (CIO)

The reindeer are back on their pasture in Lapland after a very busy Christmas. My Norad tracker tells me he had delivered 7,623,693,263 parcels this year!

Back to reality. The local community have been very generous with their donations and supporting our Christmas Dance in Biggleswade. Funds are running low due to lockdowns and the increasing ages of our members prevented us holding 2021 street collections and this will continue unless we can recruit younger members Thank you all for your support.

To carry on in Biggleswade and Sandy we do need more volunteers to help us with our projects such as Message in a Bottle and Message in a Wallet which help the Paramedics and emergency services when someone is taken ill at home or while they are out. Recycling of used spectacles and hearing aids, ROAR which is a project asking young children what they would like to change in the world and many more. To find out more phone us on 01462 814693 or 03458 or visit our website at [www.bslions.org.uk](http://www.bslions.org.uk)

2022 events start with a Jumble Sale at the Clifton Community Centre on Saturday 19th March. In the run up to Easter we have our Easter Egg raffle based in local clubs and pubs in the area so do look out for it. If you see us at local fetes, please do come and talk to us.

### BIGGLESWADE SOCIAL CLUB Church Street, SG18 0JS

(Opposite Asda Supermarket)

- Robbie Williams Tribute Evening on Saturday 29th January with tickets £5 at the door
- Tribute to Queen on the 5th February.
- Psychic Night on the 11th February
- Pool Knockout on the 12th February.

To join this family friendly club, which has recently been refurbished, just pick up a Membership form at the bar. Annual Membership is £20 a year for under 65s and £10 for over 65s. For more information phone 01767 312409.



## IDEAS FOR 2022 ???.....

After nearly 2 years of lockdowns and isolation, for many in our community, this has been a time for thinking about our lives, family and community. No less so than at Biggleswade Community Group. Whilst we will never be a campaigning newsletter we can publish our readers' ideas and aspirations and try to support them in trying to achieve them by sharing them with our readers and ever increasing contacts.

**BIGGLESWADE SPORTS CLUB** will be holding their **Annual Cycle Meet** on the **9<sup>th</sup> July**, with a Jubilee theme. But they would also like to hold a Jubilee Children's Sports event if a Biggleswade venue could be found. Others wish for a **Bandstand** at Franklin's Recreation Ground to be re-erected, and a **Town Band re-formed** and more use of the River Ivel. Where is that **Splash Park**? Could it be a possibility on the new Garden Village site **or proposed Country Park** across the A1?

**WEATHERLEY CENTRE** is moving towards becoming a modern CIO charitable organisation with an increased number of trustees. The Centre will also need volunteers if it is to reach its full potential and host more community events, fundraisers, etc.

**BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL** now has a well-attended **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP**, which meets regularly to find ways of improving our community. Collaboration between the Town Council and local businesses resulted in the two Sunday in the Square social events. The Town Council's staff and councillors are keen to make more use of our town centre for community activities. Ring them on 01767 313134, or email [enquiries@bigglesadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bigglesadetowncouncil.gov.uk) if you too have ideas or wish to join the Community Engagement Group.

Another small group would like to start up an afternoon whist drive group which would need a minimum of 12 people to start.

There is also a whole new large community located further away from the town centre that also has a voice, and we want to hear them. Those living on **Kings Reach** can take their ideas to the **Kings Corner Community Hub in the Market Square**. Our own **Biggleswade Community Group** will work with all these organisations to help spread the word through this newsletter and its website and Facebook pages, but things will only happen if the community itself gets behind them. There are some **small pots of community funding** available and our team regularly hear of new funding streams via the CVS or events could be held to raise funds for particular items or activities.

## ..... OR JUST WISHFUL THINKING?

Some of you, who have lived in Biggleswade all your lives, fondly remember community activities that fell by the wayside, and are looking into whether some could happen again. But with council funds depleted we may have to look at our community ourselves to help do that. Our ever-growing town needs a stronger voice for what a town that could soon reach 30,000 actually needs. Lone voices and social media may not be enough to bring about change. It may well be up to us in the community to collaborate and start balls rolling and attempt to make things happen. If you have an idea of your own, we would like to hear about it.



### ERSOU confiscates millions from Bedfordshire criminals

Eastern Region Special Operations Unit's Serious Organised Crime Unit Officers and staff use a range of specialist tactics and work closely alongside police forces and partner agencies to disrupt dangerous offenders operating across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent.

In 2021 police officers in Bedfordshire confiscated over £2m worth of Class A Drugs and almost £2 million in cash and assets from criminals, forfeited under civil powers as the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) legislation. Across Eastern Region Victims have also had more than £800,000 returned to them in compensation. In January 2022, 13 gang members, including 3 Luton men, were jailed for a combined total of 129 years for peddling Class A drugs across the country, which was the biggest ever jail term secured by ERSOU's Regional Organised Crime Unit. Created in 2010, ERSOU is funded by the seven police forces that make up the eastern region, with Bedfordshire Police being the lead force. It is made up of both police officers and staff from across the region. It has two main functions: Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP).

***This newsletter is produced for you by volunteers 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.***