



# Biggleswade Community News

JULY 2022



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**We would be delighted if all our volunteers  
and clients could join us at our :-**



**Queen's Award Presentation Ceremony  
With the Guest of Honour  
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire  
Helen Nellis**

**on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 10.15am to 12.15pm  
At Baptist Church, 74 London Road, SG188EB**

This will be a very special coffee morning. The main focus of the event will be the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the group by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis.

All who have been involved with BGN are very welcome to attend. Please phone us on 07771 104255 or email us at [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com) if you intend to come.

We would ask people to arrive promptly and make their own way to the venue on the day, if at all possible, as we will only have a limited number of volunteers available to offer lifts.

Please note that this event replaces the coffee morning on the 9<sup>th</sup> July as previously advertised.

**Biggleswade Community Group** tel: 01767 310163  
[www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

## NEWS FROM BIGGLESWADE ORGANISATIONS



Nick Gurney attended the annual Royal Garden Party hosted by members of the Royal Family on Wednesday May 25 at Buckingham Palace. Each year the Queen hosts a garden party to honour and recognise public service. Nick was nominated to attend the Royal event by the Bedfordshire Lord Lieutenant in acknowledgment of his services to Scouting and the community.

Over almost 40 years Nick has volunteered his time to support Scouting in Biggleswade. He has organised and put on numerous Gang Shows, involving hundreds of children and leaders. He has taken part in charity events, camps, tree planting, and so much more to help enrich individuals lives for the better. One of his notable achievements is the naming of Baden Powell Way in the Kings Reach estate.



Nick said "The Royal Garden Party was an honour to attend and an amazing day. I went with my wife Babs, who is a Brown Owl in Biggleswade Guiding and who has supported me over the years". Nick's daughters, family and friends are all incredibly proud of him and are very happy that he was able to attend one of the famous Royal Partys.



**Biggleswade Living Streets** is a local branch of the national charity. We are only the 2nd Living Streets group in Bedfordshire and we aim to help people make the choice to walk and cycle more often, and to campaign to make our streets safe and accessible for everyone. We also organise walks and rides for people at all levels and on the 9th June we did our first bike ride taking in 4 miles of the Greenway. Aimed at beginners, this ride was at a very gentle pace. Look out for future events. Get in touch to hear more about what we are doing, join our mailing list, or just say hello at [Biggleswadegroup@LivingStreets.org.uk](mailto:Biggleswadegroup@LivingStreets.org.uk), Biggleswade Living Streets on Facebook or our website [www.EnjoyBiggleswade.co.uk](http://www.EnjoyBiggleswade.co.uk) Happy walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling.

**Rotary**  
Biggleswade



A few years ago I was asked "If I had ever thought of joining Rotary". I replied, "It's a professional businessmen's club isn't it? I don't think women can join. You had better check your details and get back to me." My answer was ridiculous of course and the person asking me knew that he was right and well within the membership rules of the club.

However, he left it a couple of weeks and asked me again. He told me the club meets every week for lunch and then continues with a meeting, discussion, a speaker or activity. I knew nothing about Rotary but joined and have learnt all about it by going to the meetings. It is the best thing I have ever done and I can recommend it.

Our members meet on a Tuesday lunchtime for the first three weeks of the month and in the evening on the fourth Tuesday. We have a one course meal and tea or coffee. I enjoy it and I have done many things and met many people I would not have done if I had not joined. If you feel like trying something new, plan to come along to a few meetings. You can come for a few weeks to try it before joining, or attend the meeting without having a meal if that is what you would rather do. If Tuesday lunchtime does not suit, we would still like to hear from you as we are considering other options and changes to our meetings to suit new members. If you would like to book in for lunch or would just like further information contact Barbara on 01767 601813 or email [Biggleswaderotary@hotmail.com](mailto:Biggleswaderotary@hotmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.



**FAB (Future Action Biggleswade)** are planning an event in the Market Square on Sunday 25th September 2022 (10:30am - 2:30pm) as part of the Great Big Green Week. This took place for the first time in 2021 and is a nationwide event focusing on community action to tackle climate change and protect the natural environment. It is being organised by The Climate Coalition which includes a number of well-known organisations such as the National Trust, RSPB, Fairtrade Foundation, The Salvation Army, Plantlife, Surfers Against Sewage and many others. See <https://greatbiggreenweek.com> Local organisations with "green" connections are invited to have a stall at the event free of charge. To book or ask for more information please email [fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk)



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0844 99 343 99  
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Can you help Preen find a new building? The current one is falling apart - leaking roof, windows falling out, cracked walls - and with the glass roof it is baking in summer and cold in winter. It would cost £800 a week to heat the space this winter! They love where they are now - but the buildings are beyond repair and they don't own the site so can't raise funds to redevelop it.

Biggleswade is an amazing community and they are really proud of the small (but important) contribution they make here. They would be very sad to move away - but have now got to seriously consider places like St Neots, Hitchin, Bedford or Letchworth where there are plenty of large buildings, cheaper rents and lots of people who would use them. They have to make a final decision about the future in September - so they can plan for the busiest winter months.

After 5 years of trying, this is really a last-ditch attempt to find a suitable base in Biggleswade. They are open to any suggestions, will listen to all advice and work whatever hours are necessary to stay local. Can you help ? [Kathy@preencic.org](mailto:Kathy@preencic.org) 07971 317757



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Biggleswade  
SG18 0LF

### WHAT'S ON

**Friday July 1 - Sunday 3.**

St Andrew's Festival 2022.

**Saturday July 9** Craft Fair  
Biggleswade Social Club.

**Sunday July 17 (Not Strictly)**

**Jazz.** Tickets £20 incl wine or soft drink and refreshments. For tickets phone Sarah on 01767 312176.

**Saturday July 16** Dunton Car Boot Sale.

**Thursday July 28** Light Lunch at Trinity Methodist Church, Noon - 1.30. Homemade Soup with a roll, a slice of cake and tea or coffee for only £5.



## BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Biggleswade Town Council (BTC) acknowledges the significant contribution that community clubs, charities and other organisations make to enrich and improve the quality of life of so many residents in Biggleswade. BTC has funds available to support the operation and development of these highly valued services.

The Town Council has a grants application process and is pleased to receive applications for financial assistance from these groups when it is apparent that Biggleswade Town residents will benefit from the support provided. Limited funds are available.

All applications can be completed on the Town Council's website at <https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/grants>

They will all be considered without prejudice on an individual basis.

Important dates and details:

There will be two grant application cycles per year.

**June to August** cycle - deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> August.

For **September to December** cycle - deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The completed forms should be sent to the BTC offices at:

Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade SG188DL

or by email to: [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)

For more information, applicants can phone 01767 313134 or email [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk) with any questions regarding the process. Applications are considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Grants which have been awarded to successful applicants in April 2022 can also be viewed on their website.



Another successful Biggleswade Duck Race run by the Biggleswade Carnival Group raised £1400 which will be distributed to local good causes.

## **72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CYCLE RACE 1pm SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY FAIRFIELD SPORTS GROUND, FAIRFIELD ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**



In 1886 Dan Albone built his Ivel Racing Bicycle. This was a 27lb piece of equipment. We are now 136 years on and whilst Dan Albone is no more the spirit of the bicycle racing goes on. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 there will be the 72<sup>nd</sup> running of cycle racing on the Fairfield Sports Ground, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade. This year the programme includes the Ladies

National Championship being held over 5 Km. Not to be outdone the men will be competing in the two National Leagues, short distance and endurance. The first of these events will be held over 600metres and the latter over 8Km.

The Biggleswade Sports have over the years moved away from mixed programmes to wholly cycle racing. Dan Albone may well have been interested in where cycles have changed, from being made of mainly steel construction to the present rather lighter carbon fibre and aluminium bikes seen today. The weight would have rather surprised Mr Albone with the cycles reducing from his 27lbs to a current 9 Kg. Interestingly 8.6 Kg is the Union Cyclism International's minimum weight for track bicycles. The cycles in the photograph will have the usual treaded tyres used in grass track racing. The bicycles themselves will only have one (fixed) gear and do not have brakes other than the one gear on the bicycle that does not freewheel as a normal road cycle.

Over the years the event has metamorphosised from being an athletics meeting, to being a local show, to its present format of being a 100% cycling meeting. Over the whole of this period Des Ball of Biggleswade has been involved, initially as an athlete, to being an organiser to be, as he is at present, an essential part of a Biggleswade event. Des marks to track, arranges the PA, runs the raffle, aids in the catering and collects sponsorship. In an age where many sports are finding the organising of events ever more difficult, Des's commitment at the ripe age of 95 years is a true inspiration to organisers in general.

**Editors Note:** We are so pleased to be able to include details for this year's cycle meets, as cycling and Dan Albone are a major part of our heritage. So much so that some local groups, including our own, have taken the cycle as our logos. Des Ball is an inspiration to many of us, as he is involved in a number of different groups and projects. He was instrumental in arranging the Lawrence Road Jubilee Street Party, which we are told was a great

## **BIGGLESWADE GREEN WHEEL ON TV!**



In the 31st May (series 22 ep 52) edition of BBC's Escape to the Country, its presenter was helping a St Albans couple to look for a more rural home within Bedfordshire. The properties chosen were all nearer to the Northamptonshire border and in the end their couple decided it was just too long a journey back to South Hertfordshire and North London. In each episode the presenter also focusses on an area of the chosen county and this time it was

Biggleswade! Perhaps properties in our own picturesque villages may have been a better idea!

Showcasing the Biggleswade Green Wheel its presenter spoke to Cliff Andrews, deputy CEO of Bedfordshire Rural Community Charities, (BRCC) and to Janette Sibley from the Central Bedfordshire Walks for Life programme- both well known local residents. They spoke of the openness and beauty of the countryside on our doorstep and the Green Wheel circular walk.

Many people move to our town for various reasons, not least for its affordable housing and the good A1 road link back to South Hertfordshire and London's tube network. For some of us a more urban facilities setting may be preferred, but still with green fields on our doorstep.

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

Or if you can go to [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) for updates.

Central  
Bedfordshire

### £150 FUEL REBATE UPDATE

In the past we have informed our readers of our large council area with its population of 300,000 and its rural character making us one of the larger councils in the UK. The Council has now identified all those non direct debit payers who qualify for the rebate and from mid June have been sending out letters to them, enclosing vouchers redeemable at the Post Office. The Government has given councils until September to complete this.

**Central Bedfordshire** is currently promoting on line distance training for those working in a Health and Social Care setting. The Academy on line distance learning on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council could benefit you, at whatever age you are. You can also sign up to the Council's on line portal to help with finding a job in the sector.

**The Academy**  
Supporting your career

The council's Adult Learning team provides various on line distance learning courses to study for qualifications in various sectors, such as their level 2 ROLL21TA06, Diploma in Care, delivered on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council's Employment and Skills Service. It will support learners to develop the knowledge and skills required to work in a range of clinical healthcare support settings and in adult care environments.

Another Level 2 Diploma Course ROLL21TA05, Early Years Practitioner, is for those interested in working with children aged 0 to 5 in an Early Years setting.

For more information phone 0300 300 8131

or email [academy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:academy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

To enrol please visit [www.academy-learning.co.uk](http://www.academy-learning.co.uk)

To learn more about working in the Social Care sector, email [workinginahsc@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:workinginahsc@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) where you can also ask about training.

**Published by Biggleswade Community Group**

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

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