



Biggleswade Community News

SEPTEMBER 2022



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 448954

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

This September, people will come together for the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Events and local Green Weeks in

towns across the country will celebrate local action and show Government and local decision makers that we want them to deliver on their promises to protect the planet for now and future generations. See <https://greatbiggreenweek.com>

Future Action Biggleswade (FAB) have an event in Biggleswade Market Square from 10am - 2.30pm on Sunday 25 September.



FAB is a group of volunteers involved with various organisations that care about the environmental impact of our lifestyle and shopping choices. These include Fairtrade, Plastic Free, Surfers against Sewage, Biggleswade Rotary and Biggleswade Good

Neighbours. They meet regularly to plan events such as litter picks and a river cleanup. For more details see www.fabweb.org.uk.

Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163

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

www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk



GETS HOME OFFICE APPROVAL

The fundraisers and organisers behind BIGG Welcome are very excited to announce that they have been approved by the Home Office to welcome, resettle and integrate a refugee family to Biggleswade. It has been a long journey, but they hope to welcome a family in the autumn. The team will now focus on securing them a home and with that in mind, they would now like to launch their exciting BIGG Welcome Gift List.

Like a wedding gift list, they'd love your support with this please, to help kit out the house with everything a refugee family needs to make it feel like their new home. And, buying a gift through the gift list helps protect the amazing funds they have built up over the last three years, making them go further on essentials like language lessons, translation costs etc.

So, if you could please contribute to the gift fund

See www.biggwelcome.co.uk/copy-of-events

they would be truly grateful.

Finally, you may have previously expressed an interest in helping with the project and if you'd still like to be involved, or offer your skills or experience, please do let them know and they can have a chat.

Thank you so much for all your support in getting BIGG Welcome this far and they'll be in touch again soon.



Remember that The Country Fayre at St Andrew's Church is on Saturday 17th September 2022 between 10am-3:30pm within the church grounds. As usual there will be fun, food and family favourites. Entrance is **FREE**, and there will be raffles, tombolas and hampers to win, archery and lots of other fun games

to play, an arena packed with different performances and lots of food opportunities as well.

WELLBEING IN BIGGLESWADE



WALK together TALK together BE together

Wellbeing in Biggleswade, a local community group aimed at improving the mental wellbeing of residents of the town, was started by its founders, Deborah, Josh and Nick as a small facebook group. It has now reached its target of 1000 members in seven months, with much positive feedback, particularly from lonely people and newcomers to

Biggleswade. The in-person meet ups have helped people to make new friends. Since its first in-person meet up (a walk) held last January it has gone from strength to strength with walks, runs, craft evenings, drinks, quizzes, comedy nights, together with signposting to local mental health and wellbeing services. The group is non judgmental and welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and allows members to share their services such as yoga, massage and fitness. It also posts inspirational messages to help lift the mood of others. Josh and Deborah recognise the impact lockdown has had on people's mental health and the feeling that the usual things are no longer possible. Due to the group's success they are applying for funding with plans for a pop-up wellbeing care, branded items and much more.



For more information visit facebook.com/wellbeinginbiggleswade or email wellbeinginbiggleswade@gmail.com.



During the first week of the summer holidays over 100 children enjoyed attending the Holiday Bible Club at The Baptist Church, back after a 2 year gap, and as popular as ever! Then the following week at St Andrew's a similar number enjoyed the Holiday Club.

We had productive session on "Exploring Silence" led by David Hindle of Guilden Morden Quakers. Silence, or stillness, is used by many groups, religious or otherwise, to heighten - or deepen - awareness and perception, of the self, the world, the spirit.

We are welcoming Rev Leslie Noon as the new Minister at Trinity Methodist Church. Also Rev Michael Giles as the Superintendent of the North Beds Circuit.

ABOUT THE TOWN

BIGGLESWADE LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT GETS THE THUMBS UP



Central Bedfordshire Council has agreed to the £700,000 project to enlarge the ground floor library space, a larger Children's Library, improving the IT and Technology Zone and study space and improved WiFi. In addition, there will be a co-located

Children's Centre, the Registration Service and a Council Satellite Office. 160 responses were received to the consultation. 80% agreed with the improved library facilities, 64% agreed with the co-location of the additional services to within the library, and 46% thought this would promote closer working. A planning permission will now be sought.

THE COURTYARD SINGERS



Singing for Health and Wellbeing
ring Rebecca Masters on 07835 618227
or just come along

*We sing songs from pop, folk, musicals, classics and gospel,
led by a qualified, experienced music teacher*

No audition or a need to read music
- we are sociable fun and friendly
All female singers welcome

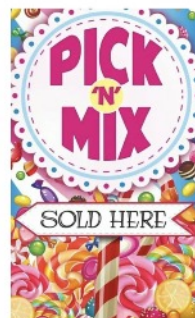
TUESDAYS 11am-12.30pm £5
STARTS SEPTEMBER 6TH

at TheCourtyard Centre for
Health and Wellbeing
6 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JA
(on the roundabout by St Andrews Church)
www.courtyardcentre.co.uk
info@courtyardcentre.co.uk
01767 319012



**Traditional Sweet Shop
with a modern twist**

***An impressive
selection of
sweets for all
tastes and
occasions.***



Abbots Walk
Biggleswade
SG18 0LF



THE CHIC HOUSE at 4 London Road, Biggleswade, at the junction of London Road, Dells Lane and Back Street, is still a Beauty Salon, but it has now also expanded into the Bespoke Bakery with its newly furnished tea room area where you can enjoy home made cakes, scones, etc. Opening

hours are 9.30 am to 3pm Wednesdays to Saturdays.

So now you can enjoy your normal beauty treatments, but stay for a friendly chat and coffee, and enjoy or take away their freshly baked bread and delicacies. For more details visit their Facebook page, website <https://thechichouse.book.app/> or phone 01767 448390



BEWARE THE KINGS REACH BUS GATE *Drive in it in Venus Drive and you will get fined!*

This is the sign you will see as you drive down Baden Powell Way on both sides of the road as you come to Venus Avenue, the first road seemingly into Kings Reach. **BEWARE.**

This road very quickly leads to a Bus Gate, approximately 25m long. Only Buses can cross it. If you drive across

it the cameras will capture you and you will be fined. Unfortunately, there is no such sign as you go into Venus Avenue from Baden Powell Way. There is a pole with nothing on it!

But the Bus Gate is clearly marked on the road, and the camera is prominent. **THE ONLY**



ENTRANCE TO KINGS REACH FROM BADEN POWELL WAY IS PLANETS WAY OFF THE ROUNDABOUT, FRANKEL WAY OR OFF THE NEXT ROUNDABOUT INTO TAVERNER WAY.

MORE ABOUT THE TOWN

The Courtyard Centre for Yoga, Health and Wellbeing **OPEN DAY SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 9am to 4.30pm**

We invite the good people of Biggleswade and the surrounding area to come along as there will be lots of free classes and talks.



Situated on the roundabout at the end of Biggleswade High Street, parts of the Courtyard Centre date back to the 16th century. Now owned by Dianne, it is a centre

focussing on wellbeing, but also is home to Biggleswade's first vegan café, Dee Dee's in the old Courtyard and stable. Open Tuesday to Friday 10-3 and 10-4 on Saturdays. Walk through those black stable doors into a bygone age.

The website states: "Welcome to your local family-run Yoga + wellbeing studio!"

You can expect a warm welcoming community - Yoga for all ages, shapes + sizes, experienced + friendly teachers, small classes, two beautiful studios, a variety of Yoga styles, Pilates, Tai Chi, hot + warm Yoga, beginners courses, enjoying coffee in our lovely garden with your new friends after class (+ maybe a choc brownie), deepen your practice at one of our Yoga retreat days, share in a safe space at our monthly sister circle, find your rhythm at our drum circle, workshops, members get togethers, sound baths, holistic treatments + more - get ready to invite more peace, strength + joy into your life."

If you visit www.courtyardcentre.co.uk you can register and also book on line for private Yoga, Pilates or meditation classes and massage + holistic treatments

FISH AND CHIPS BACK IN KINGS REACH The Fish & Chip Shop in Market Square Kings Reach, which closed during Covid lockdowns, has reopened with a slightly different name, Percy's at the Lighthouse, but with the same quality of food.

The Red Lion is a prominent and distinctive old listed building. It was popular destination and music venue, but closed in January 2019 after it was sold to developers by [Greene King](#). It has since stood empty and boarded up.



Plans were submitted in March this year to turn it into 'one dwelling'. Objections were raised by local people and Camra (The Campaign for Real Ale).

Rejecting the application Central Bedfordshire Council stated that the proposed development would result in the loss of a community facility and associated employment. The change was not justified and it had not been proved that it is no longer needed to serve the community, Also it has not been demonstrated that the facility is no longer viable, and that all reasonable efforts have been made to sell or let the premises.

This means that there is still a chance that this great asset to the Biggleswade pub scene may eventually reopen again.



New Home Manager Sharon joins the family at Beaumont Park

Sharon Lamb has been welcomed as the new Home Manager at Beaumont Park in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. She qualified as a nurse in 2006 and has worked in community and clinical lead positions as well as managing a new-build care home. She is looking forward to welcoming the local community into Beaumont Park.

Sharon says "We have already started with outdoor visits, making the most of the good weather, and had the local school in to sing to the residents recently which they loved. We are planning to have an open day in late summer and welcome the community in to visit us."



STILL MORE ABOUT THE TOWN



GOLDEN PHEASANT REOPENS ITS BEER GARDEN

Despite the recent scaffolding the Golden Pheasant public house, High Street, is still open for business. We visited it recently to see its large refurbished toilets and beer garden with increased undercover seating. Respite from the sun and rain during the day but coming alive in the evening. Open 11am to midnight 7 days a week.



The Golden Pheasant is a speciality ale house offering six quality real ales on pump and there is also a new cocktail menu. Monday drink offers and local league Darts. Monthly Tuesday Book Club. Quiz nights on the last Wednesday of the month. Meat raffle every Friday (tickets £1). Like many of our small frontage pubs, they bely the space behind it!



WHISTLE AND FLUTE, 5 Mill Lane. Built in 1850, this is another small public house we visited, situated between Hitchin Street and St Andrews Street.

This time with a hidden gem of a courtyard garden. The main bar has two large TVs with Sky Sports with a Pool Section in the back section. They occasionally have small bands. It opens from 3pm to midnight in the week, 2pm to 1am on Fridays and Saturday and Sundays from Noon to Midnight.



CAN YOU HELP PLANT THE DAFFODILS? It is that time of year again when the Railway Bank at Lawrence Road needs strimming and the bulbs are planted. Can someone help with the strimming? Biggleswade Rotary Club usually help with the planting, but an extra pair of hands is always welcome. Ring Desmond Ball on 01767 313790 if you can.



VAMOS CAFE opened earlier this summer and is located on the roundabout at the junction of Shortmead Street and High Street. It is home to authentic Ecuadorian and other South American Latin dishes, for customers in Biggleswade and beyond. Owner and Head Chef Christian, originally from Ecuador, has years of experience both in Spain and the UK and is excited to bring Latin American food to our town. Online ordering is coming soon. It is closed on Mondays.

Visit their website at <https://vamoscafe.co.uk> to view their menus and to book into their special event evenings. Or just pop in and enjoy its comfortable homely ambience. Or venture downstairs to a basement with space for children to play or read, where you can watch a large screen TV showing videos of the beautiful country of Ecuador. An intimate hidden grotto.

Judging from satisfied customers who have posted widely on Facebook, Christian and Vamos are off to a very good start! You can also book the team for a private family or business event.



Campaign for Real Ale); it is the Bedfordshire County Pub of the Year.

It now has its own micro brewery so often serves locally brewed pints. Regular events include Sunday evening Quiz Nights and a monthly folk music session in the bar.

The March Hare in DUNTON is celebrating the 12th anniversary of its reopening as a free house by John and Janice. In May it received another award from Camra (The Campaign for Real Ale); it is the Bedfordshire County Pub of the Year.





BIGGLESWADE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL'S NEW QUARTERLY ON LINE NEWSLETTER

After some delay, October should finally see the Referendum on the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan. Three years in the making and including Town Councillors, their staff and members of the community, the Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group developed a final Plan earlier this year. This was then sent to Central Bedfordshire Council for inspection by an appointed Examiner to ensure it was legally accurate and complied with national guidelines.

Following inspection by the Examiner, there followed negotiations between Central Bedfordshire Council, and Biggleswade Town Council to fine tune the Plan.

But the final Plan has now been agreed and all households and businesses will be asked in due course to vote on whether it should be adopted or not. If it is agreed the document will become part of the statutory documents each developer must comply with to obtain a successful planning permission.

So look out for your referendum papers in the coming weeks, as these will be delivered to everyone eligible to vote.

In time to help explain more about the Neighbourhood Plan, Biggleswade Town Council are launching their quarterly on line newsletter which will give details of Public Works Loan update, Play Areas project, Public Realm team activities, and further details on the Town Council's delivery.

LESS CAR PARKING TIME AT ASDA Just in case you haven't visited the store lately, the time you can spend in Asda now is just 1.5 hours, and not 2 hrs. It is not many years since it was 2.5 hrs and some residents think it was 3 hrs originally. Our local Central Bedfordshire Councillors are looking into this to see if this breaches the original planning permission. It included an element of town centre shopper parking. Be careful not to overstay your time as Asda do prosecute.

Not Strictly Jazz



One Sunday a month we hold live music performed by exceptional musicians. Our regular musicians are **Dave Foster** on piano **Gavin Skaggs** vocals and **Steve Vintner** drums. We perform jazz classics from *the Great American Songbook*. Guest musicians include saxophonist **Colin Watling**, double bass players **Tom Mark**, **Gavin Scott**, **Asaph Tal** and keyboard player **Tim Laphorn**

Forthcoming Dates:

11th September;

16th October;

13th November;

11th December, 2022.

Sundays 5-7pm Refreshments included

Tickets £20, under 18s £10

Fairfield House & Studio

Fairfield Road Biggleswade SG180AA

CHILTERN MODEL SHOW

SUNDAY
11TH SEPT
2022

WORLD OF MODELLING

SUNDAY
11TH SEPT
2022

10am to 4pm

At the Weatherley Centre

Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8JH

Admissions: Adults £3 • Senior Citizens £2 • Children under 16 £1
Traders welcome, all enquiries to Barry Wood: borrywood123@hotmail.co.uk

TOMBOLA • BAR • REFRESHMENTS

P FREE PARKING P



Festival for Older People

Friday 7th October, 10am-2:30 pm

The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick.

The focus for the day is to celebrate older people and the contribution they make to society. This year's theme is 'The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women'. Statutory and voluntary organisations and local groups who offer advice and information about local services for older people, such as social care, health, housing, leisure activities, holistic services and much more, are invited to participate. There will also be entertainment throughout the day such as musical interludes and other activities.

To express interest in attending, email

info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk or call 0300 303 8554.

WHAT'S ON



SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC CENTRE at Stratton Music School, Eagle Farm Road, SG188JB

These Saturday Music Centres are a great place to have fun making music. Led by musicians, our centres help young people make new friends and challenge themselves to learn something new from singing to keyboards, ukuleles to iPads. Whether you're a beginner or already have individual lessons and whether you're a singer or want to play brass, wind or strings, there's a group for you.

You can learn new skills and make friends - our centres are open to

everyone from 5 years of age to adults, including sessions for children with special education needs and our new Saturday clubs for reception age children.

	Child	Adult
1 session`	£4.20	£5.00
2 sessions	£6.20	£7.00
3 sessions	£8.50	£10.00
4 sessions	£9.50	£11.00

All types of music are on offer, from rock and jazz to classical, musical theatre and electronic in a safe and fun place where your children can be left on a Saturday morning.

And all at highly subsidised prices. There is a commitment of only 4 sessions when registering. The Centre Head is Bridget Fordham. Tel: 0300 300 4586 Email: inspiring.music@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If you need to contact the centre on the day, please call Paula Walker on 0300 300 4183.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

THE PANTO

9TH - 11TH DECEMBER

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL, BIGGLESWADE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HOWELLS NEWSAGENTS &
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BATS



WARDEN ABBEY *The Community Vineyard* OPEN DAY AND WINE SALE

Sunday 11th September 11am – 4pm

Join them for their biggest event of the year. Local artisan and craft stalls, BBQ and other refreshments.

Petting farm. Guided or Self guided vineyard tours. Buy tickets at www.wardenvineyard.org.uk Adults £4 on line £5 on the day. Under 16s free. Guided tours £5.

FACEBOOK GROUP UPDATES

The Walking and Cycling Group is gaining new members on its now regular evening and weekend walks and cycle rides. Group Leader, Andrew Skilton, has put together routes to cater for novices and those who want to stretch their legs further or explore our local country lanes. All will be circular, and a refreshment stop included if possible. Included in future cycling outings is one to Warden Abbey Vineyard Open Day (see article) and a cycle round the whole of the Green Wheel. Evening social walks are also gaining in popularity.

Rhiannon's Biggleswade Community Garden Group are proposing to set up community garden spaces in the town of Biggleswade, to help combat food poverty, help the environment and share the love of gardening. If you would like to find out more and/or would like to help, please visit their Facebook group Biggleswade Veg Garden Volunteers and their other one, Biggleswade Grows Local. They have regular events in the existing community garden at Chestnut Avenue and have an upcoming seed and plant swap for the Great Big Green Week in the Market Square on Sunday 25th September. Hope to see you there!

Dunton Recreation Association. Dunton is fortunate to have the recreation ground run by local volunteers. As well as the playing field there is a children's play area and a pavilion building that is available for events and private hire. During the summer the licensed bar is normally open on Friday evenings. There are car boot sales on Saturday afternoons. The next dates are 17 September then 15 October. For more information see <https://www.duntonra.org.uk>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Richard Fuller, MP for North East Bedfordshire, reported this month that an additional £729.932 has been awarded to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Bedfordshire through the Government's Safer Streets Fund, to help make streets safer through projects to prevent violence against women and girls. This additional funding will enable the roll out of extra CCTV and streetlighting in communities and expand work to change attitudes and behaviours and prevent these crimes happening in the first place.

The Safer Streets Fund builds on the Government's existing measures to keep our streets safe. This also marks one year since the publication of the [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Strategy](#).

COVID-19 JABS FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 Everyone over 50, and those over 5 who are clinically vulnerable, will be invited for a jab with the latest Moderna vaccine which has been developed to protect from the two recent strains of Covid. Biggleswade Hospital will again be our local vaccination centre.



Although this is the driest period for 30 years, which is equivalent to the loss of 3 months of rain, our local water company is not envisaging the need for a hosepipe bans as at the 12th August. Despite this being one of the country's driest regions, Anglia Water consider their stocks are adequate, though if the winter remains unusually dry, some means of reducing water consumption may be required next year. They are still asking their customers to conserve water as much as possible. To contact Anglia Water ring 0901 5450635

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

ADDRESSING CRIME IN BEDFORDSHIRE In 2021 Bedfordshire Constabulary identified more than 400 victims of modern slavery. Over 100 of these were children under 18. Bedfordshire has the ninth highest number of identified victims in the country. Under Operation Thomond, the Constabulary are focussing their efforts on M1 lorry parks, nail salons and car washes, including the owners and managers in an effort to reduce such instances in Bedfordshire.

Biggleswade and Sandy aren't immune. Only last month three men were charged with modern slavery offences as part of a drugs supply investigation in those two towns. If you suspect an incident of modern slavery, visit the Bedfordshire Police Website or call 101.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2022/23

- Autumn Term starts Friday 5th September 2022
- Half Term Friday 21st October (training day) to 28th October
- Christmas Term ends 16th December returning 4th January 2023
- Half Term is 13th to 17th February
- Term Ends Thurs 30th March (Friday is a training day)
Good Friday is 7th April, Easter Monday is 10th April
- Summer Term starts 17th April 2023 (1st May schools are closed)
- Half term is 29th May to 2nd June (bank holiday is 29th May)
- Term ends Friday 21st July 2023
(August Bank Holiday is 28th August 2023)

CAR CHARGING in The BAULK - GOOD IDEA OR NOT?

Somewhat controversial with some people thinking it is a good idea, others think it could be a hazard. Part of a pilot within Central Bedfordshire to make owning an electric vehicle a more realistic option for residents without a drive or garage, they have been installed at 20 locations across our council area.

Visit <https://gul-e.co.uk> for information



A LITTLE HELP

GOVERNMENT LOW CARBON BOILER UPGRADE SCHEME

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) supports the decarbonisation of homes and small non-domestic buildings in England and Wales. The scheme provides upfront capital grants of £5000 or £6000 to encourage property owners to replace existing fossil fuel heating with more efficient, low carbon heating systems including heat pumps and biomass boilers.

Opening date: 23 May 2022; **Closing date:** 31 December 2024.

See <https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/boiler-upgrade-scheme>

COST OF LIVING FUEL PAYMENTS

(from The Week publication 10th August 2022, due to the complexity of the information and checked with the Government's own website).

£400 energy bills discount: As part of the Government's cost-of-living support package, every household in England, Scotland and Wales will receive a £400 energy bill discount. Administered by energy suppliers, the discount of £66 or £67 a month for 6 months will be taken off bills each month commencing in October 2022.

£650 Cost of Living Payment : Almost eight million households on means-tested benefits should already have received the first instalment of a one-off Cost of Living Payment of £650. A lump sum of £326 was paid out in July, and the "second instalment of £324 will follow from the autumn", according to the Department for Work and Pensions.

£300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment: Households that receive the Winter Fuel Payment, which is paid to nearly all homes with at least one person of pension age, will receive an extra £300 in November and December to help cover the rising cost of energy. Pensioners who claim pension credit will receive this payment in addition to the £650 support for those on benefits. The Government will make these payments directly to eligible households.

£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment: People on disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of £150 from September. This includes people on Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance, Scottish Disability Benefits, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Constant Attendance Allowance and War Pension Mobility Supplement.

See www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk for updates or ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try to help.