

A LITTLE HELP

World Mental Health Day on 10th October every year raises awareness of mental health, drive positive change and encourage discussion. This year the theme is 'Mental Health is a universal human right'.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, has a number of services to help those feeling isolated and alone or struggling with their mental health. If you feel you need one-to-one support, our Social Prescribing service can help. Our team of Community Wellbeing Champions help people take control of their health and wellbeing and help people to connect with their local community, improve physical activity, and empower them to make decisions to support their health.

We have a range of Green Social Prescribing activities and courses available that are free to attend and help people to spend time in nature and look after their wellbeing.

Our Community Agents make home visits to older people in towns and villages across Bedfordshire to provide free support and assistance. Our Good Neighbour scheme supports groups to provide a 'safety net' for their local area, responding to requests from residents in need of a bit of extra help. We also provide wellbeing walks which are free and open to all.

Find out more about Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the ways we can help people struggling with their mental health at www.bedsrcc.org.uk or call us on 01234 838771.



Vision Zone Biggleswade on Monday 23rd October

Are you or a friend or family member struggling with your sight or experiencing sight loss? Come along to this free event between 10am - 2pm at The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JH.

Try out some of the latest technology and magnification equipment from Optelec to support visually-impaired people. Meet the team from Sight Concern Bedfordshire, your local charity supporting blind and partially-sighted people. At our Sight Concern stand we provide information and advice about sight loss services and demonstrate useful living aids.

There will also be information stands from other organisations too, to be confirmed. You can follow Sight Concern Bedfordshire's Facebook page for further details on this:

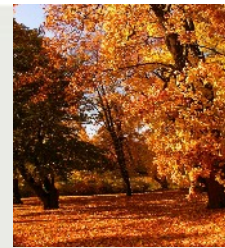
www.facebook.com/sightconcernbeds

No appointment necessary. We look forward to seeing you there!



Biggleswade Community News

OCTOBER 2023



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163



The new owners of Biggleswade Post Office. took over on the 11th of September and are enjoying meeting members of the local community. Please pop in and say hello. It is open longer hours now, Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm.

An announcement will be made in due course of the date when Biggleswade library will re-open to customers, The library staff look forward to welcoming you all back very soon.



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Email: admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers. Or you can read it online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk



Do you want to meet new people? Do you enjoy talking about anything and everything?

If so, come and join the new NWR Biggleswade group! We meet monthly in a bar in Biggleswade on a weekday evening, we have a light-hearted discussion topic (which acts as an excellent icebreaker) which is then followed by a general chat to get to know each other. Women of all ages are welcome. Find out more about the Biggleswade group on the NWR website www.nwr.org.uk.



Not Strictly Jazz - extra

In addition to our monthly Sunday afternoon jazz sessions, we are adding to our repertoire, as you might say, introducing late evening mid-week music sessions from 8 – 10pm. The

first was on 26th September. The second will be on 28 November 2023. Our aim with these sessions is not to replicate Sundays but to add a bit of a twist / variation. Tickets £20 (light refreshments included).

Alternate months starting 24 October we will host a Vinyl Appreciation Evening. Get your old LPs and singles out and share in the listening experience. 7 – 9pm £5 per session.

Finally in September we introduced Strictly Stitches (non-musical) for anyone who likes to sew, knit or crochet in good company.

For details of the above please contact Sarah sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk or 01767 312176 Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade. SG18 0AA

St Mary Virgin Church, Northill are holding a Wizarding event for adults and children at the church on Saturday 28th October from 12 onwards. Tea and special wizarding cakes and biscuits will be available.

*Spelliarmus ---- Don't miss the fun.
Small charge for quiz sheet.*

Remembrance Sunday 12th November

The Parade and Service provide an opportunity for our community to come together and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. All residents are encouraged to attend and show respect and gratitude for British service members who died in the two world wars.

Christmas Light Switch On.

The annual Christmas Light Switch On will take place on Friday 24th November from 12 noon until 8.00 p.m. This event is a highlight of the year for our community and the Council can't wait to see the town light up with Christmas cheer. They are currently planning a fun and exciting programme of activities for the whole family to enjoy, so be sure to get the date in your diary.

NATIVITY SET DISPLAY & BAZAAR

St Andrews Parish Church Biggleswade

Saturday 25th November 2023, 10.00-3.30

Display of Nativity Sets, Stalls & Competitions, Tea & Coffee, Light Lunches

In Aid of Church Heating Appeal

Vintage Vehicle Day

Biggleswade's first Vintage Vehicle event will be held on 29th October from 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. in the Market Square. It will be held by The Berkeley Enthusiasts Club and United Counties Preservation Group, who will be showcasing their impressive collection of vintage vehicles.

There will also be a free shuttle service running between Broom, Old Warden, Southill, Sutton, Wrestlingworth and Dunton.

the march hare BREWPUB IN DUNTON

did you know that there is a quiz night every Sunday in the march hare brewpub at 7.30pm? It is a great evening out! no entry fee, teams of up to 6 people (no minimum size!). just join in for fun and enjoy real ale brewed on the premises by John, plus carefully chosen guest ales and a great choice of other drinks

If you want somewhere to meet up with friends or hold a meeting, it is the ideal venue. call 01767 318121 to check opening hours and availability

you can even order a takeaway and eat it here

34 High Street, Dunton, Bedfordshire. SG18 8RN 01767 318121,
janice.pritchett@outlook.com



Biggleswade History Society

Meet in the Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start, BHS members free, non-members £4. biggleswadehistory.org.uk

Monday 2nd October - A talk by Nigel Denny - "Larkinsons and the great airships" Nigel will talk about his family, their department store Larkinson (Fancy Goods) Ltd and their links to airships. This talk will no doubt bring back a lot of fond memories of the popular shop with its creaky wooden floors as well as give an insight to the family behind it and their history.

Monday 6th November - Bill Jordan - A Miller's Tale. The Jordan family story of farming, milling and survival on the banks of the River Ivel.

Biggleswade and District Camera Club

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 for 8:00pm in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH.

On 19th October, we have Thomas Peck giving a presentation entitled "Architecture"

Rotary Club of Biggleswade RACE NIGHT

SUTTON VILLAGE HALL
HIGH STREET, SUTTON, BEDS SG19 2NE
SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 7 FOR 7.30PM
£17.50 PER PERSON
INCLUDES FISH AND CHIPS SUPPER
BRING YOUR OWN ALCOHOL/DRINK
SPONSOR A RACE (£25) AND/OR A HORSE (£2)
FOR LOCAL AND ROTARY CHARITIES
TO BOOK CALL 01767 686106
EMAIL: helenhopebedford@hotmail.com



Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club

We hold 2 meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, starting at 8pm in the Sea Cadets HQ, Station Road, Biggleswade. The 2nd meeting of the month is a Speakers night. The talks are free to attend, access is disabled friendly and refreshments are available. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact us, through Facebook or call or message Karen on 07943 940021. We look forward to meeting you.

Spreading the word

If you are involved with a Community Group or initiative, please let us have your updates.

If you are a local small business we may be able to help you with a news update in Biggleswade Community News for a donation.

Updates From Our Partners



Ivel Valley College Contact Dean Hawkins - dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk - 01767 512080

Our students have been distributing newsletters to pickup points around the town.



Future Action Biggleswade

fab@fabweb.org.uk www.fabweb.org.uk

We will be holding a "Think As You Shop" event in the first quarter of 2024 to showcase producers and retailers who are local to Biggleswade, or have ethical / sustainable products / services to offer the public. Details will be announced in due course but if any producer / retailer is interested in taking part, they can register their early interest by emailing fab@fabweb.org.uk



Biggleswade Good Neighbours

We are always looking to welcome new volunteers, particularly any who would be willing to join our WhatsApp group for offering lifts to clients within the immediate area of Biggleswade.

07771 104255 or biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com.

Biggleswade Community Gardens. Is a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share. Please join us on Saturday 21st October at the Northfields Community Garden as we put our ideas into practice.

biggleswadecommunitygardens.org

BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

The move to digital publishing offers an easy way to reach more people. However we must cater for those who want to or need to have this newsletter in print.

Paper copies are available free of charge at pickup points around the town. Printing is our main cost and we receive a grant from The Town Council but could do more with extra funds. If you are able to offer a donation it would be welcomed. Details are on our web site

www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk or call Alan on 01767 310163

ABOUT THE TOWN



Bigglesade Library

With the bulding work completed and painting and decorating coming to an end we are looking forward to a lot of activity taking place. The new library shelving and furniture will be installed. Once completed library staff will start returning the books back onto the shelves and getting the library ready to re-open to customers.

From Friday 29 September we will be ending the temporary library drop off and pick-up point from the Saxon Leisure Centre in Biggleswade. Until Biggleswade library re-opens library members can borrow and use the full range of library services, including computers and online reference services, from any Central Bedfordshire or Bedford Borough Library. Local libraries include Sandy (4 miles), Pottton (4 miles) and Shefford (7 miles).

An announcement will be made in due course of the date when Biggleswade library will re-open for library customers. Biggleswade library staff look forward to welcoming you all back very soon.



DROVE ROAD CHAPEL The second phase of work is underway and includes window repairs and a new drain system. Progress will be reported online.

FRANKLINS PLAY AREA. New benches are being installed plus accesible gates to provide access for all.

White Hart Car Park Temporary Closure

Line marking will be taking place in White Hart Car Park. There will be no parking starting on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, from 8:00 a.m. This car park will re-open for parking on Wednesday, 4th October 2023, time dependent on work.

Biggleswade Fire Engine Pull: It was hoped that this would finally happen again! However we understand thjat it had to be cancelled.