

NEED A LITTLE HELP?



Nkay Care

Do you or someone that you know need a bit of help with daily tasks? Resident Nkiru (Bridget) Abraham is a fully qualified carer available to support people in their own homes in Biggleswade.

**Call her on
07375 536363**

Are you in or near Biggleswade and struggling to look after someone's care needs, so that they can stay in their own home?

Give Bridget a call without obligation to see if she can help.

She is self employed and dedicated and can be flexible about hours and frequency of visits. Anything from holiday cover to regular support.

Cash is king!

We can help with that



Biggleswade Post Office

Will continue to support cash transactions in 2024

Pop in to withdraw cash from your bank* or deposit cash back in - we're open Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm

*Some banks may charge for selected services.

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking>

Biggleswade Community News

MARCH 2024

Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP ASKS "WHAT DO YOU THINK?"

We are wondering if you our readers would be interested in some of the following ideas that have heard mentioned lately. Do you want to learn basic DIY skills, or borrow tools? Would you like to see a poetry group reformed? Perhaps making models is your hobby and you would like to join up with other modellers? What other suggestions do you have for ways to meet up and socialise?

Before the pandemic there was a thriving whist club - are you interested in card games? Or perhaps board games are more your style. Not all hobbies need to hire venues, some could be held in our homes. It is more about bringing people together for listening and sharing ideas. Clubs such as those now happening at Northfields can also lead to other things. Maybe a party booking at the BIGG Theatre? Perhaps the occasional night out, a trip to a local attraction, or the theatre, or even to the coast. This newsletter can help to publicise new ideas as widely as possible and gauge interest.

Biggleswade Community Group always intended to develop a social side to help tackle isolation, in addition to publishing this newsletter, our Facebook page and website. But the pandemic stopped us in our tracks. If enough people are interested, we will share specific ideas in this newsletter, and perhaps replace some of the groups that we lost; or help to start up others, if there was enough support.

An interest in getting together for a hobby is often how things start. Our team member, Shirley Legate, has volunteered to collate and coordinate any ideas that you have. You can phone her on 01767 448954, email her at shirley.legate@gmail.com, or text or call her on 07988 822678 to share your ideas or suggestions.

Fancy giving it a try? Nothing ventured nothing gained!

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Email: admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS



Future Action Biggleswade

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

Meets monthly to review events and make plans. We are planning a "Think As You Shop" event showcasing local/ethical/sustainable producers and retailers. Contact us if you would like a free stall for your organisation.

Biggleswade Good Neighbours



TEL 07771 104255

or email biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com

This Community Newsletter is delivered each month to the homes of all Good Neighbours volunteers and clients. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who do this. If you would enjoy a walk with a purpose once a month, you would be very welcome to join our team. We are particularly looking for volunteers to deliver in King's Reach and Upper Caldecote at the moment. Please get in touch on 07771 104255 or email biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com.

Biggleswade Community Gardens is a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share. They meet regularly to socialise and maintain the gardens. All welcome! Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org



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.

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and young people? We are looking for highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team as Teaching Assistants or Midday Supervisory Assistants.

Ivel Valley is a special needs school and college in Biggleswade, providing education for pupils aged 3-19 with a range of special educational needs and disabilities.

In our 2023 staff survey, 100% of staff said that they enjoy working at Ivel Valley. So, if you are looking for a new, rewarding job, come and join us!



WHAT'S ON

Biggleswade & District
Conservative Club

St. Andrew's Street

Biggleswade

SG18 8BA

01767 312 225

secretary@biggleswadeclub.com

Sat 2 Mar	• Frank Sinatra Tribute
Wed 6 Mar	• Blues Night 🎸
Tue 12 Mar	• Bingo
Sun 17 Mar	• Family Karaoke 🎤
Sat 23 Mar	• Stand Up Comedy 😂
Wed 27 Mar	• Club AGM 📅
Sat 13 Apr	• Murder Mystery Night ?



FREE Events in Bar
....Just turn up and enjoy!

36 High St, Biggleswade

Chatty Tuesdays Every Tuesday, 10.00 - 11.30am: Part of the The Chatty Café Scheme, where having a chat can brighten your day. Look out for a chatter and natter table, a place where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. Look for a table with a yellow sign, take a seat and stay for a natter.

Traditional Music Session Every first Tuesday of the month, 8pm Musicians, Singers, Dancers & Listeners, everybody is welcome to our inaugural Traditional Music Session hosted by Simon Bailes of Dunton Folk. This event is free, come along and join in or just kick back with a drink and enjoy what promises to be a fantastic night of live music.



the march hare BREWPUB



invites you to

the presentation to the march hare BREWPUB of

east BEDS CAMRA
RURAL pub of the year 2024

Presented by the Chair of East Beds CAMRA Barry Price
7.00 pm, saturday 2nd march 2024

Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society



In March, instead of our usual meeting with a speaker, we are putting on a display to showcase the work of our members. There will be Alpine plants on show, of course, but many of our members are talented photographers, artists and crafts people. As well as plants, photographs and artworks to look at, **Little Heath Nursery** will be there with plants for sale, and tea, coffee and cake will be available. If you want to know more about Alpine plants and how to grow them, our members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. So why not come along to the **Elgar Room** at the **Weatherley Centre** on **Saturday 23rd March** and have a look for yourself. The display will be open from **2.00 pm to 4.00 pm** and you can drop in any time in between. The cost of entrance is **FREE** for members of the Group and only **£1.00** for non-members.

Our "normal" format meetings resume in April, when Julia Corden will give a talk on the flowers of Wengen in Switzerland. This will be on Saturday 27th April, at 2.30 for 3.00 pm, again in the Elgar Room. More details will be available next month and on our website: www.bedfordshirealpines.com

Biggleswade Carnival



Sadly the Biggleswade Community Carnival Parade will not be going ahead in 2024. The team tried for many weeks to recruit more volunteers with no success, so they have decided that it is simply not safe for the parade to go ahead with many key personnel unavailable for personal reasons.

The other events will continue as normal as they are already planned and organised, with all the red tape signed off and are significantly less risk. If you have started preparation for the parade there will be a fancy dress and decoration competition in the planned theme of History, at the Duck race on Sunday 9th June. They are inviting applications for stall holders.

Please email hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk if you would like to be involved.



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. No pre-booking required.

biggleswadehistory.org.uk

Monday 4th March - Cook's Way from Kumfy Cabs to Cooks European. A talk by John Hammond of the United Counties Preservation Group on former mayor and coach tour operator Charlie Cook based on John's book.

Monday 8th April - A short AGM followed by Debbie Land - Pioneering Women in Motoring

Biggleswade and District Camera Club

On 21st March 2024 we have our ninth Lecture entitled "Street Photography" given by Steve Williams.

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 for 8:00pm in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH. The entry is £3.00, payable at the door.



On Friday 1 March at 7.30pm in Biggleswade Baptist Church, London Road, SG18 8EB. We have an ecumenical service "Together in Prayer". The Palestinian theme for this year is most appropriately 'I beg you, bear with one another in love. The service will be followed by refreshments, and an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. A warm welcome extended to all.

GOOD FRIDAY is on 29th March and we hope to hold the usual Walk of Witness ending in the Market Square. Details to be confirmed. www.biggct.org

Remember all single fares on buses in the Biggleswade area are priced at £2 or less. Buses run to Bedford, Hitchin, Sandy, Potton, Shefford, Flitwick and Gamlingay, amongst other places. Timetables for Grant Palmer routes 73, 74 and 200 are available free from Café Mocha in the High Street.

NORTHFIELDS IN BIGGLESWADE IS BUZZING!

Some of our readers, and perhaps newcomers to our town, may not be familiar with



Northfields Community Centre

located on the edge of Biggleswade at the junction of Northfields and Winston Crescent, off Furzenhall Road. It is owned by Grand Union Housing Association and is available for hire. Recently refurbished with modern furniture, including sofas and armchairs, and still with the pool table kindly paid for from donations, it can cater for various events and activities. There is also an attractive patio garden to the rear. And yes the area really is buzzing.

But not just with the sound of insects in the renovated rear garden of the Centre or the newly developed and planted community garden plot nearby, donated by Grand Union HA. Both are planted and maintained by members of **Biggleswade Community Gardens Group**. Last summer the group also held events at the

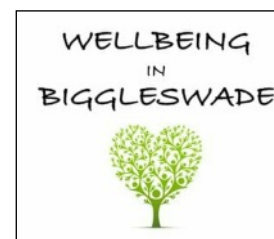


Centre, to get to know the local residents and share the produce they had grown. The team will be at Northfields every second Saturday each month from 12.30pm where you will be welcome to join in. Next dates are 9th March 13th April and 11th May. we will be there every second Saturday of the month from 12:30pm and anyone is

welcome to just turn up and join in. Our next sessions will be 9th March, 13th April and 11th May.

To join the community garden group or just find out more you can phone 07572 581472 or visit their Facebook page or their website at www.biggleswadecommunitygardens or email them at biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com

NORTHFIELDS (Cont)



During the pandemic, Deborah Taylor and Josh Michael started the Facebook based **Wellbeing in Biggleswade**. Over the past 18 months the group brought people together and also arranged the occasional local event. The group has now been offered a base on alternate Wednesdays 10am to 1pm, through Grand Union again and at the Northfields Centre, again through Grand Union HA, Entry is free. Just come along and Deborah will make very welcome, and can have a cuppa and sometimes cake too! Next meetings are on Wednesdays 13th and 27th March.

Another group that recently moved to the Northfields Centre, from its beginnings in Sandy, is making and moving run by **Let's Get Going CIC (a non profit organisation) run by Emma Foxley**. This meets there every Monday from 10.30 am to 12 noon, session is £4. this is an "active well-being" session focused on helping you feel good through movement nature creativity and having fun.



Emma is a trained instructor encourages you to go only at your own pace, for as long as you wish. We sing, laugh and learn different ways to relax or focus on the positive, helpful tips that can be used at home. This is followed by a welcomed cuppa, and for those who wish to, creative activities and chatting. Why not just pop in.

Some residents are members of all three of above groups, and also link up to other groups formed last year, such as Andrew Skilton's **Walking and Cycling Group**. Andrew lives near Northfields and helped with building the planters on the new garden plot. Text or call Andrew on 07572 581472

No one in Biggleswade should find themselves alone. If you have a particular interest that you cannot find locally, perhaps we could link you with others. Most people now have smartphones. Another local charity helps people to learn more about how to use them. If we communicate together, we can grow together, and a newsletter can help with that too.