

## NEED A LITTLE HELP?

**Baby loss certificates  
for parents who have  
experienced a loss  
of pregnancy before  
24 weeks**

This certificate is available for either parent to access following a loss under 24 weeks since 1 September 2018. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and have been living in England at the time of the loss. The certificate is an official but not legal document.

For information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/request-baby-loss-certificate>



Hi, I'm Julie Balaam, your Biggleswade Community Agent. I can help you access the services and support you need.

These might include:

- Feeling safe at home
- Becoming healthier
- Pensions and benefits
- Support for carers
- Transport options
- Joining a local group
- Local volunteering opportunities
- Housing issues
- ...or anything else!

Julie Balaam

Village and Community Agent

[julie.balaam@bedsrrc.org.uk](mailto:julie.balaam@bedsrrc.org.uk)

07534 484750



Carers in Bedfordshire is a not-for-profit registered charity providing support for carers of family members and friends throughout Bedfordshire.

We strive to identify and support all carers of family and friends. We will enhance their health and well-being by offering specialist support according to their needs and wishes.

We will ensure carers voices are heard and respected in the development and delivery of all services.



# Biggleswade Community News

APRIL 2024

Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 310163

**"Sweet April showers bring May flowers."**



**Fancy a trip to  
the seaside?  
Open up and  
look inside to  
read all about  
it and more!**

**Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163**

Email: [admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

## UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS



### Future Action Biggleswade

[fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk) [www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk)

Look out for our stall at the Ickwell Mayday event on Monday 6th May. Then on Sunday 9th June we will be promoting "Great Big Green Week" at the Biggleswade Carnival Duck Race. Then on the morning of 6th July, we are running a "Think As You Shop" event in the Bigg Theatre, showcasing local / ethical / sustainable producers and retailers. Contact us if you would like a free stall.



### Biggleswade Good Neighbours

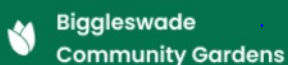
TEL 07771 104255

or email [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com)

We have two new people to deliver Community Newsletters to our clients and volunteers this month. Margaret in Potton and Gwenne in King's Reach. Welcome to you both and thank you to all who deliver for us. If you are interested in joining the team please call 07771 104255 or email [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com)

A volunteer to deliver 20 newsletters in Upper Caldecote would be greatly appreciated.

The AGM for volunteers will take place in the Northfields Community Centre at 19.30 on Wednesday 22nd May.



**Biggleswade Community Gardens** is a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share.

We meet regularly to socialise and maintain the gardens. All welcome! Our April sessions are Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 – 11 at Chestnut Avenue or Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12.30 – 4pm at Northfields.

If you want to join us please contact us at Northfields Community Centre, Northfields, Biggleswade SG18 0LL or email [biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com) [MORE on page 5.](#)



**Ivel Valley College** Contact Dean Hawkins - [dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk) - 01767 512080

Our students have been distributing newsletters to pickup points around the town. (NB We break for Easter on Thursday 28th March & return on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April).

## WHAT'S ON



Join us at the garden for one of our **monthly coffee mornings** - next one will also feature a plant sale supported by Bootsies Nursery- **10:30am Saturday 27 April**. It's a great way to meet others and enjoy the space. The garden is at the top of Church Street, Dunton, SG18 8RR. If you're not sure where it is you can find directions on our website [www.duntongarden.org](http://www.duntongarden.org)

**The Music Room - Fairfield House.**  
Not Strictly Jazz Club.

Probably the most intimate venue in Biggleswade.

To be beautifully entertained by musicians who have performed at Ronnie Scott's, the 606 Club, O2, who have played with great names in the music world, join us on the second Sunday of the month :-

14	April	2024
12	May	2024
09	June	2024

5 - 7pm (arrive early for the family seats).  
Tickets £20 (light refreshments included).

Fairfield House & Fairfield Studio,\* Fairfield Road, Biggleswade. SG18 0AA.  
Contact Sarah 01767 312176 or [themusicroombiggleswade@hotmail.com](mailto:themusicroombiggleswade@hotmail.com)  
\*rehearsal room & recording studio - contact James Wiggs at [fairfieldstudios.org](http://fairfieldstudios.org) or 077495803352.



A joint venture between East Beds CAMRA & Biggleswade Conservative Club. After a successful first year in 2023, the 2024 festival will run from 3pm on Thursday 9th May until last orders on Saturday 11th May

**DUNTON SUMMER FETE**  
With DRA and friends

**Sunday 30th June 2024** 1pm - 4pm, Free Entry  
Dunton Recreation Ground Horseshoe Close, Dunton SG18 8RY

**STALL HOLDERS WANTED**  
£10 per pitch - Call 07710163135  
or email [glynis.keech@gmail.com](mailto:glynis.keech@gmail.com)  
for details and to pre-book your spot  
(Car Boot pitches also available - £5 car, £10 van)



Telephone (01767)312225

The latest Murder Mystery Night is on Saturday 13th April at the Conservative Club. Tickets available at the bar and cost £10 for members and £15 for non members.



## WHAT'S ON



### **BIGGLESWADE TOWN BOWLS CLUB**

**Entrance and car park opposite 20 Glebe Road Biggleswade SG18 0PE.**

**Biggleswade Town Bowls Club welcomes new members, both ladies and gents aged between 12 and 80 plus with or without previous experience.**

**We will be holding a free introductory session on the following date.**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 2:00pm.**

**Flat soled shoes or trainers (no open toe sandals) needed.**

**All other equipment will be provided.**

**Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Any questions please contact:**

**Terry 07858960888**

**Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/biggleswadetownbowlsclub>**



Before covid, there was a thriving poetry group. Since its opening last year, The BIGG Theatre has been holding various smaller events in its café / bar and its main auditorium opens mid April. Shirley went along to their first poetry event, which was enthusiastically attended. Even if you came to just listen, the warm welcome was the same.

Poets, both local and from further afield, read their poems to a lively audience of supportive listeners. For some it was a nervous first experience of reading to an audience, and friends were brought along for support! The BIGG Theatre team, led by their MC Anna Stolli, helped make the evening flow along. Why not go along to the next one?

### **REGULAR EVENTS**

Chatty Tuesdays - Every Tuesday 10am - 11.30am

Open mic night - Every other Thursday - 7.30pm

A way with words - 3rd Wednesday of every month - 7.30pm

Traditional music session - 1st Tuesday of every month - 8pm

## COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

You responded to last month's front page article. Croquet, poetry, models, learning basic DIY, heritage trips and coach outings are ideas that have come forward.

At the moment our Group's new social section is moving forward with one – a trip to Great Yarmouth in August (see below). We will continue to consider others, as we link up with other local organisations. If you have any other ideas, please contact Shirley Legate, our Group's new 'Social Secretary'.

Poetry was suggested and Shirley went along to a session at the Bigg Theatre. This will be a regular feature. [Details on page 6.](#)

### **OUTING TO GREAT YARMOUTH, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**



We have linked up with a local coach company and are

securing tickets to go to this popular seaside resort in August which we will be offering for sale in our May newsletter. We will need a non returnable deposit of £5 to secure a place and will offer at least one local pick up point. Payment can be by all usual methods.

Great Yarmouth caters for all age groups. It is flat and therefore popular with those who have difficulty walking. We think our prices are affordable at £24 for adults, £15 for children and £15 for over 60s. The coaches can accommodate a small number of wheelchairs and disability scooters, and there may even be a hoist made available.

If this outing proves popular, we might offer others that could include the occasional trip to stately homes, flower festivals, museums, railway journeys, canal trips or just back into London for those readers who have left those bright lights for living in rural Biggleswade.

If you are nervous of coming alone, we can offer you the support of knowing you will be with people from your own area, and we hope that may help break the ice.

For more information or to share your suggestions, contact Shirley Legate on 01767 448954 or 07988 822678 or email her at [shirley.legate@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.legate@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



**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](http://biggleswadehistory.org.uk)

**Monday 8th April** - A short AGM followed by Debbie Land - Pioneering Women in Motoring - focussing on key national and international figures and the women pioneers from the birth of the motor car to the 1930s. The first woman to drive, stories of those who raced, were engineers and manufactured motor cars and were responsible for other innovations for which we must be thankful today.

**Monday 13th May** - Brian Kerr - 'A Certain Degree of Magnificence: People in the Bedfordshire Landscape'



### Biggleswade & District Camera Club

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April we have "Talking Pictures" A print presentation by Chris Palmer FRPS DPAGB APAGB EFIAP (CACC)

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 on the door is £3.00



Alpine  
GARDEN SOCIETY

**Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society** In April we're back to our usual format. The meeting will be on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, at 2.30 for 3.00 pm, in the Elgar Room** at the **Weatherley Centre**. This month we welcome back **Julia Corden**, who will be telling us all about the flowers of Wengen in Switzerland. Julia trained in horticulture at RHS Wisley and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. She is currently working as Garden Manager at a private estate in Sussex, having been for many years Head Gardener at the Explorers Garden in Pitlochry. She is a past President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and has led many botanical and garden tours for specialist travel companies.

The cost per meeting for non-members is £5, which includes a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. But, of course, you're more than welcome to join the group. Annual membership is £10 for a single member and £15 for joint membership and members pay only £2 per meeting.

In May we take a break from speakers and have organised visits to some members gardens. But we're back in the Elgar Room on 29<sup>th</sup> June when Andrew Mayo will give a talk on the flowers of the Kurdish mountains. Details on our website: [www.bedfordshirealpines.com](http://www.bedfordshirealpines.com)

## ABOUT THE TOWN

**Biggleswade Scout Groups Neptune Cub Pack** would like to thank all those who donated towards the Bigg Loo Push. The total so far raised is £2,100. This will mean that the New Toilet Block at the care point in Africa can be built .

This huge community event was a great success and many stories have come from it. The Go Karts will appear again, so watch this space and all media platforms. The Cub Pack will continue to link with the project and report back on how and when the build will take place.

*Thank you Nick Gurney Neptune Cub Pack Leader*



### BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GARDENS

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the showers to join us at a rather wet market stall recently. Together, we sowed and shared seedlings for people to grow on at home, ready to nourish both the people and souls of the Biggleswade community.

Recently our group received a kind donation from Ro Ro Haulage & Skip Hire Ltd for a tonne of compost for our garden at Northfields, as well as a Central Beds ward councillor grant which enabled us to buy trellis to enhance the garden and surround our new, large water tank, also donated.

If you want to join us please contact us at Northfields Community Centre, Northfields, Biggleswade SG18 0LL or email [biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com)



6 Churches in our town hold events such as the recent Walk of Witness and service in the Market Square on Good Friday. Plans include **Exploring Silence** on Wednesday 1 May at 7.45 pm at the Catholic Church. A **Pentecost / Christian Aid**

**Week service** on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm at St. Andrews (Outside weather permitting) **Christian Aid Big Breakfast** Saturday 18 May at St. Andrews 9 – 11.00 am See [www.biggct.org](http://www.biggct.org)