

NEED A LITTLE HELP?



2024 SPRING COVID VACCINE BOOSTER NOW AVAILABLE

If you are over 75 or are considered immune suppressed, you can now book your spring 2024 booster in the usual way, i.e. online or over the telephone. This time you will not be contacted by the NHS so it is up to you to book your appointment. You can "Google" online to learn more about being immune suppressed, or ring 119.

You can make an appointment at either Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, or at Biggleswade Pharmacy in the Market Square. Both have step free and wheelchair access.

Whilst having your spring vaccine around 6 months after your last dose is the usual timeframe, you can have it as soon as 3 months after a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose. If you are eligible, you can get protection from a spring COVID-19 vaccination even if you have not taken up an offer in the past. Most people do not need extra vaccinations to make up for any they have missed, but your doctor may advise a further dose if you have a severely weakened immune system.

It is important that everyone who is eligible takes up the offer this spring before the vaccination programme closes on 30 June 2024.

CAN OUR LOCAL CHARITY HELP YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WITH SOME FREE TIME EACH WEEK?

Respite at Home volunteers have been working all across Central Beds for the last 25 years supporting adults living with life limiting illnesses and giving some much needed time off each week for carers and families.

Our service is free and our team could help you with a couple of hours each week sitting with your loved one, so that you could maybe meet a friend, go out for a walk or join an exercise class.

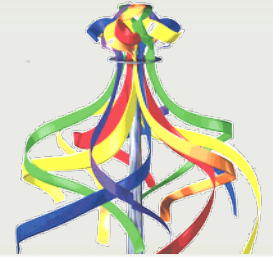
We are here to help! If you need some advice or support then please call and leave a message and we will come back to you

07483 376077 or email respitathomevolunteers@aol.co.uk

Nicola Mills (Respite at Home Volunteer Manager)



Biggleswade Community News MAY 2024



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

"May is the time when everything awakens and springs into action"

IVEL VALLEY

FAB

BIGG THEATRE

Now **BIGGER!**

LAWN BOWLS
Give it a Try!

Good Neighbours

BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL

BIGGLESWADE BEER FESTIVAL
EST. 2023

9th - 11th May.
You won't want to miss it!

A full programme of events starting next month. Something for everyone.

Fancy a coach trip to the seaside? Seats are limited so book yours. Now!

Biggleswade Community Gardens

Have you visited yet? Look inside for Open Day dates

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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

UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS



Future Action Biggleswade

fab@fabweb.org.uk 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

All Biggleswade Good Neighbours volunteers are welcome to attend our annual general meeting which will be held at Northfields Community Centre, SG18 0HD on Wednesday 22nd May, starting at 1930. Parking is very limited in the area so please walk or cycle if you possibly can. All current office holders have indicated that they are willing to continue in post, but if you wish to stand for any of the roles of chair, deputy chair, secretary or treasurer, please let us know before the meeting.

If you are interested in joining the team please call 07771 104255 or email biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com. A volunteer to deliver 20 newsletters in Upper Caldecote would be greatly appreciated.



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. [See page 5](#) for future dates. All welcome! If you want to join us please contact us at Northfields Community Centre, Northfields, Biggleswade SG180HD or email biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com



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.

WHAT'S ON

THE 2024 BIGGLESWADE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

9-11 MAY

FREE ENTRY

The Conservative Club, St Andrew's St, Biggleswade SG18 8BA

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
30+ ALES, CIDERS & PERRIES
FOOD - SPACIOUS GARDENS

OPENS AT 3PM ON THURSDAY
NOON ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME
NO GUEST FEE

FEATURING A DISPLAY
OF LOCAL BREWERY
AND PUB HISTORY



Carnival Month is here!

The first event is the duck race and community fete Sunday 9th June in Dan Albone car park. Get your ducks and raffle tickets in the Market Square on Saturday 8th June or on the day from 12 noon.

This year it is bigger than ever with a duck village, mini food festival, a demonstration from Biggleswade Community Fire Station and the Shannon Court choir, the history society, stalls from Future Action Biggleswade and of course Harris' fun fair.

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**

Biggleswade community carnival

Tickets to all of our events and ducks for the duck race will be on sale from Monday at the Weatherley Centre.

For our last event we saw a lot of scam posts on social media trying to scam you for our sell out tickets so for this reason the tickets will be physical in person collection only there will be no online tickets, please do not fall victim to the scammers.

WHAT'S ON

FREE CONCERT * FREE CONCERT



SHANNON EXPRESS
CHORUS

AND GUESTS:



BLACK CAT HARMONY



The Firebirds



Alchemy



Ouse Valley Chorus



Loose Chickens

SUNDAY 19th MAY - 2.00pm
(DOORS OPEN 1.30)
BIGGLESWADE ACADEMY – Mead End
THREE LOCAL BARBERSHOP CHORUSES PRESENT THEIR
DRESS REHEARSAL FOR THEIR NATIONAL CONVENTION

MAY DAY

Celebrations start in the car park of **The Crown in Northill.**

11.30 am Morris Men dance.

12.45 pm Children assemble with their decorated hoops.

1 pm The judging of the decorated hoops takes place. The procession is assembled.

1.30 pm The procession leaves for Ickwell Green - a half mile walk down the village road.

This road is closed to vehicular traffic for the duration of the procession.

At Ickwell Green

Stalls, refreshments and entertainment opposite the Maypole arena from **10 am** onwards. Seats in the arena are available from **12 noon**. Adults £2, Children under 16 £1.

2 pm Crowning of the May Queen, followed by dancing.

Car parking and toilets are available and there is disabled car parking close to the arena in Ickwell.



Thursday 2nd May 2024 Noon – 1.30pm

Light Lunch Homemade Soups with Roll
Slice of Cake with Tea or Coffee
Only £6.00



at
Trinity Methodist Church
Shortmead Street, Biggleswade
Opening Doors for the Community



Biggleswade Town Bowls Club
LAWN BOWLS
Give it a Try!

Free Introductory Session

Saturday 11th May 10am - 2 pm

Opposite

20 Glebe Road SG18 0PE

Contact Terry 07858960888

COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE



Our main cost is for printing the newsletter. This is funded by personal donations and grants. We are grateful to Biggleswade Town Council and Biggleswade Rotary Club for supporting us.



We are determined to keep the newsletter free of charge to our readers, many of whom are housebound, some without computer access. Currently we are limited to 1500 copies and 8 pages. With more funding we could increase that. Any offers or suggestions?

We work with our partners to publicise what we offer online and on stalls etc. at local events. It would be good to link up with a few more suitable organisations. Anyone interested? Together we can do more!

SOCIAL SECTION

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

28TH AUGUST OUTING TO GREAT YARMOUTH



We are now taking reservations for the Biggleswade Community Group's outing this August. To reserve your tickets, or obtain more information, please email Shirley at shirley.legate@gmail.com, or text or phone 07988 822678, or ring her landline and leave a message at 01767 448954.

There are limited seats available for wheelchair users and those requiring boot storage for a mobility scooter. Depending on the interest shown in this new social project by the Group that produces this newsletter, more outings could be possible in the future, to all kinds of destinations.

Pick up will be in the town centre. A second pickup may be possible, depending on the amount of interest we receive.

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

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

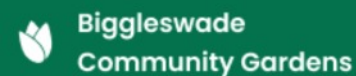
This presentation traces the history of the Bedfordshire countryside, placing people at the centre of the landscape story and provides examples of how individuals have contributed to the making of the countryside which we see today.



Plans include **Exploring Silence** on Wednesday 1st May at 7.45 pm at the Catholic Church.

Pentecost / Christian Aid Week service on Sunday 19th 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



Biggleswade Community Gardens: Upcoming Events

May:

- Sunday 5th, 9:30am: Gardening at Chestnut Avenue
- Saturday 11th, 12:30pm: Harvesting & Gardening at Northfields

June:

- Sunday 2nd, 9:30am: Gardening at Chestnut Avenue
- Saturday 8th, 12:30pm: Harvesting & Gardening at Northfields
- Sunday 9th: Duck Race & Plant Swap at Dan Albone Car Park

July:

- Sunday 7th, 9:30am: Gardening at Chestnut Avenue
- Saturday 13th, 12:30pm: Harvesting & Gardening at Northfields

August:

- Sunday 4th, 9:30am: Gardening at Chestnut Avenue
- Saturday 10th, 12:30pm: Harvesting & Gardening at Northfields
- Monday 26th, 1pm: Bank Holiday BBQ (Bring your drinks!) We'll do the food.

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 9-6pm)

And speak to one of our

Bereavement Support Volunteers

Sharing your loss can make the burden of grief easier to manage

PLASTIC BATH REQUIRED FOR AN EVENT IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Nick Gurney from St Andrews Parish Church is on look out for a plastic bath for use as a prop for this year's Country Fayre on Saturday 21st September in aid of Water Aid and Noah Trust.

So if you are having a new bath fitted before the event in September he would like to hear from you . Collection can be arranged. Please contact Nick on 07711 957122

ABOUT THE TOWN

New SEMH academy to be built in Biggleswade

The Department for Education (DfE) has approved a recommendation for Oak Bank School to run a yet-to-be-named new social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs academy, which will be built in Biggleswade.

Saxon Pool and Leisure Centre will benefit from a £101,116 investment to improve its energy efficiency. The funding is part of the Swimming Pool Support Fund which has invested £80 million into 442 swimming pools across the country since last year.



It has got even bigger! The fantastic local Folk Act Megson performed for the opening of the Auditorium. There is plenty more to come!