



A Bicester Town Council
Newsletter for
the Community

BICESTER

GARTH GAZETTE

September 2023



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Welcome

Despite the weather's best attempts to put a damper on activities this summer, we have seen some unique events take place in Garth Park with the King's coronation celebrations and our inaugural family sports day. The Town Council has lots planned for the rest of the year with the return of the Illuminated Christmas Trail, kindly sponsored by Bicester Village, The Santa Fun Run, and a new Christmas Card competition – the winner of this getting to turn on the town's Christmas lights in November. Don't forget to save the dates for the Town Council events and check out the 'What's On' pages.

Each edition we see more and more community groups coming forward to offer friendship, support, and activities to get involved with. Most of these groups rely on volunteers to survive, like Bicester Round Table, for example, who are actively looking for new volunteers. So, if you've a few hours to spare then please consider finding out how you might help.

Phil Evans - **Town Clerk,**
Bicester Town Council

Garth Gazette Information

Bicester Town Council publishes the Bicester Garth Gazette. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Bicester Town Council or its members, and the inclusion of advertisements does not constitute an endorsement of any products or services.

Further copies of the Bicester Garth Gazette are available from the Town Council and local libraries. A pdf version can be downloaded from the Council website.

For editorial contributions and diary entries, please call or write to Phil Evans on **01869 252915** or at **phil.evans@bicester.gov.uk**. To advertise, please call Lucy Lavers on **07813 846569**. Produced and designed by Push Start Marketing Ltd. Printed by Micropress. Distributed by Royal Mail.

Get in touch

If you don't see your organisation, group or activity listed or covered in the Garth Gazette, please email at **lucy@psmkt.co.uk** or call on **07813 846569** to find out how to get free editorial space or book advertising.

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Events and Marketing Administration Officer / **Shannon O'Connor**
Administration Officer / **Jodi Clarke**
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Outdoor Technician / **Mark Jones**
Outdoor Technician / **William King**
Outdoor Technician / **Kyle Carr**
Outdoor Technician / **Antanas Georgier**
Outdoor Technician / **Kane Gray**
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Whitelands Operator / **Sahna Davison**
Whitelands Operator / **Daniel Wilson**
Whitelands Operator / **Shane Davison**
Whitelands Operator / **Conor Pickup**
Whitelands Operator / **Charlie Smith**
Whitelands Operator / **Robert Wilson**
Whitelands Operator / **Vacant**

Contacting your Town Council

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Find us on Facebook: **www.facebook.com/BicesterTownCouncil**



Find us on YouTube search: **BicesterTownCouncil**



Bicester Town Mayor Welcome Message

Hello,

I am Cllr Harry Knight; I am your mayor for the municipal year 2023/24. I am excited to as many as possible of the wonderful residents and businesses in Bicester over the year.

My chosen charity this year is the Bicester Baby Bank, with all proceeds from my fundraising events going to them. I hope you can join me at these events; more information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

H.KNIGHT

Gin and Jazz for Bicester Baby Bank

Cllr Harry Knight had his first fundraising event, Gin and Jazz, on the 7th August to raise money for his chosen charity, Bicester Baby Bank. The evening was a hit, even if the weather was a little damp.

A jazz quintet, Keith Fairbairn's Groove Collective, whose members have worked with some of the world's biggest names in the music business, performed at the event.

Gin was served by local distiller Sky Wave Gin and food was provided by Savoir Fare. There was also crazy

golf and lawn games for those brave enough to face the weather.

Cllr Harry Knight would like to thank the local businesses who sponsored the event:

IMS Property Group, Custom Construction, C.S. Boswell Funeral Directors, A-Plan Insurance Bicester,

Sky Wave Gin, Bicester Village, Azets Insurance Group, D L Hancock Funeral Directors and Justin Bucknall Electrical.

Cllr Knight is excited for his upcoming fundraising events happening over the coming months and looks forward to welcoming you all.

An introduction to Jodi Clarke

This edition we are going to find out more about Jodi Clarke one of our Administration Officers.



Could you describe your role?

My role is to manage the allotments, football facilities & room bookings alongside the day to day roles of a receptionist.

What is one thing that surprised you about your role?

The passion I have for the allotments in Bicester, I've just taken on my own plot at home and I enjoy it so much.

What is your favourite place in Bicester and why?

Garth Park, it puts you into a good mood when you drive into work. Even if you have a busy day at work, stepping into the park calms & relaxes you. I also quite like Bicester's' version of Stone Henge, it's cool and quirky.

What was your first job?

My first job was a sandwich artist at Subway.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

Cross stitch, going to the allotment and going on adventures.

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

Loud, energetic and hardworking.

Do you have a hidden talent?

No, I'm pretty boring when it comes to talents.

Your Councillors

Your local Councillor is democratically elected to represent the people of Bicester on the Town Council.

They are representative of the major political parties or are independent. They are not full-time paid officials and are only given a very small annual allowance. The Councillor's position is one of influence rather than power at Town Council level. However, they have a very

important role in representing the interests, well-being and quality of life for the community of Bicester.

You can contact your ward councillor through the website **www.bicester.gov.uk** or directly via the information below.

East Ward



Tom Beckett
Green Party (CDC)
Tom.beckett@bicester.gov.uk



Sam Holland
Conservative
Sam.holland@bicester.gov.uk



Donna Ford
Conservative
donna.ford@bicester.gov.uk

North Ward



Nick Mawer
Conservative
Nick.mawer@bicester.gov.uk



Rachel Mallows
Liberal Democrats
Rachel.mallows@bicester.gov.uk



Rich Oliver
Liberal Democrats
Rich.oliver@bicester.gov.uk



Paul Wheatley
Liberal Democrats
Paul.Wheatley@bicester.gov.uk

South Ward



Nick Cotter
Liberal Democrats (CDC)
Nick.cotter@bicester.gov.uk



Christopher Pruden
Liberal Democrats
christopher.pruden@bicester.gov.uk



Damien Maguire
Green Party
damien.maguire@bicester.gov.uk

West Ward



Harry Knight
Town Mayor
Harry.knight@bicester.gov.uk



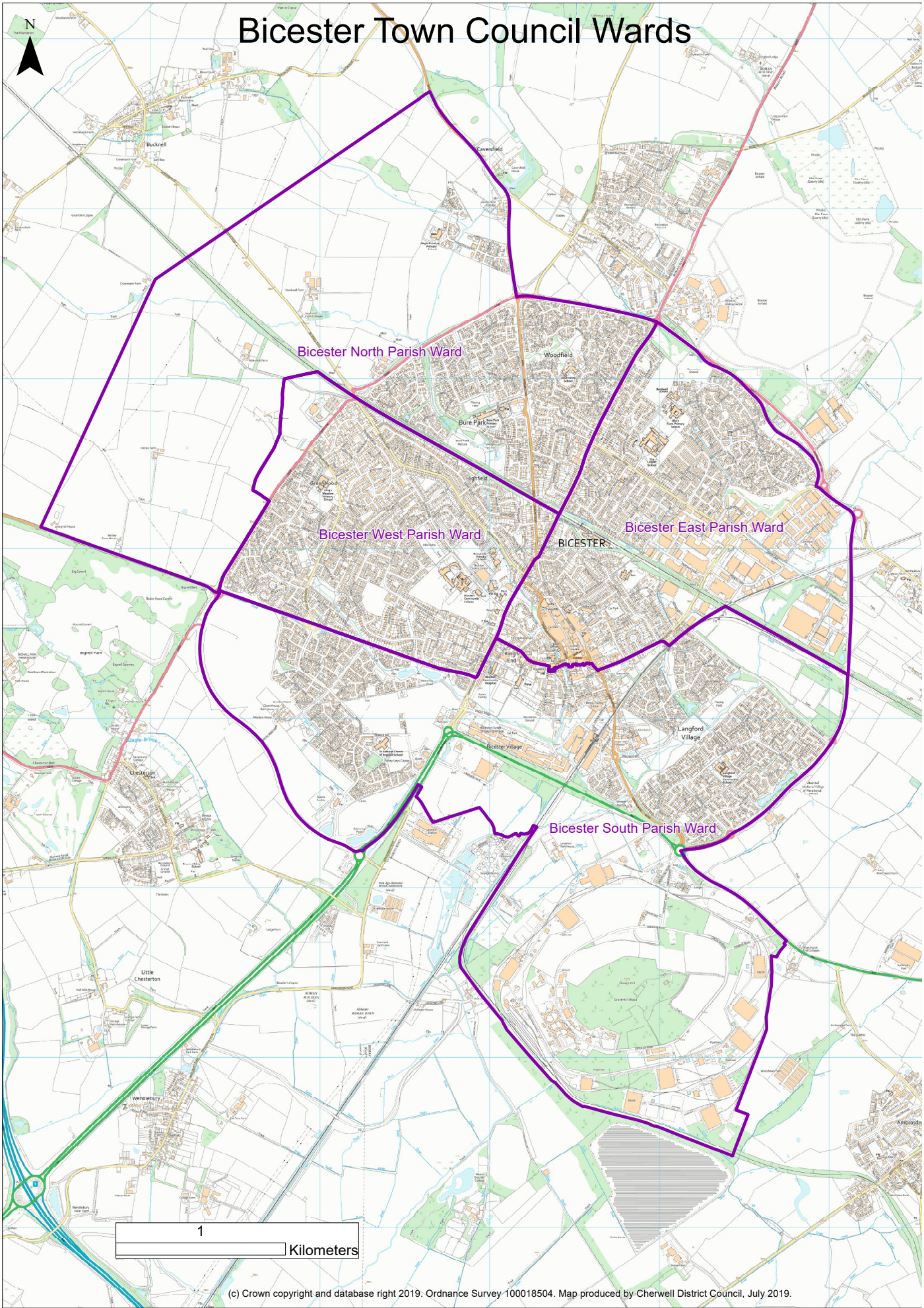
Dan Hallett
Independent
Dan.hallett@bicester.gov.uk



Les Sibley
Les.sibley@bicester.gov.uk



Jim Webb
Jim.webb@bicester.gov.uk



Summer Events

I think we can all agree this summer has left a lot to be desired, weather-wise. But that didn't deter us from doing what we could, despite the rain.

The King's Coronation

The Coronation celebrations were held at Garth Park, where we hosted a picnic with a number of activities and entertainment alongside the live screening of the Coronation.

We'd like to thank all those who braved the weather to come and celebrate such a special occasion.



Armed Forces Day

On 24th June, after a three-year absence due to the pandemic, Bicester celebrated Armed Forces Day on Pingle Field.

The annual event, which recognises the contribution of Bicester's local armed forces, includes Oxfordshire Home Guard's showcase of military vehicles, re-enactments and stall displays of local military history and is preceded by a flag-raising ceremony (pictured).

Councillor Harry Knight, Bicester's new mayor, said: "I am absolutely delighted the family fun day is back on

the council's summer events schedule."

There was a range of activities, including a fun fair, zorbing, inflatable football, face painting and community stalls. Aaron Williams compered the event and there were live performances by Bicester Military Wives Choir, The Just Dance Company, ECU, and Cherwell Theatre Company.



Sledgehammer at Garth Park

Despite the changeable weather the crowds weren't deterred and many turned up in their best 80's outfits for the sell-out Sledgehammer concert at Garth Park on 26th August.

Sledgehammer never disappoint and are now a regular event everyone looks forward to each summer.

Family Sports Day

Wednesday the 9th of August was Bicester's first Family Sports Day.

Families brought picnics and enjoyed the day, getting involved in a host of fun sports-themed activities from local sports clubs including Bicester Badminton Club, Bicester Vixens Women's Rugby Team, Bicester Rugby Union Football Club, Launton Football Club and Bicester Foxes Netball Club. We would like to thank everyone who took part in making this such a fun event.



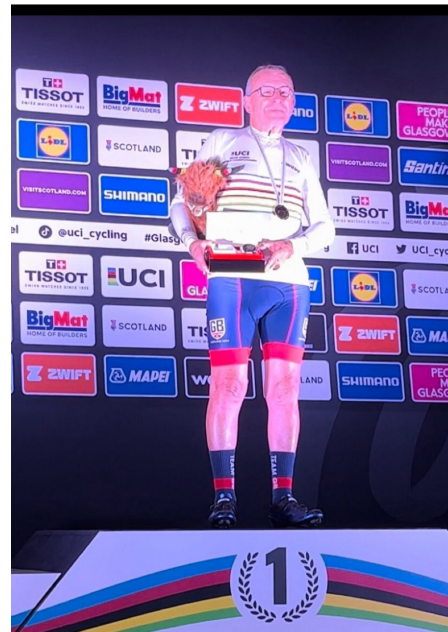


SAVE THE DATES!

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE & PARADE Sunday 12th November	MAYORAL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION EXHIBITION W/C 13th November	MAYORAL CHARITY DINNER Friday 24th November
CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON Saturday 25th November	ILLUMINATED CHRISTMAS TRAIL 8th to 17th December	SANTA FUN RUN Sunday 17th December

For more information and tickets, visit **Bicester.gov.uk**

Make sure you stay up to date with planned events and changes on www.bicester.gov.uk/events/get-involved and facebook.com/BicesterTownCouncil



BMCC Welcomes Home World Champion

On August 7th 2023, 85-year-old Brian Lewis became UCI Grand Fondo Time Trial World Champion in his age group.

At the UCI World Championships held in Dundee, Scotland, Brian made a dream come true, completing the 14 mile course in 46 minutes, winning him a gold medal.

Brian, who is a member of Bicester Millennium Cycling Club, started cycling at 14 years old but took a break and came back to it 10 years ago after he became a widower. His motto is "Adventure not Dementia" and he really believes that keeping fit is the way forward to a happy, healthy life both mentally and physically.

Brian said it was an absolute honour to achieve his dream and represent his country, and he will be back to defend his championship next year when Sicily play host. Keep pedalling!

Summer Concert Dedicated to the Coronation

Bicester Concert Band had to cancel their performance on the day of the Coronation due to bad weather, so the Summer Concert was dedicated to the Coronation.

Bicester Concert Band and the OYAP (Oxfordshire Youth Arts Partnership) youth theatre group held the concert in July at St Edburg's Church, Bicester. The band opened the performance with the National Anthem, and then performed royal-themed music including Zadok the Priest, Land of Hope and Glory, The Radio 4 UK Theme, and RAF March Past to name a few pieces. The youth theatre then performed a play they had written, entitled 'The Missing Marmalade'. The seven young actors

took us on a journey, encountering a queen, pirates, a character with a magic paintbrush and dance battle. The concert was enjoyed by all including the Mayor and Mayoress.

Bicester Concert Band and OYAP theatre look forward to welcoming everyone at their Christmas Concert being held on Saturday 17th December in the afternoon at St Edburg's Church, Bicester.

Get Back on Your Bike with Bicester Bike Users' Group

Bicester's size and flat terrain give it excellent potential for cycling, and in every direction there are attractive villages just a couple of miles away.

Bicester Bike Users' Group wants more people to feel comfortable and safe using cycling for day-to-day activities such as shopping and commuting. They run a Bike Buddies scheme which pairs up people who can ride a bike but feel out of practice or lacking in confidence, with a regular cyclist in their neighbourhood who can help them with confidence building and finding the most suitable routes, by going out together on a series of rides tailored to the needs and interests of the individual. Often there are lovely routes on cycle paths or quiet back streets which you may not know about.

If you are interested in helping or being helped, you can apply by going to www.bicesterbug.wordpress.com/bike-buddies or for a more general enquiry contact rick@bicesterbug.org.

Need a BIKE BUDDY?

BICESTERBUG can match you with an experienced local rider who will help you boost your cycling confidence on an informal, flexible one-to-one basis.

Would you like to build your biking confidence?

If you'd like your very own BIKE BUDDY, email us at bikebuddies@bicesterbug.org

Follow us on

BEAUTY & BICESTER PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES

My name is Gong Xi (Eddy), I am Bicester's well known friendly neighbourhood cameraman, my aim is to provide you with high quality and stunning images, supported by exceptional service and speedy delivery to exceed your expectations. I offer a number of services for business and private clients:

Event Photography & Videography, Architecture & Interior Photography, Drone Photography & Videography, Promotional Video, I also sell Bicester Photobook, Calendar, Greeting Cards and original high-res photographs of Bicester.

Please contact me for a bespoke quotation to fit your business needs. My rates include local travel and unlimited images.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/BeautyandBicester) [i](https://www.instagram.com/BeautyandBicester) [y](https://www.youtube.com/BeautyandBicester) [✉](mailto:BeautyandBicester@gmail.com) BeautyandBicester@gmail.com



Reducing the Risk
of Domestic Abuse



Have you got more than 3 friends?

If so, one of them will be a victim of domestic abuse at some point

Want to help? Become a DA Friend



They Listen



They Link



Lend a hand to raise awareness

To find out more friends@reducingtherisk.org.uk
If you need support [Oxfordshire Helpline 0800 731 0055](tel:08007310055)

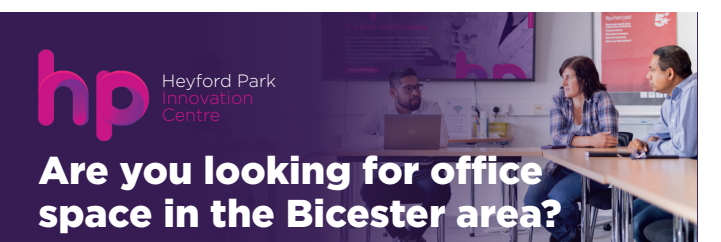


Thriving Innovative Community at Heyford Park Innovation Centre

Heyford Park Innovation Centre was delighted to learn that BOLD, who joined the Centre earlier this year, has announced a strategic partnership to develop high-performance electric powertrains with world-renowned McLaren Applied. With their UK office at the Centre, BOLD's battery systems will be used for McLaren Applied's electrification needs, delivering cutting-edge solutions that will redefine the industry.

Heyford Park Innovation Centre is home to 27 businesses who utilise the flexible office and lab space. With a strong heritage as a site of technology, the Centre is part of the old RAF airfield, which was used in both WWI, WWII and post-war in 1993.

Innovation Centre Manager Trudy Franklin-Slatery said: "We are incredibly proud to have a range of businesses here at the Centre and are delighted to have BOLD join us at the Centre at such an exciting time in their journey."



Are you looking for office space in the Bicester area?

Join us at Heyford Park Innovation Centre on the former RAF base.

- Flexible space to innovate
- Limitless business support and access to financial growth
- Utilities and business rates included in one fixed monthly payment
- 12-month Licence agreement with 3 months' notice
- Great road and rail links
- Free parking and bean to cup coffee all day

Let us help get your business off the ground

Contact us today to discuss your requirements

01869 238 000

Heyford Park Innovation Centre,
77 Heyford Park, Bicester OX25 5HD

info@heyfordpark-ic.co.uk | www.heyfordpark-ic.co.uk



The Bicester School Careers Encounters 2023-2024 – 'Save the Dates'

At The Bicester School, our careers provision is central to all that we do.

We feel that the true gains and benefits of careers provision should be embedded within all subjects in all key stages, supplemented by a whole school, and year group specific approach to provide pupils with accurate and inspiring information, insights and guidance at key points through their journey here.

Please find several 'Save the Dates' listed below for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Key stage 3, 4 and 5 Further Education Provider Information Sessions

Term 1, Ongoing

Bicester Local Community/Enterprise Networking Event

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Year 13 Mock Interviews

Wednesday 27th September 2023

Year 9 Bicester Heritage Hosted Careers Festival Parent/Carer Launch Event

Wednesday 11th October 2023

Year 10 Work Experience Parent/Carer Information Event

Thursday 19th October 2023

Year 9 Bicester Heritage Hosted Careers Festival

Thursday 19th October 2023

Sixth Form Information Evening

Wednesday 8th November 2023

Year 9 Human Library Event

Thursday 9th November 2023

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 4th March – Wednesday 7th March 2024

Year 10 and 12 Careers Fest

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March 2024

(One year group each day TBC)

Year 8 Employability Skills Session

Friday 3rd May 2024

Year 12 Future Plans Day

Wednesday 26th June 2024

Year 12 Work Experience

Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July 2024



Further information will be available prior to each event. Please note, additional events will be added throughout the academic year, and some may be subject change.

Should you wish to support any of these events, speakers, presenters and advisers, or to further careers support in the school, please do contact us either via the email address below, or by completing the expression of interest form.

ceiag@thebicesterstoolschool.org.uk | forms.office.com/e/xhM5BWqbyU

Start Tapping your Toes to Toe-Tapping Music

Learn to square dance in fun and friendly company to the sound of catchy music that makes you come back for more. You will quickly learn that Tuesday evenings at St Edburg's Church Hall is the 'in' place to be. Square dancing is suitable for all ages as well as being a healthy activity recommended by the British Medical Association as being good for the heart and mentally stimulating. It's healthy on the pocket as well; an evening session costs just £2.

Call Bob on 07903 164789 for more information and make a date with the Heyford Hoofers Square Dance Club. Evenings start at 7.45pm. You will leave with a smile on your face.



BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

Avenue Q

Tickets £16

AVENUE Q

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROBERT LOPEZ and JEFF MARX

BOOK BY JEFF WHITTY

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY ROBERT LOPEZ and JEFF MARX

30th May - 1st June 2024
7.30pm (doors 6.45pm)

The Cooper School
Bicester OX26 5TE

Coles Books Bicester
0333 666 366 (booking fee applies)

Ticketsource.co.uk/bcos
(booking fee applies)

Facebook: BicesterChoral
Twitter: BicesterChoral
Instagram: bcos_we_sing
07467 306 828

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENT

CHORAL Jazz

Chilcott Little Jazz Mass
Will Todd Mass in Blue

2nd Dec
St Edburg's Church
Bicester
7:30pm

Tickets £14
(accompanied under 16 free)

Coles Books Bicester
bcoswesing.org.uk

1963 - 2023
DIAMOND JUBILEE

BCOS

Dance Creative

Changing Lives Through Dance

Free Dance Taster session

Thursday 21 September 10.30-11.30am

Join us at Bicester Library for a FREE 30 minute dance taster session followed by refreshments and chat.

No experience necessary – just turn up and try it!

Dance Creative are a small charity based in Bicester.

We run fun, creative and sociable dance classes across Oxfordshire for people who want to stay fit, healthy and active, improve balance and strength, and make new friends.



Weekly term time class Tuesdays 1.30-2.30pm followed by tea and chat at The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester OX26 2BH Cost: £5 per class

Online class via Zoom Mondays 1.30-2.30pm Cost: £4 per class

Get in touch to sign up or find out more. Call us on 07476 923 817 or email info@dance-creative.co.uk



www.dance-creative.co.uk
Facebook: @dancecre8ive
Instagram: @dancecreativeuk



DANCE CREATIVE Registered Charity Number 1196309 Company Number 12677777 - registered in England and Wales. Address - 149, Ravencroft, Bicester OX26 6YF

Dance for life!

Dance Creative
Changing Lives Through Dance

Get Fitter, Stronger and Happier through Dance



Fun, sociable and creative dance classes in Abingdon, Bicester, Witney and online

Abingdon	Bicester	Witney	Online
Tuesdays 10am-11am Followed by refreshments £4.50/£5 per class Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB	Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm Followed by refreshments £4.50/£5 per class The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester, OX26 2BH	Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm Followed by refreshments £5 per class Witney Congregational Church, Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JF	Mondays 1:30-2:30pm Followed by social time £3.50/£4 per class Via Zoom

For Information

Please contact us on:

Phone: 07476 923 817

Email: info@dance-creative.co.uk

Website: dance-creative.co.uk

@dancecreativet **@dancecre8ive**

Ask us about our free home dance packs!



DANCE CREATIVE
Registered Charity Number 1196309 - Company Number 12677777
Registered in England and Wales. Address - 149 Ravencroft, Bicester OX26 6YF



Trinity Camerata

"Local orchestras don't get much better than this"

Conductor - Sam Laughton

8 October 2023 - 4pm
St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

Sunday afternoon family concert

ROSSINI: The Journey to Reims

IAN STEPHENS
We're Going on a Bear Hunt!

JOHN WILLIAMS
Adventures on Earth (from E.T.)

GERSHWIN
An American in Paris

Tickets: Adults £10 in advance (Cole's Books), £12 on the door; under 16's free.

www.trinitycamerata.org

This concert is kindly supported by Bicester Town Council





Get creative with a Christmas Card Competition

This year, Bicester Town Council are running a Christmas Card competition with Bicester's primary schools. Christmas card packs will be sent for pupils to design a Christmas card, with designs to be submitted before the October half term.

All the entries will be on display in the Chamber Room at Garth House on 13th - 16th November. Cllr Harry Knight, Bicester Town Mayor, and Consort, Mrs Lorraine Knight, will judge the competition and the winner will get to switch on the Christmas lights on the 25th of November.

Hello Everyone from Alexandra House of Joy Charity

We'd like to share with you all where we are at this present time.

Our journey continues to be very difficult as we raise funds to build this much-needed centre in Bicester for Oxfordshire families who are caring for and supporting adults from 19 years upwards with profound learning disabilities.

It will be a purpose-built community which will include a day centre offering meaningful activities, sensory gardens and an inclusive hydrotherapy pool. It will offer respite stays and specialist end of life palliative care for adults with profound and severe disabilities. Family carers will be provided with much-needed respite and support.

To make this happen we need to raise a great deal of money which will be used to design and build the centre. The land on which the centre will be built has been donated by a local farmer, and to date we have raised £870K. If you would be willing to do some fundraising for AHoJ we would be immensely appreciative and grateful.

You can get in touch with us through our website which is www.alexandrahouseofjoy.co.uk or you can contact me on alexandrahouseofjoy@gmail.com.

God bless. Ian and Rachael Scott-Hunter (Founders and Chair of AHJ registered charity 1176900)

Bicester Green. New Home and New Services

After much effort, we have finally moved in to our second home at 16 Sheep Street, Bicester, between Crafters' Emporium and Iceland.

We are still running our laptop initiative, Getting Oxfordshire Online, from this new workshop.

Our wood and electrical workshops are still at The Stables on the Launton Road. Bicycles and our shop can be found on Sheep Street along with:

1. Our Library of Things, a service where you can rent items such as tools, garden equipment, a tent, pasta maker, sewing machine - things you don't need on a regular basis. Join up as a member, then pay a small loan fee and the 'Thing' is yours for seven days.
2. Nothing but Footprints and their wonderful Zero Waste shop where you can buy plastic-free goodies from pasta and rice to household and personal care goods. Bring your own containers to fill (though paper bags and jars are also available)

If you're clearing out a workshop, garage, shed or house then we'd love donations. Or if you've some spare time then volunteers are always needed. Volunteering is fun, rewarding and provides some wonderful social interactions that we all need sometimes.

Get in touch, info@bicestergreen.org.uk or via Facebook on our new page facebook.com/GreenBicester



Be Fearless and Get Started with 261 Fearless

Do you want to begin exercising but don't know where to start? Are you worried about being 'too slow', the 'wrong' shape, or from the 'wrong' background?

261 Fearless Club Bicester is here for you. You don't need any running experience, just an open mind that is ready to have some fun. If you are over 18 and female, come and join our non-competitive, nonjudgemental social group and prove to yourself that you can exercise! We meet at 9:30am and 6:30pm every Thursday at Whitelands Farm.

We are also looking for new coaches, so ladies, if you understand the transformative power of running and want to help other women discover it too, we have an online information session on 19th September at 7pm.

For further information about joining our club, or becoming a coach, please email: hello@261ClubUK.co.uk or visit our website: 261fearless.org/261clubuk



Bicester Town Council

are brining back.....

The Best Kept Allotment Award!

If you would like to take part in the Best Kept Allotment Award, please register your interest at allotments@bicester.gov.uk or call 01869 252915

Best Scorecrow *Best Shed* *Tallest Sunflower* *Best Newcomer* *Biggest Vegetable Patch* *Most Environmentally Friendly*



Hummingbird Summer

The Hummingbird Centre's Summer Festival took place in Launton on Saturday July 15, to raise money for the Bicester-based cancer support centre.

There were lots of activities for everyone to enjoy plus tea, cake and refreshments and some relaxation in the wellness area.

One of the organising team, Jemma Young, said: "We've had something for everyone, including, for the first time, classic cars on display and owners on hand to talk about their vehicles."

"We would like to thank the local businesses who have sponsored flyers, the tea tent, provided cars for displays and guessing the number of balloons in one car."

All the money raised from the event went to The Hummingbird Centre's Forever Home appeal. CEO Renee Booth said: "We are running out of space here at Launton, and in order to keep serving our community we need to find a bigger permanent home. Every penny counts as we look to secure our future."



Forget me Not Bicester

We have a passion for people and a passion for fun, and our aim is to prevent loneliness and social isolation which is often experienced by some older people.

We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 - 3pm, and with the help of our amazing volunteers we provide a variety of activities including seated exercise, manicures, board games and a freshly cooked two course lunch.

Everyone at Forget Me Not, the friendship and lunch club for older people, is very grateful to Midcounties Co-op for all their help and support whilst we have been their community partner. One example of this support was the donation of Easter eggs, which were handed out during our Easter celebration earlier this year, as seen in the photo.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering for a regular morning or afternoon session, or interested in coming along for a taster session, please contact us by email mail@forgetmenotbicester.co.uk or telephone **07507 749931**.

BYHP: Supporting Young People

If you haven't heard of BYHP, the youth charity based in Banbury, yet then you have been missing out on a cluster of amazing services for 13-25-year-olds that help keep kids off the streets.

BYHP has been running as a local charity since 2006, impacting the mental wellbeing of over 400 young people every year. Alongside the NEET project that helps young people get back into employment, education or training, BYHP and the Unlocking Potential project has been hiding behind the scenes when it comes to the positive English and Math GCSE results in Bicester.

One of their clients wrote: "They have been a massive support in my life, and I just couldn't thank them enough for it."

Next time you're thinking of donating to a charity, think of BYHP so we can continue to positively impact the lives of our youth in Bicester.



Langford Village Community Centre

Langford Village Community Centre is managed by Langford Village Community Association (LVCA), who are now operating classes of their own as well as hiring out the hall to many groups during the week.

Our classes for residents (and beyond) started in September 2022 and are well-established as a warm, welcoming place to be. There are two classes of **Seated Yoga** on Mondays at 1pm and 2.15pm, a **Thursday Circle** every Thursday from 2-4pm for anyone to meet up, have a chat, hot drink, talks etc. and an **Amateur Art Class** for beginners onwards on Wednesday (weeks 2 and 4 in the

month) between 2-4pm. There is a nominal charge for these classes. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to join any of these classes, please visit our website www.lvca.org.uk where the information can be found under LVCA Events. You can also call **07946 289092** for further information.

Ladies Circle

We are Ladies Circle, a group of local women who come together twice a month for social activities.

We also get together for fund raising activities and we get involved in the local community. Recently some of us got together and went around Bicester litter picking. We have also practiced our downward facing dogs at a yoga class, tested our knowledge at a pub quiz and been to the cinema.

We are open to ladies between the ages of 18-45, and from all backgrounds, ethnicities, faiths and nationalities. If you would like to join a local group where you can make friends, socialise and make a difference, then come and join us. You can find us on Facebook or Instagram, or alternatively you can visit ladiescircle.co.uk/bicester.



Greetings from Bicester Hospital League of Friends

It has once again been a quiet year for the League of Friends, as we are still unable to go into the hospital, but we are hoping we will soon be able to, to give help to the wonderful staff.

We held a coffee morning at the Littlebury Hotel in June, a small event to let residents know that we are still around, and managed to raise £173.00. Thank you to those who came and supported us, also a big, big thank you to Michael and his staff who once again hosted us and looked after us.

We were hoping to purchase awnings for the windows to the wards using the donation made by Mr Ron Haynes, but this has proved a difficult project. It was decided a better outcome for the patients would be air conditioning for each ward. The committee agreed to this and gave the go ahead for the installation.

If you feel you could become a volunteer, please contact

our Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Mrs Wendy Buckmaster on buckmaster@my.com. Wendy will be delighted to hear from you.

We will be holding our usual Coffee Morning Bring and Buy in early November and we look forward to welcoming you all again.

We are always pleased to receive donations; cheques should be made payable to League of Friends Bicester Community Hospital and sent to me at the address below.

Rose Stratford, Bicester Community Hospital League of Friends, Treasurer. **8 Queens Court, Bicester, OX26 6JX**. E-mail: rosetjstratford@outlook.com



Bicester Art Weeks

From the 13 – 21st of May, Bicester Art Network hosted Oxfordshire Artweeks, Bicester at 24 Sheep Street, to bring together over 20 artists and offer creative and affordable artwork whilst raising money for SeeSaw, their charity of the year that supports grieving young people in Oxfordshire.



WANTED SANTA FUN RUNNERS



**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023
FOR RUNNING AND MERRIMENT**

For more information and to book visit: bicester.gov.uk

ILLUMINATED CHRISTMAS TRAIL

Garth Park, Bicester. 8th-17th December

Santa's Grotto and festive refreshments.
The event is fully accessible to buggies,
wheelchairs, and scooters.

Possible with the kind support of



**BICESTER
VILLAGE**

