

May 2018

BICESTER Garth Gazette

NEWS

COMMUNITY

WHAT'S ON SUMMER 2018

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

PULL OUT



A Bicester Town Council
Newsletter for
the Community

BICESTER Garth Gazette

CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Mayor's Review	3
News	4



Grants	5
Community	6-7



Events	8
Activities Pull-out	9-12
News	13
Community	14-18
What's On	19-20

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 Samantha Shippen on 01869 252915 or at samantha.shippen@bicester.gov.uk. To advertise, please call Lucy Lavers on 07813 846569. Produced and designed by Push Start Marketing Ltd. Printed by Oxuniprint. Distributed by Distribution Unlimited.

Staff

Chief Officer /Samantha Shippen

Operations Manager / Chris Johnson
Administrator and Mayor's PA / Julie Trinder
Administrator / Kim Simpson
Administrator / Laura Wilson
Administrator / Angie Suter
Outdoor Team Leader / Rob Thompson
Outdoor Technician / Lloyd Allen
Outdoor Technician / Ray Crutchfield
Outdoor Technician / Mark Jones
Outdoor Technician / Nigel Williams
Outdoor Technician / Phillip Robbins

Contacting Your Town Council

LOG IN to Bicester Town Council at www.bicester.gov.uk, or email us at enquiries@bicester.gov.uk. PHONE IN on 01869 252915. DROP IN to our office at The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6PS.



Samantha Shippen

Welcome

I am thoroughly enjoying my role here at Bicester Town Council due in no small part to the ever-growing amount of community events and groups that find new and exciting ways to make every aspect of living and working in Bicester the best it can be. I have recently moved to the town and am looking forward to the busy calendar of summer events both established and new. The traditional events such as the flag-raising and carnival never disappoint, and underline Bicester's support of the armed forces, but this year we also get to enjoy the Freedom of Entry Parade and a new festival that's themed around aviation with 'something in the air'.

Bicester is embracing artistry, creativity, culture and performance with this new festival and the 'Banbury to Bicester' programme to name but a few initiatives, and I know the community will come out in force to enjoy not only the Town Council's musical events in Garth Park but all the other events that bring families together such as Bicester Big Lunch. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make these events possible.

If that wasn't enough, in the middle of this issue is a pull-out, put together by Healthy Bicester, packed full of activities for kids.

It truly is going to be a fun-filled, if somewhat exhausting, summer for everyone.

Samantha Shippen

Chief Officer, Bicester Town Council

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

Your Councillors

Town

Richard Mould 01869 245917
richard.mould51@ntlworld.com

Jason Slaymaker 07725608110
Jason.Slaymaker@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Central

North

Lynn Pratt 01869 247080
lynnpratt123@btinternet.com

Melanie Magee 07970 544775
melanie.magee@me.com

Dave Magee 07815 151964
dave.magee@me.com

South West

Debbie Pickford 01869 243322
debbiepickford@hotmail.co.uk

South East

Nick Cotter 01869 322166
nickdnl@aol.com

Dan Sames 01869 249768
dan.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

David Anderson 01869 252939
david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

East

Sean Gaul (Deputy Mayor) 07894 959820
sean.gaul@hotmail.com

Rose Stratford 01869 243376
rosetjstratford@outlook.com

Lawrie Stratford 01869 244036
lawrie.stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk

West

Les Sibley (Mayor) 01869 243367
sibleygold@aol.com

Nick Mawer 01869 249314
nicholas.mawer@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Les Sibley reviews his year as Bicester's Mayor

Together my wife Mary and I have thoroughly enjoyed our roles as ambassadors for Bicester. During the year I have attended over 150 mayoral events and met many interesting and wonderful people and their organisations.

Highlights of the year included my first fundraising event at 'Artists in the Town' Exhibition, a short speech I gave at the special 'Flag Raising' Ceremony to honour and recognise all the gallant men and women who have served and now serve in our Armed Forces and the Town's Annual Carnival, held in tandem with Armed Forces Day. As the representatives for Bicester, my wife Mary and I attended the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, a Remembrance Service held by the local branch of the Royal British Legion at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at St. Lawrence Church Caversfield, and had the privilege of laying a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the people of the Town at the annual Remembrance Day Service & Parade at St Edburg's Church to pay tribute to the fallen. We also visited the twinning town to Bicester, Neunkirchen in Germany, to attend their annual advent ceremony and I cut the ribbon at the opening of the extension of Bicester Village.



I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to my fellow councillors, Bicester businesses, Bicester Town Council Staff and the community volunteers who work together tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the planning and smooth running of the Mayor's fundraising events.

Les Sibley Cllr Les Sibley - Mayor of Bicester

An Evening at the Proms

On Saturday 24th February, a cold winter's evening, it was heartening to see a large crowd of people turn out for the 'Evening at the Proms' Concert at St Edburg's Church Bicester in aid of raising funds for local charities. And what a night it turned out to be!

The music was provided by the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles led by Major Peter Clark. They played a medley of old favourites from Tin Pan Alley. My Old Man and Down At The Old Bull & Bush were part of the repertoire with the audience joining in the singalong led by vocalist Lynn Hawkins.

The crowd were waving flags, stamping their feet and enthusiastically appreciating the evening's programme, which ended with long-time stalwarts Fantasia of Sea Shanties, Pomp & Circumstances and Rule Britannia, and closed with the Regimental March of the Mechanised Infantry. A panel of judges sitting in the wings gave a maximum score of 10 for the evening's music and entertainment. Thank you to everyone involved who helped make the concert such a success.

There is 'Something in the Air' for Bicester

The first ever Bicester Festival, celebrating the arts, culture and creativity, is coming on June 16th and 17th, and it is all about creating, making and taking part! This year's theme is 'Something in the Air' to celebrate Bicester's aviation links and the unique excitement that comes with a growing town's expanding cultural offering. Keep an eye out for arty trails and exhibitions, or even do one yourself, there are a million ways to engage on any level with the Bicester Festival, just get creative!

Market Square will host a variety of stage acts from professional children's theatre company 'Squashbox' to a renowned music band 'Reggae on the Rocks' to fill the summer evening, all with a liberal sprinkling of local talent thrown in – anything from comedy to choir, to music and dance. Go and see Rogue Play's aerialist performance 'Taking Flight' on Sheep Street and even have a go on the silks and ropes yourself. Enjoy the surreal spectacle of a piano and double bass on wheels as Rimski's Piano and the Bassicle take to the street in their surprising new double act.



Young people are encouraged to sign up for ZEST, a mobile immersive theatre experience, brought to Bicester via Banbury's Mill Arts Centre.

There will be a professional kite-flying display team coming to share their skills. You can even make a kite on the Saturday with OYAP at the old St Edburg's School site and then go and fly it on Sunday at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground. Bring a picnic, and your dad too, for a really fun Father's Day family activity with the tunes of the Bicester Concert Band to cheer you on.

For more details, contact
CommunityEvents@
cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

The Cherwell Business Awards 2018 finalists announced

The Awards, now in their 7th year, attracted an excellent mix of applications and the standard was very high. The finalists were announced on Tuesday 27th March and included many several businesses. The winners will be announced at the prestigious Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Friday 11th May 2018 at Heythrop Park, Enstone.

Congratulations to Bicester's finalists;

9-2-3, a recruitment agency championing flexible working, finalists in the new business award. Helen Wright, founder, commented 'The whole 9-2-3 team is really excited to be finalists. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness amongst businesses in and around Bicester that there's an amazing pool of untapped talent right here to enable them to grow and thrive'.



OYAP Trust, finalists in the charity and community award.

High Spec Composites Ltd, finalists in the small business and established business category.

Paula Pym of **Paula Jane Boutique**, who is a finalist for the business person award, commented 'I am absolutely thrilled that all my hard work has been recognised. I am really living my dream, having gone from selling a few things online to having my own boutique'.

For the full list of finalists visit
cherwellbusinessawards.co.uk

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2018

GRANT AID RECIPIENTS	AWARD GRANTED	FUNDING APPLIED FOR
The Countess of Jersey's Educational Foundation	£750	To pay grants to students in Bicester going onto further education.
Trinity Camerata Orchestra	£500	Towards a Family Concert in St Edburg's Church. This year's theme will be 'Fairy Stories'.
Friends of Bicester North Station	£500	Restoration of a flower bed on London-bound platform.
Bicester Choral & Operatic Society (BCOS)	£600	Assist with the funding of forthcoming production of CHESS The Musical.
Hanover Gardens	£750	Summer Garden Party.
Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA)	£500	Bicester Play & Activity Day on 1st August.
Bicester Widows Club	£750	To pay for coach trips.
Forget Me Not (Bicester) Ltd.	£648	Emergency first aid training for 4 persons.
Bicester Townswomen's Guild	£500	A day trip to a National Trust property - Coughton Court in Warwickshire.
Bicester Sub Aqua Club	£500	Buy a training and full function defibrillator to be able to teach how to restart the heart.
Grassroots Bicester	£500	Towards holding 5 'Relove' events through 2018.
The Hummingbird Centre	£500	Funding towards an Arts and Crafts table and seating in a new building within the Mews.
Silver Threads Club	£500	A coach outing and 2 afternoon teas at the 'Savoir Fare' Café in the Garth.
Kabin over 50s Club (Keble Road)	£500	To cover the cost of hiring a coach for an afternoon summer outing and to fund a Christmas lunch.
Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh)	£1,050	Sponsoring 21 ARCh bookboxes.
St Edburg's Foundation	£250	2 Open Heritage Days.
Orchard Baptist Church	£500	East Bicester Keble Road Funday.
Bicester Floral Club	£500	Taking part in the 'Festival of Flowers' at Dorchester Abbey on 28th-30th September 2018.
Kingsmere Church with St Edburg's	£500	Hope to run 3 big events that draw the community of Kingsmere together over 2018.
Bicester Foodbank	£1,000	Help towards van costs.
The Mill Arts Centre	£750	12 monthly sessions of 'Little Creatives' to be delivered in Bicester Library.
1st Bure Park Scout Group	£750	Employ performer to teach circus skills and towards a new trailer.
Bicester Craft Club	£400	Transport to take members to exhibitions and demonstrations & employ tutors to teach and improve member skills.
Bicester Spiritualist Church/ The Clifton Centre	£225	To purchase 3 security cameras.
Bicester Fairtrade Steering Group	£400	Provision of new signage and publicity leaflets.
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£500	Technology training project for visually impaired people.
Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme	£750	To befriend older people who are frequent users of GP services and those recently discharged from hospital.
OneBicester CIC	£1,000	6th annual Bicester's Big Lunch.
Bicester Green	£700	To organise and run 2 family bike and wood skills days in May and June.

Bicester Ladies Circle; Went 'Mad' to make £600 for Helen House donation

Bicester Ladies Circle is a fun, modern group of local ladies who enjoy a vibrant social life and contributing to the community they are so proud of.

We enjoyed meeting many of you last year at our main fundraising events: helping Santa on his rounds, pouring pints at the pub in the park and manning the flashy stall at Bicester's big fireworks display.

Over the years, we have made donations to the great work of the Hummingbird Centre, Auditory Verbal and many other local charities we are proud to support. More recently, we were able to donate over £600 to Helen House at our Mad Hatter, Alice in Wonderland themed event.

Meeting twice a month, in between the big events

we are planning to enjoy Trampolining, Clubsize, Creation Theatre and maybe even Belly Dancing!

Part of Ladies Circle Great Britain and Ireland, we are open to women from all walks of life aged between 18-45 who are looking for friendship and to feel part of something special with a past to be proud of and a future to look forward to.

Whether you are new to Bicester or just looking to add more to your social life, we would love to meet you. To find out more, look for us at Bicester Ladies Circle on Facebook, or email **bicesterladiescircle@gmail.com**. Lads, check out Bicester Round Table. Aged 45 plus? The fun continues in 41 Club and Tangent.

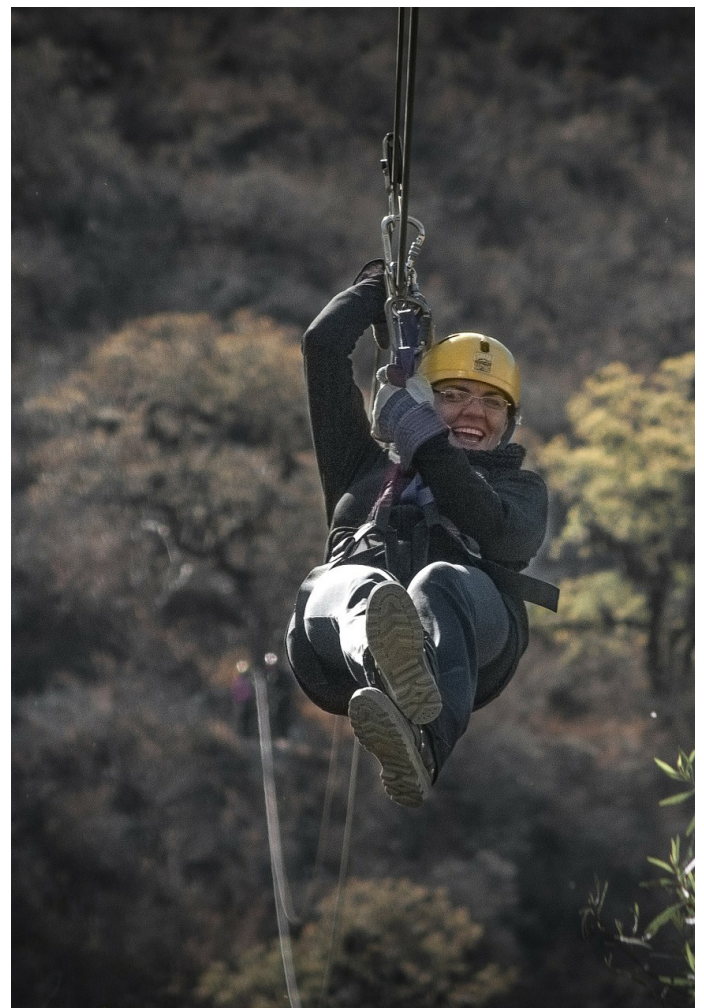
Zip wire for Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme

AnnMarie and Claire, supported by Claire's daughter Hannah and AnnMarie's son Matt, are challenging themselves to do the Velocity ZipWire Challenge in June. Velocity ZipWire is the longest ZipWire in Europe and the fastest in the world, reaching speeds of 100mph! For myself and AnnMarie, who have both had breast cancer and live daily with several effects from this, this really is a challenge! And we want to do some good from this challenge, so have decided to choose a local volunteer organisation to support.

We chose Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme, as we both feel strongly about supporting local charities and believe that no one should be lonely or isolated. As we get older we all face this very real scenario and Bicester Good Neighbour scheme can assist in alleviating loneliness and providing support to the older people living in Bicester.

Please give generously at the below Just Giving page to support BGNS and AnnMarie, Claire, Matt and Hannah in their challenge; or alternatively join us for the quiz night at The Nightingale Pub on 17th May 2018 to raise much needed funds.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bgnszipwirechallenge



The Great Pilgrimage 90 years on

A decade after the end of the First World War, eleven thousand veterans and war widows made a great pilgrimage to the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres before marching to the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium on 8th August 1928 for a Remembrance service. Exactly 90 years later, on 8th August 2018, more than two thousand Royal British Legion members will carry their Standards along the same route to the Menin Gate, to commemorate the last 100 days of

World War One. As part of this ceremony, each of the 1,155 Royal British Legion Branches attending from the UK and overseas (as far away as Thailand) will bring a wreath with them containing a Remembrance message from their community which will remain for public viewing for at least two months. Standard Bearer Chevy Feakes and Private Daniel Rogers of 1 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps will represent The Royal British Legion Bicester & District Branch.

From Banbury to Bicester. A year-long Arts Project

The project, which launches in June this year, will take the best of The Mill's regular programme and bring it to local venues in Bicester, culminating in a circus spectacular in summer 2019.

Some of the more popular activities from the Mill, including Little Stories and Creative Crafts, will happen monthly, plus regular one-off performances. Already confirmed to take part are Wriggle Dance Theatre, who will perform dance theatre aimed at very young audiences, and the Remarkable Dance Company — made up exclusively of over 50s — will be recruiting more members in Bicester. New and current dancers will have the opportunity to work with renowned choreographer Hagit Yakira to create a brand 'curtain raiser' for a performance of her piece Free Falling. Award winning performance poet Luke Wright will also perform in Bicester Library and will also be giving a masterclass on his craft. The finale for the project will be a residency



in Bicester for Mimbire, an all-female contemporary circus company, who will hold workshops for the youth of Bicester in the run up to their performances of the award winning 'Exploded Circus'.

'From Banbury to Bicester' has been made possible by a grant from Arts Council England and The Foyle Foundation, as well as support from Cherwell District Council. Local businesses are also keen to get involved; Brethertons Solicitors will host a cultivation evening in their Bicester offices for The Mill to showcase the whole project to the town's business community.

Bicester Hospital League of Friends

The League of Friends continue to support the hospital, making beds and serving drinks. We also raise funds to purchase items that the NHS do not supply. Our thanks go to Adam Holloway and Bicester Round Table, who gave us £150.00 which will be spent on games for the patients to encourage them to interact with each other.

Our Christmas coffee morning/bring and buy

raised £500. Thank you to Michael McKeon, of the Littlebury Hotel, for the use of the dining room, tea and cakes. Also, thanks to Mary Sibley, Mayoress of Bicester, for attending and opening our coffee morning, and to Arthur Moore who donated several watercolours.

Rose Stratford, Chairman

E-mail rosetjstratford@outlook.com



Rebound Revolution
TRAMPOLINE PARK

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

1 HOUR BOUNCE PLUS 2 SLICES OF PIZZA AND A DRINK FOR ONLY £8.50!

Tuesday to Friday 3PM to 5PM
(Available during Term Time only)

TRAMPOLINE FITNESS CLASSES

BURN 100'S MORE CALORIES THAN RUNNING OR CYCLING

Fun • Low Impact • Cardio • Circuits • HiiT
Tues/Wed/Thu Evenings and Sat AM
£6.50 p/h

PARTIES

AMAZING PARTY OFFERS AT REBOUND REVOLUTION

1 Hour Bounce and Food afterwards in your own Party Area
Bronze • Silver • Gold Options Available

See www.reboundrevolution.co.uk for all details!

Trinity Camerata

Summer 2018 Afternoon Concert

Sunday 1st July 2018, St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

Conductor: James Ham

Rameau: Overture from Les Indes Galantes

Fauré: Pelléas et Mélisande Suite

Ravel: Pavane pour une infante défunte

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 "Scottish"

Tickets from Coles Books: Adults £10 or £12 on the door;
children £5

Date for your diary

Autumn 2018 Family Concert with a Fairy Tale theme
Sunday 14th October 2018, St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

Conductor: Sam Laughton

Tickets from Coles Books: Adults £10 or £12 on the door;
children free

"Great Music on your Doorstep"



Food, Beer & Music Festival

FREE ENTRY
ample parking



Marsh Gibbon
Silver Band

A traditional street festival for all the family
Saturday 2 June 2018
11am to 6pm

Do some shopping in the street market, have a bite to eat & drink, listen to the live music and let the children have fun in a safe and friendly environment. Church Street will be closed for the day and filled with trader stands. There'll be kids activities in the Manor grounds and old fashioned teas & cakes in the adjacent church

Burgers and bangers
& speciality food and drink stalls.

Hog roast
supplied by Lewis's Butchers, Sheep Street

SUPER DRAW
Amazing prizes ★★



Bouncy Castle & inflatable slide



some
30
food
& drink
stalls

Tombola



To find out more check out the latest details at: www.strattonaudley.org
or Facebook - Stratton Audley Food Beer & Music Festival

All money raised support local charities. Our thanks to support from Bicester Village, Finders Keepers, Thomas Merrifield, Fine & Country, Bicester Ford and Bicester Heritage.

2018 Bicester Activities for Children



This guide to the various activities for children under 12 in Bicester was produced by Healthy Bicester. The information was correct at the time of printing April 2018, so please check with the contacts given that the information is still correct when you are looking to get involved. If the information needs to be updated please contact healthynewtown@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or call 01295 522 1668

Sport	Club	Email / Contact
Archery	Bicester Archers	membership@bicesterarchers.co.uk
Athletics	Alchester Running Club	alchester1@aol.com
	Bicester Athletics Club	www.bicesterac.co.uk/contacts/
Basketball	Bicester Basketball Club	davec67@sky.com
Cheerleading	Elite Cheer United	kizzy.burt@gmail.com
Cricket	Bicester & North Oxford Cricket Club	wesley.kernaghan@tnt.co.uk
Cycling	Bicester Millenium Cycling Club	www.bmcc2000.com
Equestrian	Bicester Riding Club	info@bicesterridingclub.org.uk
Football	Ardley United FC	dannoh1@hotmail.com
	Bardwell Youth FC	marc@bardwellfc.com
	Bicester Town	timLesholloway@aol.com
	Bicester Town Colts	Gary.page2@btinternet.com
	Bure Park Juniors	info@bureparkjuniors.co.uk
	Chesterton	steve.honey55@btinternet.com
	Highfield Juniors	Highfieldjuniorsfc@gmail.com
	Launton Ladies	launtonlfc@live.co.uk
	Launton Sports	launtonsec@gmail.com
	Little Kickers	www.littlekickers.co.uk
Golf	Bicester Hotel, Golf and Spa	Golf.shop@bicesterhgs.com
	Studley Wood Golf Club	admin@studleywoodgolfclub.co.uk
	Kirtlington Golf Club	andy@andytaylorlorgolf.com
Gymnastics	Bicester And District Gym Club	infobdgc@yahoo.com
Hockey	Bicester Hockey Club	clubdevelopment@bicesterhockeyclub.org.uk
Karate	Bicester Karate Club	bicesterkarateclub@hotmail.co.uk
Lacrosse	Oxford City	oxfordcitylacrosse@hotmail.com
Martial Arts	Tiny Turtles	mdubz@me.com
Netball	Bicester Foxes	bicesterfoxes@gmail.com

Orienteering	Thames Valley Orienteering Club	secretary@tvoc.org.uk
Rugby Union	Bicester RFC	Stonechris12@aol.com
	Rugby Tots	rob.hill@rugbytots.co.uk
Shooting	Bicester and District Rifle and Pistol Club	Bicester.rpc@gmail.com
Squash	Bicester Squash Club	07920422602
Swimming	Bicester Blue Fins SC	bbfmembership@gmail.com
Table Tennis	Bicester & District Table tennis Club	mike.jobling@googlemail.com
Taekwondo	Bicester Taekwondo Club	admin@bicestertkd.co.uk
Tennis		
	Bicester Lawn Tennis Club	enquiries@bicesterterennis.co.uk
Triathlon	Bicester Tri Club	www.bicestertri.co.uk
Holiday Activities (5 – 12 year olds)	Cherwell District Council	Youth.activators@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk
Holiday Camp and Elite Dance Club		01869 393201
Youth Activators (Multi Sport 5 – 12 years)	Cherwell District Council	Youth.activators@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk



Non – Sport Activities	Club	Email / Contact
Beavers	1 st Bure Park	beavers.firstburepark@gmail.com
	3 rd Bicester Glory Farm	3rdBicesterBeavers@NorthOxfordshireScouts.org.uk
Cubs	1 st Bure Park	cubs.firstburepark@gmail.com
	3 rd Bicester (Glory Farm)	3rdBicesterCubs@NorthOxfordshireScouts.org.uk
Explorer Units	Southwold Explorer Unit	dc@northoxfordshirescouts.org.uk
	BAD Explorer Unit	dc@northoxfordshirescouts.org.uk
Scouts	1 st Bure Park	scouts.firstburepark@gmail.com
	1 st Langford Village	dc@northoxfordshirescouts.org.uk
	3 rd Bicester (Glory Farm)	3rdBicesterScouts@NorthOxfordshireScouts.org.uk
	1 st Bicester Intrepid Scout Group	saflemming@talktalk.net
Music	Musical Minis	hayley@musicalminis.co.uk
	Peekaboos Music & Play Club	07783403784
	Rhyme Time at Bicester Library	bicester.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
	Baby Sensory Rhythm and Rhyme – Melody Music	sarah@melodymusic.me.uk
	Bicester Junior Orchestra	kate.roberts@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Toddler Groups/Stay & Play	Bicester Ride on Time	info@rideontimehire.com
	Acorn Toddler group under 5's Tuesdays, Methodist Church	churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk
	Messy Monkeys	01869 369160
	Ready to Tumble	07577 529016
	Cornerstones Toddler Group	m_bentley@live.co.uk
	Grapevine Baby & Toddler Group Wednesday, Methodist Church	churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk
	Jellybeans Stay & Play	079709 27082 ; www.lifehousecommunitychurch.co.uk
	Music and Theatre classes for babies / toddlers Thursdays, Methodist Church	churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk
	Coles Books – Free Storytime at 10.30 on Fridays	info@coles-books.co.uk
	Ride on Time – Active Play for under 5's Mondays, Methodist Church	churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk
	Rhyme time, Bicester Library	01869 252181

New Discovery Walks

To mark the 70th birthday of the National Health Service on 5th July 2018, Healthy Bicester is launching two new short Discovery Walks in the town centre.

Local residents and people working in the town are invited to join Bicester's mayor, who will officially launch the new walks at 12:30 from the sheep in Sheep Street. The two circuits will each be one kilometre long and will be marked with stencils on the pavement. Both the loops will start from the sheep in Sheep Street with one going down to include the Market Square and Garth Park, and the other one going up through Pioneer Square and Queen Street.

A key aim of the Healthy New Town Programme is to increase physical activity amongst residents, and these central routes are short enough to enable people working in town to fit a walk within a half-hour lunch break. Ten minutes of brisk walking a day will help to maintain mental as well as physical health and wellbeing. Additionally, shoppers and visitors will be able to discover interesting bits of Bicester that they would usually miss otherwise.



Healthy Bicester supports Eat Out Eat Well scheme in Bicester

We consume around a quarter of our calories from eating out. Grabbing lunch is the norm — but consuming too many calories is easier than we may think, leading to being overweight and obesity. With nearly two in every three adults in Bicester being overweight or obese, it's more important than ever to include food outlets in our efforts to tackle obesity.

The Eat Out Eat Well award has been developed to reward caterers who make it easier for their customers to make healthy choices when eating out.

The award was launched in January 2018 across Cherwell and already eleven businesses have been successful — five of those in Bicester and referred for the award by the Healthy New Town Programme.

The scheme is a fantastic opportunity for businesses in the town to come on board with Healthy Bicester in raising awareness about healthy eating choices, passing the message on to their employees and customers.

More information about Eat Out Eat Well can be found at <https://eatouteatwell.org/>

Bicester Bike day

Fun for all ages at Bicester Bike Day.

An opportunity to get more active and discover cycling as well as many other fitness activities is what Bicester Bike Day 2018 is expected to be.

On Sunday 15th July at Pingle Field (opposite Bicester Village) residents of all ages, including keen cyclists, bike novices, as well as people who would like to get more active and have some fun are invited to take part in the free event promoting cycling, fitness and healthy living.

Now in its seventh year, the Bike Day will kick start at 10 am with a 'Tour de Bicester' family treasure hunt, which takes people around the town, and then back to Pingle Field for their medals. They will then be able to enjoy a whole host of activities which will take place from 11am to 2pm.

Bicester Technology Studio wins award for Most Creative School

The Year 10 Business Team won the award for Most Creative School for the hard work and thought that went into the Christmas Hampers, sold at the Bicester Christmas Market, in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

Last December, students faced the cold in order to raise as much money as they could for Katharine House Hospice and managed to sell out before lunchtime, surpassing all expectations and raising in excess of £800!



On winning this fantastic award from The Karcher Accumulator Challenge, for Katharine House Hospice, Steph McNeil, Assistant Principal and Director of Business Engagement at Bicester Technology Studio said: 'I am immensely proud of our Year 10s, who pushed boundaries to sell on the open market and showing great maturity in students so young'.

Well done to the Year 10 Business Students for this fantastic achievement!

Bicester Village 'Make a Difference' community fund

Bicester Village were delighted to announce the winning awards for the 'Make a Difference' an additional £22,000 set aside for worthy causes in Bicester. The key themes of the award were Youth, Health and Togetherness. Local non-profit organisations, charities, social enterprises and community groups were invited to apply for bids of up to £4,000 to support new opportunities

Miranda Markham, Community Relations Director, commented 'It is truly humbling to meet so many organisations who are playing such a vital role in the community. We added another £10,000 to the fund to meet the huge response, and have made 12 awards, but we will be reaching out to all of the groups who have applied to see how we can help going forward'.

The winning bids were;

Bicester Ecu, Aspire Oxford, Grassroots Bicester, South Central Ambulance Charity Trust, Friends Of Bicester North Station, The Friends Of Bardwell School, Bicester Museum & Heritage Trust, Bicester Concert Band, Forget Me Not Bicester, Launton Over 60s Club, Bicester Widows and Bicester Autism.

Sad passing of Cllr. Jolanta Lis

Tributes flooded in for Jolanta Lis, Councillor for Bicester Central Ward, vice-chair of Cherwell District Council and former Mayor of Bicester, who passed away on Friday 13th April. Flags were flown at half mast at Cherwell District Council's offices and Cllr Maurice Billington, Chairman of Cherwell District Council, said: 'Cllr Lis was one of the nicest people I had ever met and was highly thought of at the council and within the community'.



Bicester Vision celebrates 10 years

This is some achievement for a partnership organisation that set out to shape the future of Bicester; the work of this committed team has always focussed on developing a thriving economy in Bicester. The role of Bicester Vision is to ensure that there is a solid mix of employment opportunities in not only retail, but other important sectors including biotech and the sciences, advanced manufacturing, software and communications and 3rd sector opportunities.

Today, Bicester is a global brand, with an internationally recognised name and the town benefits from a committed band of traders and businesses. Change is inevitable, and it is down to those living and working in and around Bicester to work together to make the town an even more attractive place to visit. It is about getting the balance right between independent shops and national chains. Businesses in and around the town are contributing an incredible amount to the local economy but there is scope to do more, which is where Bicester Vision will play a role, collaborating with other groups such as the local Chamber of Commerce, Bicester Town Council and the Town Centre Traders, helping to attract new

businesses, new jobs and investment to the area.

The next 10 years will continue to see development, some of which has already started with Graven Hill, Kingsmere, the Eco Town etc, which will undoubtedly result in additional footfall in the town but much more needs to be done to encourage people to 'stay local'. The scale of growth being seen around Bicester in all areas, housing, jobs etc, brings with it challenges, not least to the area's road network. It is about how to create the infrastructure needed in a sustainable way. The challenge thrown down to the business community is to outline what is needed to deliver desired growth and direct the Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Authorities on how to use funding to best advantage to achieve the Government's ambitions.

Bicester Vision are ready for the challenge and are keen to hear from business leaders who share our desire for getting the best deal for Bicester and those businesses that operate here.

For more information visit:
www.bicestervision.co.uk, **01869 324244** or
info@bicestervision.co.uk

There's a New Team in Town

Following on from the success of Bicester's Big Lunch over the past five years, a group of like-minded volunteers have banded together to create a new not-for-profit community group called OneBicester. Our focus is to help Bicester work together to create one community by drawing diverse groups together, increasing awareness of other local organisations, charities and businesses, promoting greater partnership working and reducing social isolation for those living in and around Bicester.

We will continue to organise Bicester's Big Lunch, which this year takes place on Sunday 10th June, and expand on our existing markets with a new one to be held near to Halloween to add to our Easter and Christmas offerings. We are excited to also be working with Bicester Round Table to host Party in the Garth on Saturday 28th July and Cherwell District Council on a new community initiative.

OneBicester is a great way to get involved with your community as well

as make new friends through our members' social events. Current members range from sixth formers to retirees with experience from a range of business sectors. We provide an opportunity to learn new skills or build on existing ones.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to become a member of this new group, which is free to join, as well as local organisations and representatives from existing community groups to see how we can work together to ensure Bicester is a great place to live, work and play!

Please feel free to contact us via email
onebicester@gmail.com or find further details on our website **www.onebicester.org.uk**.



Bicester Book Group; read something different

If you love to read and would like to share your thoughts with a variety of like-minded people then the Bicester Book Group is for you!

We have been meeting for the last eight years to discuss and review a book every month. We meet at the Littlebury Hotel at 7.30pm, usually on the first Tuesday of the month.

You will be introduced to books you may never have thought of reading. We can't promise you'll always enjoy them but they should hopefully provide plenty of discussion. We read all sorts of books from fiction to non-fiction, from fantasy to crime thrillers, nothing is off limits. All members are encouraged to suggest books for the group to read and we select

books a couple of months in advance. Recent books include: Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng and The Lie by Helen Denmore. Upcoming books include: The Ballroom by Anna Hope and The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead.

Everyone is really welcome and we are always open to new people coming along. There are no joining or subscription fees.

So, if you want to see what it's all about, please look up 'Bicester Book Group' on Facebook or pop along to our next meeting.

www.facebook.com/groups/Bicesterbookgroup/

BAC JOINS OAW

Not a secret code but an important message.

Bicester Art Club's members will be displaying our art work (from pastels to pencils and oils to acrylics and watercolours) in Bicester Library from Saturday 5th May to Tuesday 15th May during normal library hours (the library is closed on Sundays 6th and 13th May and Bank Holiday Monday 7th May).

Bicester Art Trail will link us with 10 other exhibitions by artists and art groups in the local area.

Bicester Art Club will also be presenting the Club's Annual Exhibition in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 9th June from 9.30 to 4.30.

Look out for posters for these events.

Ladies and gentlemen, introducing the No.1 reading group

In case you didn't know, the No. 1 Reading Group for Ladies and Gentlemen meets at Bicester Library on the 1st Wednesday of each month!

We have been going strong since long before the library moved to its current new location in Franklins House, Wesley Lane, Bicester and with the assistance of the Library Service we borrow a set of books from a list chosen by us, to read each month.

We always review each book we are given and there is always a forthright ensuing discussion. If you

haven't enjoyed the book or even been able to finish it, that is still valid for discussion.

We had an outing last year to Thames Side in London to visit an area covered in one of our books and each year we have a Christmas meal together - sometimes in a member's home or more often at a local restaurant, Denis' being our favourite.

If you fancy joining us come along to the Library on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 5.30 until 7.00 pm.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Mon 18.00-19.00 Salvation Army Building, Hart Place, Bicester, OX26 4FR **0800 9177 650 - help@aamail.org**
Sat 19.30-20.30 Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester, OX26 6LG **0800 9177 650 - help@aamail.org**

Bicester Camera Club

If it is photography advice and camera tips you want then Bicester Camera Club is for you. We are a friendly club which aims to explore and improve photography whatever level you are. The programme includes practical evenings where you get your camera out and have a go, outings to take specific types of photography and guest speakers on varying subjects. We also do a monthly challenge which makes you consider what and how to take your entry.

We meet at the Tesco Superstore Community Space on alternative Mondays 7.00–9.30 pm all year round.

Take a look at our website **www.bicestercamera.club** or ring for a chat: Lynne Hooper **01869 601576**



Three Bicester play areas to be refurbished

Bicester Town Council has appointed suppliers and work will soon start on the refurbishment of three parks at Kestrel Way, Launton Meadows and Villers Road. The brief included requirements for robust and high-quality equipment, increased play provision and a large choice of play equipment that would include natural features, be visually attractive to visitors and residents, and blend in with its surroundings. We're hoping the refurbishments due to take place between May and July this year will result in some very positive feedback.

Villiers Road Play Area Bicester Town Council



Worried about your balance?

Age UK Oxfordshire's Strength & Balance classes are community-based targeted chair-based exercise classes for people who are worried about their balance and would like to improve their strength, balance, flexibility and confidence. Classes are held weekly during term time and are a positive and supportive group. Your first session is free, and there is a charge of £4 thereafter. Carers are very welcome to join for free when attending with the person they care for. Classes are held at the Bicester Methodist Church on Mondays at 12.15–1.15 pm. To get in touch or find out more, contact Generation Games on **01235 849 403**.

Bicester North Station's community makeover

Commuters travelling through Bicester North Station on Tuesday 6th February would have noticed a hive of activity in the garden on the London-bound platform. The activity was the first-ever working party of the Friends of Bicester North Station community group, who gave the station's garden a makeover.

Despite icy temperatures and even a flurry of snow, 21 volunteers turned up to dig out weeds and prepare the garden for future planting. Eventually, the 388-sqm space will be replanted with a garden that will provide year-round colour, a path and possibly even seating so that the railway's customers can enjoy the area while waiting for their train.

Bea Foster of Friends of Bicester North Station, said 'It was so much fun to take on a new project and be part of the birth of a new group. Already we can see a difference and it has been fantastic to work with such a great bunch of people. I look forward to more sessions and seeing Bicester North station looking splendid and cared for'.

The Friends of Bicester North are being supported with advice and materials from Bicester's Wyvale Garden Centre and Burleys Landscape Gardeners.



St. Edburg's Church, Bicester. Heritage Open Day 2018

THE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN OF BICESTER - Saturday September 8th 10am-4.00pm

'Extraordinary Women' is the theme for the National Heritage Open Days this year, as 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Universal Suffrage Act. St. Edburg's Church Heritage Open Day will commemorate the women of Bicester who have changed lives for the better in both large and small ways. We are inviting you to celebrate the extraordinary women of our town, past and present, who deserve recognition. Women whose stories have never been told — until now

Do you or your group have a woman you could nominate and tell us about? These women may have achieved greatness in their field — or simply have been a wonderful and supportive neighbour. We would ask that you respond to this invitation before July 31st.

We look forward to hearing from you over the coming weeks and months. Please contact office@stedburgschurch.org, with an email subject line of 'Heritage' or write to the St. Edburg's Heritage Group, c/o St. Edburg's Church Hall, Old Place Yard, Bicester, OX26 6AU or call **01869 323375**.

All are welcome to this free event. Refreshments will be available all day.

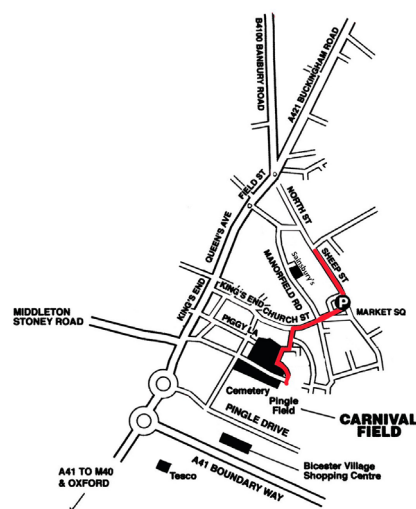
Party in the Garth 2018. Saturday 28th July

Pub in the Park, Bicester Round Table, OneBicester and the Ladies Circle have joined forces again to produce another fantastic event for the people of Bicester. There will be something for all ages so come relax on the lawns of the Garth and immerse yourselves in the live music. The event will raise money for worthy charities and local causes. Stay up to date with our progress by following us on social media.



The Carnival is Coming to Town

On Saturday 30th June the town centre and Pingle Field will come alive with the sights and sounds of the annual Bicester Town Carnival in association with Armed Forces Day. The theme for the procession is All Around the World: There will be a colourful and lively parade from Sheep Street at noon, to Pingle Field for 1pm and the main event. The arena will host a wide range of displays including a warrior fitness demonstration, the annual tug-of-war and Meirion Owen's Quack Pack, sheepdog display. There will also be plenty of stalls to visit including a craft fair. Our grand finale this year is Glory Days — A Tribute to Little Mix performing from 5pm until 7pm. All this is included in a single ticket price of £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s with under 5s free. Tickets can be purchased in advanced or on the gate. Further details available on the Town Council website www.bicester.gov.uk.



The route for the Carnival Procession

If you would like to join in the Procession and/or Carnival, then please complete the online form available on Bicester Town Council's website by Friday 25th May.

SEE Bicester, Shop, Enjoy, Experience Bicester

We have a great town centre and great businesses that need our support so, my council colleagues and I will officially launch 'SEE Bicester' – Shop Bicester, Enjoy Bicester, Experience Bicester on 14th May. We want people to ask themselves, before making a purchase on or offline, could this be purchased in Bicester?

Look out for our SEE Bicester posters and pick up a SEE Bicester jute bag (very reasonably priced) from most town centre businesses to show your friends and family that you are proud to have backed a Bicester business. We will be doing all we can to promote our great town centre businesses; you'll see many of us wearing the SEE Bicester lapel pin, and we'll be telling the story of Bicester business owners in the Bicester Advertiser, on the Facebook group, in our town notice boards and in the Bicester & Surrounding Villages Chat.

We have the support of almost every town centre business owner, colleagues and friends across all our councils, Bicester Vision and Bicester Village who are deeply committed to seeing our town prosper. This will need to be a great big team effort that could all be in vain unless I can enlist your support. Please Bicester, help me help our town centre by pledging your support to the SEE Bicester campaign, purchase the SEE Bicester jute bag, back the businesses displaying the SEE Bicester poster and ask yourself that one question before you make a purchase anywhere else, could this be purchased in Bicester?

Thank you – Councillor Sean Gaul

Bicester Town Council Civic Service and Parade

This year's Civic Service and Parade will be taking place on Sunday 3rd June.

The Church Service at St Edburg's will commence at 11.15am and will be followed by a Parade and March Past in Market Square.

The Parade will be led by the 2507 (Bicester) ATC Sqn Marching Band. Joining the parade will be many youth organisations, a marching contingency from Bicester Garrison units and other local charities.

1 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, Freedom of Entry on 21st July

Typically bestowed on local regiments in recognition of their dedicated service, 1 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps will have the privilege of marching through

the town 'with drums beating and colours flying'. A church service will be held where a scroll and gift will be given to the regiment to mark the event.

Raising the flag on Armed Forces Day

Attended by 1 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, the Garrison Commander, Garrison Sergeant Major, and the Mayor, the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag takes place the day before Bicester Carnival on 29th

June at 2pm in Garth Park as a symbol of thanks to the military both past and present. All are welcome to attend with refreshments served afterwards.

OYAP Trust launches summer programme at StudiO2

OYAP Trust, Bicester arts charity, works with young people inspiring creativity to help them build skills, contribute to their community and achieve accreditation. Approaching its 20th year in 2018, OYAP was seeking a new home for community cultural initiatives supporting expansion of their programme, reducing running costs and better managing their funds to help local young people's talent development.

Through collaboration with property developers U+I and Adalta Real, under a 'meanwhile use agreement', OYAP has moved into the former St. Edburg's School on Cemetery on peppercorn rent.

This offers exciting spaces for creative activities and is renamed 'StudiO2' continuing the youth-led tradition from OYAP's former youth arts space in Crown Walk (The Studio).

The summer programme starts with fashion, music and theatre including Eco Fashion Club, Bicester Theatre

Company and Junior Company, and Junior and Senior Rock Schools. StudiO2 will also host Bollywood dance and Art Pals groups for all ages.

Community activities and events including heritage installations and wellbeing-focused sessions will also help young people to build creativity, opportunities, kindness and community cohesion.

For more information and to sign up for any of these programmes, visit www.oyap.org.uk/whats-on.

To get involved or use space contact **admin@oyap.org.uk/01869 602560**.



WHAT'S ON 2018 - SUMMER EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	VENUE	ENTRY FEE
Bicester Carnival, in association with Armed Forces Day, with Glory Days—A Tribute to Little Mix concert at 5pm	Saturday 30th June	12.00pm - 7.00pm	Pingle Sports Field	All Entrants: £5.00 Under 16s: £3.00 Under 5s: FREE
WW1 Centenary Band Concert Waterloo Band & Bugles of 7th Battalion Rifles	Saturday 7th July	7.30pm - 10.00pm	Garth Park	All Entrants: £12.50 Under 16s: £6.00 Under 5s: FREE Advanced ticket sales: 20% reduction
Party in the Garth (Bicester Round Table, Ladies Circle and OneBicester)	Saturday 28th July	5.00pm - 10.00pm	Garth Park	All Entrants: £12.50 Under 16s: £6 Under 5s: Free
Teddy Bears' Picnic / Bicester Activity Day	Wednesday 1st August	11.00am - 3.00pm	Garth Park	FREE
The Ramps	Saturday 18th August	6.30pm - 10.00pm	Garth Park	All Entrants: £12.50 Under 16s: £6.00 Under 5s: FREE Advanced ticket sales: 20% reduction
Car Show	Sunday 19th August	11.00am - 4.00pm	Garth Park	FREE
Just 80s	Saturday 25th August	6.30pm — 10pm	Garth Park	All Entrants: £12.50 Under 16s: £6.00 Under 5s: FREE Advanced ticket sales: 20% reduction

ONE BICESTER
WORKING TOGETHER FOR ONE COMMUNITY
PRESENTS

1950s Street PARTY

Bicester's Big Lunch
Sunday 10th June 2018

BRING YOUR PICNIC

12 noon - 5pm

STALLS | LIVE MUSIC | STREET FOOD | DANCE
www.bicestersbiglunch.org.uk

Curtis Productions Present

Glory Days
A TRIBUTE TO LITTLE MIX

Bicester Town Council is proud to present our end of Carnival concert on Saturday 30th June at 5pm