



A Bicester Town Council
Newsletter for
the Community

BICESTER

GARTH GAZETTE

September 2019

BICESTER'S HIGHEST HONOUR

DEMS Training Regiment
march through the town with
swords drawn, bayonets fixed,
drums beating, band playing
and colours flying

SUPERHERO DAY

A new super-charged activity day for
children and families

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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.

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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 the Royal Mail.

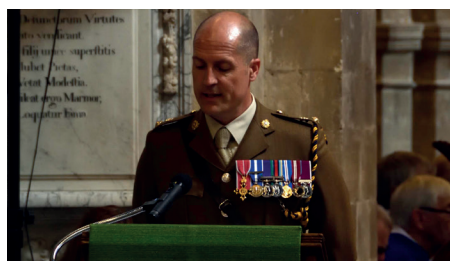
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Welcome to Bicester

Welcome to our new look edition of the Garth Gazette

There is always so much to see and do in Bicester over the summer and this year has been no exception. Most of the Town Council events are held in the Garth Park and are always well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. This year was the first of our Superheroes Activity Day, which replaced the Teddy bears' picnic, to include a wider age range of children, and was a real success, as was the Armed Forces Day and Bicester Carnival Day in late June. To end the summer SoulSide and Sledgehammer played to packed audiences in the park. There have been lots of community events, new and old, to bring everyone together like Bicester Bike Day, Bicester Festival and several performances and concerts.

I was especially moved to see DEMS Training Regiment given

the Freedom of the town and am always proud to see how much individuals and community groups do to bring the community together and support each other. We are now looking to Christmas and this edition of the Garth Gazette contains lots of dates to note down, not least the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Market Square and the Santa Fun Run in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities.

Samantha Shippen

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.

Welcome to our new mayor

Bicester welcomed its new mayor Jason Slaymaker, the youngest person ever to take up the post, he was sworn in in May with a busy calendar ahead of him for the next twelve months.

Jason will be supporting four local organisations this year: OYAP Trust, Nai's House, Bicester Fire Cadets and Alexandra House of Joy.

Cllr Slaymaker said: 'I feel very privileged to take on the role of Mayor of Bicester. This is the place I've grown up so it's very surreal, especially because I'm only 27. My focus for the year will be to support and provide a voice for the younger generation of Bicester, including developing new initiatives where possible.

'As a teenager I got involved with the youth council because I was passionate about making a positive contribution to the future of our town and wanted to help shape the place we live for future generations. I'm pretty sure there are plenty of young people in the town who feel the same way'.

Jason was a former chairman of the youth council in 2008/09 and is currently a Bicester town and Cherwell district councillor.

He works as a business development manager for Bicester Green and is responsible for building partnerships with stakeholders and securing grant funding to develop 'exciting' new environmental and social impact projects for Bicester.



Save the dates for Christmas Fun

Summer feels like a long time ago now the kids are back to school, but Christmas is round the corner and the Town Council have two fantastic events planned.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

This year the Christmas Lights will be switched on in Market Square at 6pm on Saturday 30th November. However, there will be activities throughout the day for all the family to enjoy. Please save the date, bring family and friends and join in the festivities.



SANTA FUN RUN

Bicester's ever popular Santa Fun Run will take place on Sunday 15th December starting and finishing, as always, at Pingle Field. Entry prices are £10 for Adults, £5 for Children 5-16yrs and a Family Ticket (2 x adults, 2x children) for £25. The price includes a Santa suit, a participation medal and a bacon roll, with a trophy awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd runner to finish the approximate 5k course.

Due to the high popularity of the Fun Run, numbers are limited to 500 and the closing date for entries will be Friday 6th December 2019. An entry

form can be found on the back page of this magazine.

All proceeds will go the Mayor's chosen charities, which this year are OYAP Trust, Nai's House, Bicester Fire Cadets and Alexandra House of Joy. For the sixth year running Evolve Health and Fitness are kindly sponsoring the race.

Please visit www.bicester.gov.uk for online entries or send your paper entry form to Bicester Town Council, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6PS. For further information please call **01869 252915**.

Regiment receives town's highest honour

Crowds gathered to cheer as a Bicester military training regiment received the highest honour from the town.

Mayor Jason Slaymaker presented the Freedom of Entry to the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search Training Regiment, (DEMS), based at St George's Barracks, at a special ceremony on Sunday in Market Square.

The decree, a ceremonial honour, means the regiment can now march through the town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, band playing and colours flying.

The event began with a service at St Edburg's Church, followed by a parade to Market Square, where troops were inspected by Mayor Cllr Slaymaker and Brigadier Matt

Bazeley Late RE, Commandant of the Royal School of Military Engineering Group.

In a break with tradition, the scroll was presented in Market Square - previously it was handed over in a private ceremony - to Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hallett OBE RLC MA, Commanding Officer Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search Training Regiment.

Mayor Cllr Slaymaker said: 'It was a momentous occasion for Bicester and a huge honour and privilege for me, as town mayor, to grant the Freedom of Entry upon the DEMS Training Regiment on behalf of my

fellow councillors and citizens of the town.

'It was a wonderful day and I would especially like to thank the crowds who came out to show their support, it was much appreciated'.

The Freedom of Entry was given to 1 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC), based at St David's Barracks, last year, and The Liberty of Bicester had previously been given to 2507 Bicester ATC and 23 Pioneer Regiment, which disbanded in 2014 as part of restructuring in the Armed forces.

Picture credit: Skeleton Photography



Bicester leading the way with 'Changing Places'

Plans have been unveiled to revamp Bicester's public toilets to help those living with disabilities gain greater freedom whilst visiting the town centre.

As part of Changing Places Awareness Day (Friday 19th July), Cherwell District Council committed £120,000 towards refitting the public conveniences at Claremont car park, off Victoria Road, to include a new area where people who struggle to use the toilet can be changed. Both the men's and women's public toilets will also be refurbished as part of the plan.

More than a quarter of a million people in the UK suffer with severe disabilities and need to use fully accessible Changing Places toilets. This includes people with profound

and multiple learning disabilities, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, as well as older people.

In Bicester, Bardwell School helps to educate youngsters with such conditions. Headteacher, John Riches said: 'Without such facilities, it can be almost impossible for our pupils and their families to go out. Changing Places toilets are a vital part of enabling people with disabilities, and their carers, to lead full and happy lives'.

Dan Sames, Cherwell's lead member

for clean and green said: 'Having the Changing Places toilets in Bicester will make a real difference to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. With only 1,300 facilities of this kind across the UK we should be proud that Bicester is leading the way in installing one and that Cherwell places a high value on making our public facilities as accessible as possible'.

Included in the plans are space for a hoist, a bed and a large free area to help manoeuvrability. The project is expected to be completed by early December 2019.

New Eco Business Centre springs into life

Bicester's innovative new Eco Business Centre is set to open its doors this month.

Developed by Cherwell District Council, it's the first non-domestic building in the UK to achieve Passivhaus Plus, a rigorous standard for energy efficiency. The structure in Elmsbrook forms part of the zero carbon community in NW Bicester, led by A2 Dominion, providing new housing alongside employment and showing how new buildings can help to reduce our carbon emissions and address climate change.

Town Square Spaces Ltd have been selected to manage and run the centre, providing office and coworking space, giving a unique place for start-ups and small businesses to grow. It will also be available for meetings and events. A full-time community manager has been employed on site, helping to build a positive environment for staff, freelancers and business founders.

Operating under the Perch brand, the Eco Business Centre will run alongside the existing coworking space at Franklins House, managed by Point of Difference. Both businesses share Cherwell's

commitment to providing alternative spaces to work, taking the stress and environmental impact out of commuting as well as providing business support and opportunities for networking.

And the benefits of coworking don't end there. It is also proven to have a positive impact on people's mental health, especially for the self-employed and those working from home.

Local residents are invited to a welcome evening at the Eco Business Centre on Thursday 26th September. For more details, email Eco@perchcoworking.co.uk or call **01869 208 220**.

For enquiries regarding coworking at Perch at Franklins House in the town centre, email Hello@perchcoworking.co.uk or call **01869 690 126**.



Hungry like the wolf for Sledgehammer

By day they do jobs in medicine, sales, IT and teaching, but at the weekends they take to the stage as 80s covers band Sledgehammer and on 24th August they played to a packed Garth Park; the finale event of Bicester Town Council's summer programme.

The band, Russ Fray on vocals, Simon Bays on guitar, Alex Grout on bass and Phil Heard on drums, formed after a conversation at Haddenham Beer festival and played their first gig just months later at the Nightingale

Pub, in Langford Village, in 2016.

Simon said: 'We were really excited to be coming to play in Bicester, it's our spiritual home and has our biggest fan base. A perfect end to the summer'.

Bicester's Mayor Jason Slaymaker said: 'I have seen Sledgehammer in action, so I knew we are in for a great night. Garth Park is a great location for a party, people brought their own picnics and enjoyed a fantastic evening of music and dancing'.

Superhero fun for all

It was a day of fun, fun, fun as Garth Park's gates were thrown open to host the town's first ever Superhero Activity Day.

More than 1,000 people attended the event at the Launton Road park, which was organised by Bicester Town Council. Many visitors donned their favourite superhero costume and Bicester's mayor Jason Slaymaker handed out spot prizes to all the stand-out superheroes.

The superhero activity day was part of the council's summer events programme and replaced the Teddy bears' picnic, which ran for more than 15 years.

There was live music and a children's entertainer on the bandstand and a host of free activities sponsored by Bicester Village, including zorbing, football darts, drumming workshops, inflatables, Punch and Judy, a miniature farm and face painting.

The town council's outdoor team were also on hand to help children plant more than 200 plants in pots which the youngsters then took home.

Cllr Slaymaker said: 'The town council would like to thank Bicester Village, who funded the event and ensured all the activities were free. We could not have staged this type of event without their kind support. The park was very busy and there were lots of smiling faces – so I think it's safe to say the first superhero activity day has been a super success. It was a wonderful day. Even the odd downpour didn't dampen spirits'.



Motown with SoulSide

On Saturday 10th August SoulSide returned to Garth Park for another fantastic evening of Soul, Motown and Disco. The Motown night is very much looked forward to and incredibly well attended. We were very pleased to have SoulSide back for another year.



Thousands flock to carnival

Thousands of people enjoyed the sunshine and fun of Bicester Carnival on Saturday 29th June.

A traditional procession of floats and walking groups left Sheep Street at noon and weaved its way to Pingle Field to officially open the circus themed carnival.

Among the groups in the procession were 1st Bicester Intrepid Scout Group, Bicester Rugby Club and Bicester ECU, while Bicester's Mayor Jason Slaymaker took an unusual ride to the carnival field – he went in a fire engine driven by his uncle, firefighter Paul Mann.

The annual carnival, organised by Bicester Town Council, attracted about 3,000 people and hosted a

range of stall and family activities. These included charity stalls, a fun fair, performances by local bands, dance and martial arts groups, Warrior Fitness organised by local Army regiments, and a military tug of war – won by the DEMS Training Regiment, based at St George's Barracks, near Bicester.

Mayor Cllr Slaymaker, who is also chairman of the town council events committee, said it was an 'amazing' day. He added: 'I took a break from the mayoral tradition of joining the procession in the Charabanc car and instead joined the Fire Cadets

in the county's training appliance, the added bonus was my uncle was driving it. I have been involved in the planning of the carnival all year so it was great to see it all come together. It was an amazing day, the carnival was well-attended and stalls and activities busy throughout the day. Lots of people participated in the activities and the entertainment was fantastic.'

Proceeds from the carnival will go to the organisations supported by the mayor this year, which are OYAP Trust, Nai's House, Bicester Fire Cadets and Alexandra House of Joy.

Bicester Hospital League of Friends

Hello from the League of Friends.

The League of Friends continue to support the hospital, our volunteers make beds and serve drinks morning and afternoon. We raise funds to support the hospital by purchasing items that the NHS do not supply.

We recently bought a new special vehicle for our hospital which is now in use and our old vehicle was donated to the Humming Bird Centre, so it's still serving our community.

It is through the support of all of you that we are able to raise monies to enable us to make these purchases. 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.



We will be holding our usual Christmas Coffee Morning, Bring and Buy on Friday 22nd November 2019 at the Littlebury Hotel at 10.30am. Please come along and support your local hospital. Have a cuppa, a cake, a chat with old friends and make some new friends.

Items donated for this can be left at the hospital during November.

For more information email rosetjstratford@outlook.com or write to:
Rose Stratford, 8 Queens Court,
Bicester, OX26 6JX.

Sheds at Bicester Green

Meet, make and mend at Bicester Green. Do you have time on your hands during the day? Do you love escaping to a workshop to make or repair things? Would you like to get out and meet people who also love tinkering in a workshop or shed?

Bicester Green in conjunction with Cherwell District are launching Bicester's first 'Sheds' project. Sheds is an opportunity to come to Bicester Green's workshops and potter, tinker, make, repair or just chat with like-minded people. There are electricals or bikes to repair, woodworking to be done, tools to be refurbished and plenty of materials

to play with to make something new out of something old. Choose from a morning or afternoon session, or if you're really enjoying your time then you can stay for both! There is a charge per session, but no commitment to attend every week, just turn up and have fun.

Sheds will take place at Bicester Green every Tuesday, 10am -

12.30pm or 1pm - 3.30pm, and costs £3 per session.

To find out more about Bicester Green call in to see us (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday) at The Yard, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6PS, follow us on [Facebook.com/BicesterGreen](https://www.facebook.com/BicesterGreen) or visit www.bicestergreen.org.uk.

Bicester Ladies Circle 'serving' the community

Bicester Ladies Circle had a wonderful time supporting Bicester Round Table at Party in the Garth this year; we were serving Pimms, wine and prosecco, alongside the live music acts, to raise money for local charities.

We've also been out having fun at the Junkyard Golf in Oxford, taking on pub quizzes and some of us are undertaking a walking marathon in London so we've been training hard in our lovely local countryside. Our next charity event will be at The Angel

on 3rd October, keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details, and of course we'll be with Round Table again at the Pingle Field Fireworks on 9th November. See you there! We are a friendly society of women aged 18-45 for fun, friendship and

fundraising. We'd love to meet you! Find us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit ladiescircle.co.uk/bicester.

Lads, check out Round Table, and for those over 45 the fun continues in Tangent and 41 Club.

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours...



Bicester Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers offer friendship and support to older people in Bicester and nearby villages. As well as visiting for a chat, we can help with simple DIY jobs, gardening and even dog walking, so volunteers with a range of skills and interests are always needed.

Our volunteers say they love getting to know the people they visit, who soon become true friends, whatever the age gap. To keep everyone safe, new volunteers are asked to complete some paperwork, including a free DBS check. Once that is done, the introductions are made, and a little time donated can

make a big difference to someone who might otherwise struggle on alone.

Volunteer Glenda says, 'It is a joy to be part of BGNS. Volunteering is so well rewarded by the pleasure of the visits'!

If you want to know more about

volunteering, or you would like a volunteer to visit you, please call Ann on **07849 799530**, Monday to Friday, during office hours, or email bgns@live.com

For more information visit www.goodneighbourscheme.com or find us on Facebook.

Practise and improve your skills at Bridge

Are you looking for a social activity that exercises your memory amongst like-minded people? Bicester Bridge Club runs social sessions for people just like you, suitable for:

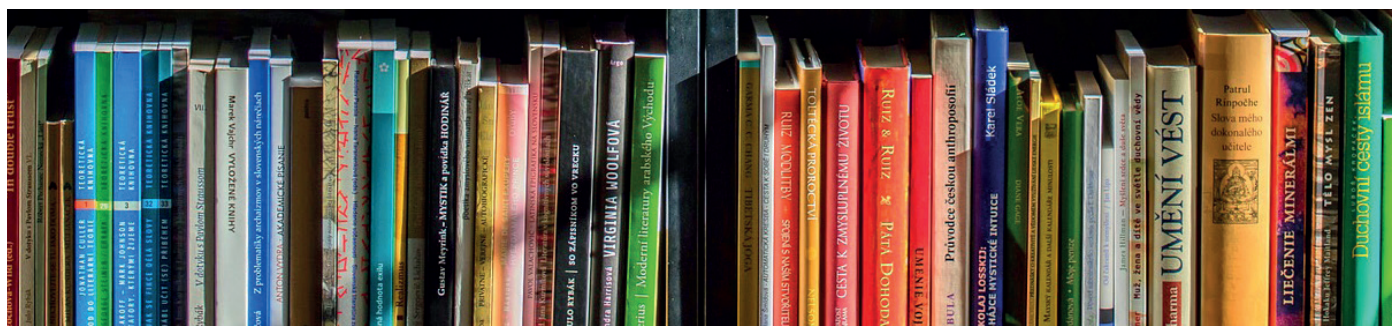
- People who want to know if a bridge class would benefit them.
- Getting back into the game.
- Learning Duplicate Bridge from a background of Rubber or Kitchen Table Bridge.
- People who want to play bridge once a week on a Thursday afternoon.

Each Thursday session has a supervisor/teacher so if you get stuck on a bid or think you could make an extra trick you can ask for help and you'll take away a commentary on the hands you've played – a terrific learning aid.

Supervised bridge is the best type of practice you can have to develop

your skills in this wonderful game.

Come to a free taster session any Thursday from 2pm until 4pm at the Kingsmere Community Centre, Bicester, OX26 1EG. You don't need a partner. Just come along or call David Tarsky on 07867 126188 for more details.



Enjoy reading with Bicester Book Group

We have been meeting for the last 10 years to discuss and review a book every month. We meet at The Littlebury Hotel, 7.30pm, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. If you love to read and would like to share your thoughts, then the Bicester Book Group is for you!

We read all sorts of books from fiction to non-fiction, from fantasy to crime thrillers, all members are encouraged to suggest books for the group to read and we select books a couple of months in advance.

There is also a sub-group that meets on the 2nd Monday in the month,

2.30pm, at The Nightingale in Langford, reading different books to those above.

Everyone is welcome, there are no joining or subscription fees. Visit 'Bicester Book Group' on Facebook or pop along to our next meeting.

Charge your phone while you work out at an innovative outdoor gym

Residents at the Eco Town development at North West Bicester, Elmsbrook can now use the latest outdoor gym equipment at the play area off Charlotte Avenue in Elmsbrook. The equipment includes an exercise bike, chin-up bar and cross trainer, as well as a fully-accessible hand-bike suitable for wheelchair users, and was officially opened by Town Mayor Cllr Jason Slaymaker on Thursday 18th July.

Users of the community health hub can charge their phone whilst keeping fit, as the amount of energy generated can be transferred by using the USB outlets. The outdoor gym is also linked to the TGO Activate app, which tracks exercise, helping users see exactly how many

calories they're burning each week. The same app can be used on any of the three 5k Health Routes in Bicester with the total amount of exercise being calculated.

Cllr Andrew McHugh, lead member for health and wellbeing at Cherwell

District Council, said: 'Enabling residents to keep physically active is a major part of the Healthy Bicester project. This is the third gym of its kind in the town and I look forward to seeing people of all ages and abilities using the equipment'.

Bicester businesses come together to support youth enterprise

More than 200 pupils from across Bicester have learnt more about the world of business during a youth enterprise day.

Companies from both the public and private sector, including volunteers from Cherwell District Council, High Spec Composites Ltd, Cherwell Laboratories Ltd and Bicester Vision, gave up their time and shared their expertise for the event at Cooper School on Thursday 4th July.

As part of the day, members from Cherwell's Healthy Bicester team gave Year 10 and Year 12 students the task of marketing the outdoor gym equipment installed at Garth

Park and Spider Park (off Keble Rd), as well as the digitised work-out apps, and then asked each group to pitch their ideas.

Rosie Rowe, programme director for Healthy Bicester said: 'It was an incredibly worthwhile day and we are thrilled to have been involved. I hope the students learnt a lot and we certainly enjoyed hearing their well developed ideas.

'We were so impressed that we have offered to take the two winning

pitches forward to implement some of their ideas into our current marketing strategy'!

The day was run by Young Enterprise, a national charity who aim to motivate young people to succeed in the world of work by equipping them with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need. It's the first time pupils from Bicester Technology Studio, Bicester School and Cooper School have combined for such an event.

A wheely good day out in Bicester!

Active travel was celebrated on Saturday 20th July with the return of Bicester Bike Fun Day.

The annual free event run by Cherwell District Council and NW Bicester developer A2Dominion encourages residents of all ages and abilities to take up cycling as a social activity, and is an excellent way to travel around the town.

Cllr Andrew McHugh, Cherwell's lead member for health and wellbeing, said: 'Getting people out on their bikes is a key part of Bicester's future. It's not only great exercise,

but good for the environment and one of the quickest ways to get around. All journeys made within Bicester are less than 5km, which at average cycling speed takes around 20 minutes, often quicker than the equivalent journey by car. Bicester Bike Fun Day gives everyone the chance to get out and explore Bicester on two wheels, whether you're an experienced cyclist or just starting out'.



WHERE IS IT SPENT?

ENVIRONMENT

2018/19 £1,073,614
2019/20 £976,271

Sunderland Drive
2018/19 - £8,000
2019/20 - £7,900

Open spaces
2018/19 - £451,414
2019/20 - £373,021

Bicester Fields
2018/19 - £5,100
2019/20 - £5,100

Sports Village
2018/19 - £134,800
2019/20 - £135,400

Pingle Field
2018/19 - £7,650
2019/20 - £6,910

Play areas
2018/19 - £14,000
2019/20 - £14,000

Street Scene
2018/19 - £48,000
2019/20 - £46,900d

Environmental services
2018/19 - £311,300
2019/20 - £297,200

Allotments
2018/19 - £2,850
2019/20 - £2,500

Cemetery
2018/19 - £3,500
2019/20 - £3,340

Town Council events

2018/19 - £45,500
2019/20 - £45,500

OTHER

2018/19
£607,000

2019/20
£706,270

RECREATION & TOURISM

2018/19
£707,964

2019/20
£626,331

Garth House

2018/19 - £47,300
2019/20 - £39,100

Civic & democratic
2018/19 - £37,650
2019/20 - £31,950

Corporate Finance
2018/19 - £28,500
2019/20 - £13,850

Garth Lodge

2018/19 - £3,00
2019/20 - £2,000

Projects
2018/19 - £152,500
2019/20 - £257,000

Community support
2018/19 - £54,500
2019/20 - £70,250

Central support & services to the public
2018/19 - £283,550
2019/20 - £292,120

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

2018/19 - £1,680,614

2019/20 - £1,682,541



An unforgettable Halloween Fright Night

OYAP are excited to announce the second year of their successful 'Fright Night' experience. Collaborating with Cherwell Theatre Company and Wrong Shoes Theatre Company, OYAP hope to provide a Halloween night you will never forget.

Fright Night will be a young people's performance, bringing together OYAP's Rock School and Youth Theatre groups to bring to life our eerie Victorian primary school building, with hidden ghosts and ghouls in every corner...

We will be running a Special FX Make-Up workshop with a professional make-up artist during October half term. Learn to create horrific looks and then bring them to life on the actors for the performance on Thursday evening!

Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates and tickets. If you have an enquiry, please email admin@oyap.org.uk. The Special FX Make-Up workshop will be available to sign up to via our website, www.oyap.org.uk

Greenfields will soon have a home in Bicester

Greenfields Care and Support is committed to helping patients who are undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy or other conventional treatments to overcome stress, anxiety, depression and pain through the healing powers of Complementary Therapy; this service is also extended to patients' families and carers.

Once renovation is complete on what was the Old Bakery, Greenfields is setting it up as a small day spa with a difference. A percentage of each treatment payment will go to Greenfields to enable someone with a life limiting illness to have a free

treatment. The spa will also offer pamper days for the family, carers are welcome too, scar therapy for all scars including ladies with mastectomy scars, bereavement therapy for those who have recently lost loved ones, plus massage, reflexology, facials and much more!

For more information visit greenfields-support.co.uk



OYAP Trust's first showcase in new venue

This was the first time since OYAP have had the chance to share their work with family and friends under professional theatre lights since they moved into the Old St Edburg's School.

All three Rock School bands performed.

OYAP Trust is striving to turn the Old St Edburg's School into a community venue for arts and culture. We were honoured to receive a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June.

If you want to know any more please contact admin@oyap.org.uk.

Celebrating 25 Years of Langford Village Hall

To mark the silver anniversary of the hall's activities the Langford Village Community Association (LVCA) organised a free family fun day on Sunday 5th May. To show what goes on in the hall every week many of its regular users gave demonstrations including line dancing, square dancing, and even Qigong, a form of gentle exercise.

There was face painting and fun with the Cubs and Brownies in the garden and Langford Orchard supporters helped youngsters to plant a sunflower seed. Toddlers

were also entertained with activities provided by Bicester Peekaboos and Ready2Tumble.

Langford's FLTR provided the coffees and tea and cake was served by the WI. The more energetic then embarked on a walking Treasure Hunt around the Langford Village blue line, solving clues and finding stones decorated by Bicester Rocks.

Chairman of LVCA, Carole Hetherington, said 'We'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration day a great success'.



Bicester Camera Club

Meets on alternate Mondays at Kingsmere Community Centre, Whitelands Way, Bicester OX26 1EG. Meeting starts at 7.15pm and finishes around 9.30pm. Photographers of all abilities are welcome. For more information see our website www.bicestercamera.club or ring Lynne on 01869 601576

Bicester Camera Club held their first externally judged competition in July, which was won by Ian Jones with 'Simply Red' Well done Ian.

3rd Bicester Scouts Adventure to Slovakia

For the first 2 weeks of August, our group of 14 Scouts and 5 leaders went on a 2-week adventure to Eastern Slovakia, starting with a tour of Bratislava given by Slovakian Scouts.

Throughout the 2 weeks we took part in a large variety of activities; rafting down the Polish/Slovak border, visiting various UNESCO world heritage sites – Spiš Castle, St James Church (the largest wooden altar in the world) and Dobsinska Ice Cave (one of the world's top ten ice caves). We went up the High Tatra mountains in a cable car and came

down on mountain carts, swam in a collapsed volcano, did a tree top walk in Bachladova and hiking in Slovensky Raj. Our Scouts met up with Slovaks throughout our tour and learned as much as they could from the Slovak culture.

It really was a trip of a lifetime and we would like to thank all the individuals

and companies who supported us during our fundraising efforts.

Anyone interested in becoming a Scout, leader or supporter and joining us for more adventures, please contact Elbert on

3rdBicesterScouts@NorthOxfordshireScouts.org.uk.



Refurbished play park open for fun

Sunderland Drive is the latest of Bicester's play parks to receive a refurbishment and be open and ready for action



What's on at Bicester Methodist Church 2019

Monday

Ride On Time

10am – 12pm active play for under 5s

Musical Minis

11am – 11.45am fun music programme, (birth – 4)

Age UK Strength and Balance

12.15pm – 2.30pm classes for over 60s, spaces available!

BMC Wives Club

8pm friendly group often with speaker, new members welcome.

Bicester Widows

1.30 – 3.30pm – help, friendship and support, call for dates.

Diabetes Prevention

Various dates, call for info.

Tuesday

Acorn Toddler group 10.30am – 12pm fun for under 5s, pre-registration required.

Forget Me Nots 9am – 3pm Friendship, activities and Lunch club for seniors.

Rock of Ages Coffee morning

in Church Foyer 10am – 12pm come for a cuppa, make new friends.

Tai Chi

2pm – 4pm – increase your flexibility and fitness.

Tuesday Fellowship

2.30pm call for dates

Wednesday

Grapevine Toddler group

9.45am – 11.15am fun for preschoolers.

Scrabble Club

2pm – 4pm 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Knit and Natter

10am – 12pm friendly knitting group, call for dates.

Bicester Memory cafe

10.30am – 12pm last Wednesday of the month, check for dates.

Bicester Art Club

2pm – 4pm please call for more info.

Wednesday Fellowship

2pm – 4pm fortnightly meetings.

Thursday

Achieve Oxfordshire

Please note this is a closed group, for more info call 01865-338119 or check website achieveoxfordshire.org.uk/

Forget Me Nots

9am – 3pm friendship, activities and Lunch club for seniors.

Narcotics Anonymous

7pm – 9pm help, support and advice.

Friday

Coffee morning with lunch

9.30 – 1pm refreshments and friendly chat

Musical Minis

9.45am – 10.30am fun music programme (birth – 4)

Diabetes Prevention

11am – 3pm various dates, call for info.

Elim Aspire Ladies Group

7pm – 9pm call for dates

Saturday

Bicester Crafters

10am – 4pm 1st Saturday of the month

Open Doors

in Church Foyer 11am – 1pm come for a cuppa, make new friends.

Alcoholics Anonymous

7.30pm – 9pm help, support and advice.

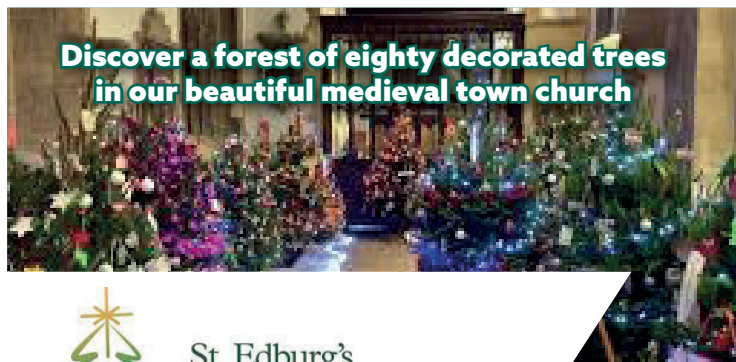
Please watch this space for new events as we have an ever-changing programme!

We also hold regular meetings in the evenings for Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers and Guides, Beavers and Scouts and Explorers. Please note: most classes are term time only and run subject to availability.

For more information on any of the above classes, or to enquire about hiring our halls, please email churchadmin@bicestermethodist.org.uk

Or phone the Church office on Bicester 323030 (answerphone out of office hours)

**Discover a forest of eighty decorated trees
in our beautiful medieval town church**



St. Edburg's
Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 6th, Saturday 7th December 2019
10am. to 7pm

Sunday 8th December 2019
12.30pm to 5pm

Carols in the Trees at 6pm

LIVE MUSIC | REFRESHMENTS | FAMILY TREE HUNT

Suggested adult donation **£2.50**, accompanied children **FREE**

Thursday 5th December:

Church open all day for the community to set up trees

To sponsor and decorate a tree (£22 for non-profit making groups, £44 for businesses), book a free live music performance slot or for further information please contact:

St Edburg's Church Office -
email office@stedburgschurch.org (01869 323375)

St Edburg's
FOUNDATION

heritage open days

St. Edburg's Church Bicester

Heritage Open Day

Saturday September 21st 2019

10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

THEN AND NOW

Exhibitions

Tours

Family activities

Refreshments all day

A FREE EVENT



Trinity Camerata Family Concert

"HOLD YOUR HORSES"

Sunday 13th October 2019 3.45 p.m.

St. Edburg's Church Bicester

Join the orchestra for an afternoon of equine favourites:

- The Big Country
 - **Appalachian Spring:** "The story of Blazer, the fastest horse in the Appalachians" - Narrator Lynn Farleigh
 - The William Tell Overture
- and much more

interval refreshments, family activities, audience participation

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

CHILDREN FREE

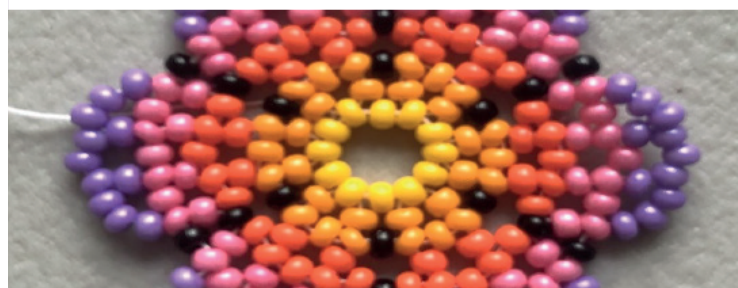
Little ponies, unicorns and toy horses all welcome!



NEW!

BEADING & CRAFT CAFÉ

at Bicester Methodist Church



Starting on Wednesdays

25th September | 23rd October | 27th November

ALL WELCOME.

Do come and join us in the Church Foyer,

10am - 12pm

Small charge to cover supplies.



bicester Santa fun run

Sunday 15th December 2019 ~ 11am ~ Pingle Field



Entry Form

Name(s):

Age(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

In the spirit of Christmas, all participants are required to wear their Santa suit at all times during the event.

Signed:

Entry Fee:

£10 per adult
£5 per child (5-16 yrs)
£25 family ticket
(2 adults, 2 children)

Price includes Santa suit, participation medal and bacon buttie!



**Closing date for entries is Friday 6th December 2019
No entries on the day.**

Bicester Town Council, Launton Rd, Bicester OX26 6PS.
Tel: 01869 252915 Email: julie.trinder@bicester.gov.uk
Cheques made payable to Town Mayor's account.
For online entries go to www.bicester.gov.uk

