



A Bicester Town Council
Newsletter for
the Community

BICESTER

GARTH GAZETTE

September 2025



EVENTS NEWS WHAT'S ON SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome | 2

News | 3

Events | 4

Community | 7

What's On | 9

Community | 10

Save the Dates | 16

Your Councillors

Your local Councillor is democratically elected to represent the people of the town on the Town Council. Bicester is divided into four wards, with elected Councillors in each ward.

East Ward

Councillor Tom Beckett

Tom.beckett@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Sam Holland

Sam.holland@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Donna Ford

Donna.ford@bicester.gov.uk

North Ward

Councillor Nick Mawer

Nick.mawer@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Rachel Mallows

Rachel.mallows@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor John Willett

john.willett@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Paul Wheatley (Deputy Mayor)

Paul.wheatley@bicester.gov.uk

South Ward

Councillor Alisa Russell (Mayor)

Alisa.russell@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Nick Cotter

Nick.cotter@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Christopher Pruden

Christopher.pruden@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Damien Maguire

Damien.maguire@bicester.gov.uk

West Ward

Councillor Harry Knight

Harry.knight@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Dan Hallett

Dan.hallett@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Les Sibley

Les.sibley@bicester.gov.uk

Councillor Jim Webb

Jim.webb@bicester.gov.uk

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.

Staff

Town Clerk / **Phil Evans**
Deputy Clerk / **Paul Canning**
Service Manager / **Mick Lee**
Responsible Finance Officer / **Trevor Longfield**
Administration Officer & Mayor's PA (Civic & Democratic) / **Maria Galic**
Administration Officer (Events & Marketing) / **Isobel May**
Administration Officer (Sports & Facilities) / **Tanya Govorusa**
Administration Officer (Finance) / **Viktorija Kovale**
Outdoor Supervisor / **Conor Pattison**
Outdoor Technician / **Mark Jones**
Outdoor Technician / **Kyle Carr**
Outdoor Technician / **William King**
Outdoor Technician / **Kane Gray**
Outdoor Technician / **Simon Knight**
Outdoor Technician / **Dave Bambrook**
Outdoor Technician / **Dave Stone**
Outdoor Technician / **Neill Richardson**
Whitelands Supervisor / **Paul Tulley**
Whitelands Operative / **Andrew Gaul**
Whitelands Operative / **Helena Cook**
Whitelands Operative / **Adam Varndell**
Whitelands Operative / **Craig Johnson**
Whitelands Operative / **Ethan Wilkins**

Contacting your Town Council

Log in to Bicester Town Council at: **www.bicester.gov.uk**, phone on: **01869 252915** or email us at: **enquiries@bicester.gov.uk**. The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6PS.

Want to be in the next issue?

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 for community groups and events or book advertising for commercial ventures.



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



Find us on YouTube search: **BicesterTownCouncil**

Welcome

It has been a very busy summer for the council with all the fantastic events we've organised in Garth Park, and around the town. We were all shocked and saddened by the tragic deaths of Martyn Sadler, Jennie Logan and Dave Chester in May, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families and colleagues. Bicester as a town has shown its support for the Fire Service, and the memory of Mr Chester in many ways, including lining the streets to pay their respects, concerts and events to raise funds, and most recently the Family Memorial Day at the Rugby Club. I am very proud to be part of such a supportive community.

I hope you'll enjoy this edition of the Garth Gazette. It is full of fantastic images (thank you Eddy Gong) that recounts the summer's events,



lets you know what is coming up in Bicester and what community groups and events you can get involved with. Don't forget to save the dates on the back page and let us know your thoughts about the Christmas Lights Trail.

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

An introduction to Tanya Govorusa

We are keen to introduce you to different members of the Town Council team. In this edition we are going to find out more about Tanya Govorusa.



Could you describe your role?

As the Sports and Facilities Administrator, I play a key role in Allotments & Sports, which includes facilitating the day-to-day management of allotments using the Council's allotments software, including allocation, invoicing, and monitoring of compliance with terms of tenancy agreements, assisting the Service Manager in the administration of allotment inspections and other records relating to Allotments. I assist the Service Manager and Chief Officer in the operation of Council services, facilities, and open spaces, and I am the initial point of contact for day-to-day enquiries with customers of the Town Council. I also oversee our Sports Facilities where I book pitches for football teams in Bicester.

What is one thing that surprised you about your role?

It has been eye-opening to see the difference from working for corporate companies to now working for the Town Council. Since working for the Town Council, I have seen the difference between county, district, and parish councils, and how they split or share responsibilities depending on the area. I hadn't realised how much time and effort goes into everything they do.

What is your favourite place in Bicester and why?

When I was younger it was without a doubt my grandfather and grandmother's house in Longfields, and now more recently, I'd say my favourite place is Garth Park - I love a walk in nature and find the park incredibly peaceful.

What was your first job?

My first job was working as a shampoo girl at Gemini Hair Salon.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I love watching tennis, going shopping for a charity shop mooch, getting my nails done, going to the gym and going to the theatre or cinema.

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

Compassionate, Driven & Enthusiastic.

Do you have a hidden talent?

Drawing.

Introducing Our Mayor

Councillor Alisa Russell was elected as Bicester's Mayor in May 2025, celebrated at our annual Mayor Making Ceremony on the 12th of May.

Congratulations also go to our newly-appointed Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Wheatley. The Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Damien Maguire, celebrated some of Bicester's unsung heroes by presenting Good Citizen Awards, and our new Mayor presented Grant Aid cheques to a number of incredible local groups and charities.

This year the Mayor's chosen charities are FLAG DV and The Hummingbird Centre.

FLAG DV (Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence) provides free legal advice to those experiencing domestic violence and abuse, through a network of family law solicitors. Find out more at: **flagdv.org.uk**.

The Hummingbird Centre supports people suffering from cancer and their families with a range of services, including children's services, counselling, complementary therapies, and lymphoedema clinic. For more information visit: **thehummingbirdcentre.org.uk**.





Armed Forces Day

On Friday 27th June, military and council dignitaries attended Bicester's Raising the Flag ceremony in readiness for Armed Forces Day.

Bicester's Armed Forces Day is a chance for the town to show its support for the armed forces community, and there were some fantastic military displays, demonstrations and entertainment. This was topped off with a flypast from a Lancaster Bomber. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the event.



Outdoor Cinema

Garth Park hosted two films at our Outdoor Cinema event on Saturday 26th July. The films, The Goonies and Dirty Dancing, are both cult classics. The weather was perfect, and the park was full of families with their chairs and picnic blankets enjoying the films.



SledgeHammer Returns

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it' is definitely our motto when it comes to our end-of-the-summer music event.

SledgeHammer, an 80s tribute band, has been filling Garth Park for a night of flamboyant outfits, singing, dancing and plenty of neon since 2019. This year was no exception, despite the occasional shower, everyone had a fantastic night. We'd like to thank the band and everyone who attended and supported the event on 30th August.





Liberty & Lyrics – A Celebration of VJ Day

On Sunday 17th August we marked the anniversary of the end of WWII in the Pacific – Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) – with a full day of live music, community spirit and remembrance in Garth Park.

Bands included a Robbie Williams Tribute, the Jubilee Brass Oxford & Oxford Cherwell Brass Band, The Bellas vintage harmonies and timeless classics, Gracenotes and The Village Beats Band.

It was a fantastic day of music, celebration and gratitude.

Teddy Bears' Picnic and opening of Garth Play Park kicks off a fun-packed summer

This year the Teddies' Picnic made a spectacular return on the 6th August.

The sun was shining and the park was filled with children and their families enjoying not only the picnic events but also the opening by the Mayor of the newly-refurbished Garth Play Park, which has been made as inclusive and accessible as possible.

Elements such as music and sensory panels are included at ground level, there is an inground roundabout for wheelchairs and pushchairs and inclusive swing design

with harnesses and 'self-starter' to allow for swinging using only the arms. The centrepiece double tower stands at nearly nine metres high with double tube slides that proved a real favourite on the day.

Bicester's Family Day has always been one of Bicester Town Council's favourite traditions, and we were absolutely thrilled to bring back the traditional Teddies' Picnic and the Bicester Bear.



Super Gramps cycles from Lands End to John o'Groats

87-year-old 'Super Gramps' Brian Lewis from Bicester cycled from Lands End to John o'Groats this June, raising over £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of his late wife Christine, who passed away 12 years ago.

He completed the iconic 1000-mile journey in 14 days, despite falling off his bike and breaking two ribs on day 12, spending the night in A&E.

Two days later, Brian and his 18-rider group arrived at John o' Groats, one of the oldest riders to ever complete the challenge. Well done Brian!



Forget adulting and get running

261 Fearless Club Bicester invites you to our weekly meet run.

We meet on Thursdays at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, Bicester. We are a women-only, non-competitive, non-judgmental running group with a twist! We aim to have fun whilst moving our bodies - how? We forget adulting for an hour and realise we can do more than we think. All abilities are welcome, and we promise you will never be last. Come as you are, and see how running can help you feel empowered in every area of your life. For more information, please email: bicester@261clubuk.co.uk or visit: <https://261clubuk.co.uk>.

We are also looking for new coaches. If you are over 18 and want to give back to running, don't hesitate to get in touch with us to see how volunteering with 261 Club UK can enhance your sense of well-being.

Come and explore Bicester u3a

No longer working full-time?

Join us on 24 January 2026 between 10am and 2pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Bell Lane, Bicester, and explore the exciting activities you could be part of if you become a member of Bicester u3a.

You can find out about all the different activities, meet some of our friendly members, have a coffee and maybe find your next passion or hobby.

Bicester u3a provides a wide range of opportunities to come together, have fun, share interests and expertise, keep active, and make new friends. And it's just £15 a year to join.

With more than 300 members from Bicester and the surrounding areas and over 40 activity groups, including everything from languages, arts, cycling, badminton, music, stitchcraft, games and leisure activities, you're sure to find something that interests you. There are also talks at monthly meetings, trips and even holidays.

There's a mixture of face-to-face and virtual meetings.

Members lead groups where they share their knowledge, expertise and experience with other members. It's a fantastic way to keep active and explore shared interests in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Come along to the event on the 24 January 2026 to find out more. A world of new experiences awaits you. Join us! The national u3a website also hosts a great many online courses and talks on a wide variety of topics just for members. Don't miss this chance to rekindle old hobbies, start new ones and celebrate the vibrant spirit of learning, laughing and living. We look forward to seeing you there.

Learn, Laugh and Live. Find out more at: bicester.u3asite.uk. Bicester u3a is a charity organisation – one of more than 1000 similar organisations in the UK. 2026 will be Bicester u3a's 40th anniversary.

Cloud 9 Choir Memorial Concert

On July 9th, our summer concert was dedicated to the memory of Jennie Logan, Martyn Sadler and Dave Chester, who lost their lives in the fire at Bicester Motion on May 15th this year.

There were 60 choir members singing to an audience of 150 people at the beautiful Emmanuel Church in Bicester, and an amazing £1,440 was raised.

The majority of the money raised was gifted to the crew at Bicester fire station in recognition of their bravery and to help them in some small way to come to terms with losing their colleagues.

They are using the money to purchase a cabinet in which to display memories of Martyn and Jennie, a nice BBQ that can help to bring them together more for social events, and any money left over for a small memorial garden or similar. We are honoured to be able to do this

for them, and hope to be able to sing for them soon. The rest of the money was split between Café 103 (a place where it's ok to not be ok) and Emmanuel Church youth work.

The choirs meet on Wednesdays at 2pm at Bicester Bowls Club or 7.30pm at Emmanuel Church, Bure Park, and we always welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We sing rock, pop and show tunes in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with no experience necessary and no sheet music.

Email Amanda at: Cloud9musica@gmail.com or visit: www.cloud9musica.co.uk.

Social Bridge comes to Bicester

The Bicester Bridge Club has been active in the town for over 50 years, with a weekly evening session currently based at the Highfield Social Club in George Street.

While most of the current members play a competitive, fast-paced game, it was felt that there are others who may prefer a more relaxed game, and so the club are starting a new Afternoon Social Bridge starting on Thursday 2nd October. **Give it a try – first week free.**

It will also be at the Highfield Club, with ample parking and not far from the town centre. Refreshments will be provided beforehand, with play starting at 2pm and

finishing at 4pm. The cost will be £3 for a 12 board session, increasing to 18 boards when needed. Please note that to join our club, you also need to be a member of the Social Club.

For more details, contact the secretary on **07749 953125** or email: bridgebicester@gmail.com. Our website is: www.bridgewebs.com/bicester/.

My Life My Choice Bicester

Bicester self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities.

My Life My Choice is an award-winning charity run by and for people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire. Our self-advocacy groups are spaces where our members can have a voice, be listened to, and be supported by their peers. It is a place for them to make friends, be social and share what's important to them, and how they would like to improve their lives.

Our Bicester group meets in Bicester Methodist Church Hall, OX26 6JQ, at 11am – 1pm on the third Wednesday of every month. Join us on the 15 October, 19 November and 17 December 2025.

For more information, please call Paula on **01865 204214** or email: paula@mylifemychoice.org.uk.

Bicester Military Wives Choir

On the lookout for new members.

It doesn't matter if you don't consider yourself a singer. We are about so much more than just singing.

We're a sisterhood of people who understand how being connected with the military community impacts daily life, and we provide the support to help each other get through. You don't have to be a 'wife', our choir is made up of mothers, sisters, daughters, widows, veterans,

serving and reservist women and many more.

Interested? Please email: bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org or contact us through our Facebook page: facebook.com/Militarywiveschoirbicester/.

If you don't think you can join us physically, then why not join the virtual choir? Email: info@militarywiveschoirs.org to find out more.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Next training course: September 2025

- Could you brighten families' lives with your support and reassuring smile?
- Are you looking to gain new skills while making a difference to your community?
- Do you have parenting experience and would like to spend 2-3 hours a week engaging in something meaningful?
- Full training provided and expenses paid.

'Volunteering has been incredible for my own mental health. When you are praising and encouraging another person it's difficult not to recognise your own self worth.' Volunteer

HOME START
Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton

Applicants will be subject to a DBS check and references will be required.

Find out more here

info@home-startbanbury.org.uk
01295 266358

Trinity Camerata

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

Sunday afternoon family concert

16 November 2025 at 4pm
St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

Conductor - Sam Laughton

DUKAS
The Sorcerer's Apprentice
narrated by Charlie Ross

AND CLASSIC FILM AND THEATRE THEMES
Fantasia, Les Misérables, Hook, The Lion King, Jurassic Park and Frozen

Tickets: Adults £12 in advance (Cole's Books), £15 on the door; under 16's free.

www.trinitycamerata.org

This concert is kindly supported by Bicester Town Council

BCOS PRESENTS

BEETHOVEN

MASS IN C & CHORAL FANTASY

22nd Nov
St Edburg's Church
Bicester
7:30pm

Tickets £15
(accompanied under 16 free)

! Coles Books, Bicester

? TicketSource.co.uk/bcos

BCOS

Beethoven is coming to Bicester with BCOS

After Sweeney Todd in May and The Carpenters in July, BCOS is excited to present a concert of Beethoven this coming November 22nd at St Edburg's Church.

Tickets for Beethoven's Mass in C and Choral Fantasy went on sale in August and are available online from: TicketSource.co.uk/BCOS or in person from Coles Bookstore, Crown Walk.

Accompanied by orchestra and professional soloists, it promises to be an evening of amazing music you won't want to miss.



BMCC celebrates 25 years

Bicester Millennium Cycling Club (BMCC) celebrates 25 years of social pedalling and various disciplines of bike racing.

The club was formed in the year 2000 and several members have been faithful to the club ever since. Whilst mainly focusing on social club rides on weekend mornings to local cafes, the club has branched out into other activities too. For some years there was a successful junior section which has seen athletes like Millie Couzens, who rode the women's Tour de France this year, starting their passion for cycling with the club.

Previously the club organised road race events for the Oxfordshire Road Race League, and hosted an extremely successful 9-up Team Time Trial event at Silverstone Race Circuit for many years, attracting teams from across the whole nation.

There is a large group of riders who race cyclocross during the autumn and winter months, and the club organised a highly successful cyclocross event for the Central Cyclocross League last year. This will be repeated on the 5th October this year at Wheatley Park School grounds.

The club hosts very successful Time Trial events on Tuesday evenings at RAF Weston-on-the-Green during the lighter months, which are attended by riders from the whole county and beyond, including GB Paracyclists practicing for the World Championships.

For information on upcoming events and how to join the club, visit: www.bmcc2000.com.

Greetings from Alexandra House of Joy

We are very pleased to announce that the Dog Show was a great success on Saturday Aug 9th at Whitelands, raising £1,087.

Over 100 dogs came to compete, and the judges, Pip Tomson and William Loh, did an excellent job in the ring, judging all the many categories on show. It was an absolute honour to have the Bicester Fire Officers there too with their tender, exciting the many children (and adults) who were allowed to climb on board and ask many questions. We are so grateful to them for coming to support us. Thank you too to the Bicester Town Council for allowing us on the land.

Please visit our website to view much more information about the day and the many supporters we need to thank: www.alexandrahouseofjoy.org.

Our next event is on October 3rd 2025, at the Littlebury Hotel, Bicester - "Rhythms & Flavours: An evening of Indian Culture".

There will be a delicious and authentic two-course Indian meal, followed by a performance of Indian classical dance from Athiswari Vadivale and friend. Athiswari is a Senior Artiste specifically known for her performances in the Bharatanatyam style - a South Indian classical dance form known for its grace, intricate footwork

and expressive storytelling. Tickets are on sale on the website - £23pp.

Thank you again, so much, to all our amazing supporters - we are immensely grateful.

God's many blessings, Rachael and Ian

Upcoming Fundraising Events in 2025

Rhythms & Flavours:

An Evening of Indian Culture

Friday 3rd October at 6.30pm,
The Littlebury Hotel, Bicester

Pavers Bingo Night

Saturday 8th November at 7.00pm,
The Loft at Whitelands Farm and Sports Centre

The Magic of Ceilidh:

Dance with the Aldbrickham Band

Saturday 6th December at 7.00pm, Chesterton
Community Centre, Chesterton

Come and join us for lots of fun and food - we look forward to seeing you!

BECAuse Talking Matters

For Those 50 + Beyond

Dates

2nd July

6th Aug

3rd Sept

1st Oct

5th Nov

3rd Dec

Bicester East
Community
Association
invites you to enjoy a
warm drink, good
conversation and
great company

Whether you're looking to
meet new friends or
reconnect with familiar
faces, this casual
get-together is the perfect
place to relax and socialize

9.30am - 11.30am

CAKE COMMUNITY FUN COFFEE TEA
FRIENDSHIP GAMES CHAT BISCUITS

BECA, Keble Road, Bicester, OX26 4TP
Contact 07934427027 Email becahire@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

GREEN & WAKEFIELD

PLUMBING, HEATING & GAS SERVICES

ALL ASPECTS OF PLUMBING WORK
UNDERTAKEN

-

GAS BOILER SERVICING & REPAIRS

-

GAS LANDLORD CERTIFICATES

-

FULL BATHROOM DESIGN &
INSTALLATION

-

FREE QUOTATIONS

Call: 01865 876051

or Email
mrsmgreen@btinternet.com

SAFELY LEAVE BEHIND DOMESTIC ABUSE

**FREE LEGAL FAMILY
LAW ADVICE**

— EMPOWERS YOU TO BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE —
— ACTS AS A BRIDGE INTO OTHER SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS —
— AN INCLUSIVE SERVICE FOR ANYONE AGED 18 YEARS & OVER —

WWW.FLAGDV.ORG.UK 01635 015 854

Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire Berkshire Hampshire
Registered Charity No. 1154070

FIRST FLOOR

GREAT VIEWS

CAFÉ | BAR

EVENT SPACE

The Open Doors Cafe

Open every Friday 12:00-1:30 pm at the Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester.

It has been a fun and busy summer. Volunteers have cooked and served hot meals for 70-80 guests each week, and provided free art activities to kids during the school summer holidays. At the heart of the cafe is a mission to reduce food waste and create tasty meals to share with our community.

With autumn here and the weather turning, why not join us for Friday lunch? All are welcome.

Preparation has started for our Christmas Day Community Lunch. Anyone interested in volunteering for Christmas Day can contact us on: bicesterchristmaslunch@gmail.com.

For weekly menus, visit The Open Doors Cafe Facebook page or our website: bicesteropendoors.org.uk.



Family Memorial Day

On 31st August 2025, Bicester Rugby Club hosted a Family Memorial Day at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground in honour of Martyn Sadler and Jennie Logan, the two fire fighters tragically killed in the fire at Bicester Motion in May.

Martyn had been involved with Bicester RUFC for over 20 years and started supporting the Bicester Vixens (ladies' team) as First Aider after he stopped playing. Jennie was a dedicated and driven member of the Vixens Women's Rugby Team.

A portion of the money raised will also be donated to a charity of Dave Chester's family's choosing to honour his memory too.

The main events were matches between Bicester Vixens v GB Women's Fire Service and Bicester RUFC with the Oxfordshire F&R Service v The London Fire Brigade and MooseHead RFC, but there was also a walking football tournament with Bicester Fossils, a tug-of-war competition, live music, emergency service vehicles, an inflatable assault course, food and drink stalls and a sports memorabilia auction. If you would like to donate visit: justgiving.com and search Bicester RUFC.

Bicester Hospital League of Friends

Greetings from the League of Friends. We hope you all had a good summer.

It has once again been quiet for the League of Friends, as we are still unable to go into the hospital and give our usual help. We keep in touch with the staff, and we are ready to give any help we can.

We were able to fund Easter goodies and decorations for the patients, just to make their stay in hospital a little easier.

We had hoped to hold a summer fete, but circumstances ran away from us. We will be holding our usual Christmas coffee morning/bring-and-buy in late November or early December, we hope you will all come and support your local hospital – watch out for the date.

At long last, the saga of the donation made by Mr Ron Haynes has been sorted. We have been so frustrated at

the time it has taken to get an agreement about what we could spend this generous donation on. We have purchased equipment for the hospital that the NHS do not supply: 8 rising chairs, hoist reclining chairs, and a digital table. Total spent was £32867.20. These items will make a big difference to the patients.

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: roseljstratford@outlook.com.



WE'RE HERE FOR OUR ARMED FORCES FAMILY

We are SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. We help serving personnel, veterans and their families confront some of life's darkest challenges. We provide welfare and wellbeing support to those who need us, in communities across the UK and abroad. All tailored to individual needs, helping people get their lives back on track. Because no one should ever battle alone.

CONTACT US: 0204 566 9126

ssafa the Armed Forces charity
Regulars | Reserves | Veterans | Families

ssafa.org.uk/oxfordshire



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.

 BeautyandBicester@gmail.com





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)

Community Events 2025

6 SEP	Bicester Pride Festival Garth Park, Ticketed event
1 NOV	Halloween Show (Stages Theatrical) St Edburg's Church, Ticketed event
22 NOV	Mass in C & Choral Fantasy (BCOS) St Edburg's Church, Ticketed event
29 NOV	A Winter's Concert (BCB) St Edburg's Church, Ticketed event

Regular music and comedy at.....

The Bell - Live music - Fridays and Saturdays from 9pm (Free)
Open Mic - 2nd Thursdays from 8pm (Free)

Littlebury Hotel - Live music - Saturdays from 9pm (Free)
Comedy Club - 2nd Fridays from 7pm (Ticketed event)

The White Hart - Live music - Saturdays from 9pm (Free)
Karaoke night - Sundays from 8:30pm (Free)

Chesterton Golf Club - Live music - 1st Thursday from 8pm (Free)

Garth Park Kitchen - Live music - 3rd Thursday from 7pm (Free)

The Bear - Live music - Fridays from 8pm (Free)

The White Horse - Open Mic - 1st and 3rd Thursday from 8pm (Free)

Dates and information is subject to change, any updates can be found on the respective social media sites.

Look out for more bandstand events in 2026!



Scan me for the "Bicester Live" Facebook page





Everyone's Welcome at the Repair Café

Have you got a broken electrical item gathering dust at home? Don't throw it away, take it along to Bicester Green's Repair Café in their shop at 16 Sheep Street.

Their talented team of volunteers from the electrical workshop will be on hand to take a look, investigate the problem and, with a bit of luck, get your item working again. The best part is that you can sit right beside one of the friendly repairers and watch the process step by step. Not only might your item be saved, but you could also pick up some handy tips and knowledge for the future.

All of this is offered completely free of charge because their aim is to reduce waste, extend the life of everyday

items and support a more sustainable, circular economy here in Bicester.

While the repairs are happening, enjoy a cuppa and homemade cakes. It's a fun, sociable way to save money and reduce waste.

Keep an eye on the Bicester Green website: www.bicestergreen.org.uk or the notices in the shop for the next Repair Café dates. They are looking forward to seeing you and your broken gadgets!



Christmas Tree Festival

St Edburg's Church, Bicester
12th- 14th December 2025

**FREE
ENTRY**

Friday 12th - 10am-7pm
Saturday 13th - 10am-7pm
Sunday 14th - 12.30pm-5pm

Our 14th annual Christmas Tree Festival takes place again, it's our largest community event as every year more than 3500 people come and enjoy an indoor forest of over 70 real Christmas trees. They are all sponsored and decorated by local companies, charities, schools, organisations and individuals.

Do join us for Carols in the Trees at 6pm on Sunday 14 December which closes our festival. Our carols will be supported by the wonderful sound of Winchendon Brass.

For more information, or to sponsor a tree, call the office on: **01869 323458**, email: office@stedburgschurch.org or visit our website www.stedburgschurch.org.

Donations welcome | Light refreshments | Live music



Dance for Life with Dance Creative

Dance Creative are a small, local charity based in Bicester.

Our fun, sociable, creative dance classes help people get fitter, stronger and happier. Led by experienced dance teachers, the classes are inclusive, and all movements can be adapted or done seated.

Join us on Tuesdays 1.30-2.30pm at the Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester OX26 2BH (term time only) £4.50/£5 per class. New members are always welcome, and your first class is free. We have refreshments afterwards.

For more info, please call Jenny on **07476 923817**, email at: info@dance-creative.co.uk or visit: www.dance-creative.co.uk.

Write your will for free, so your wishes are known

**My Life
My Choice**



My Life My Choice has partnered with FreeWills so you can write a will for free. If you can leave us a gift in your will, it will help people in Oxfordshire with learning disabilities continue to have their wishes known and their voices heard.

With FreeWills' award-winning online service, you can make a free, legally-binding will in just 15 minutes. Simply scan the QR code or visit www.freewills.co.uk/charity/MLMC



Each will is checked by legal experts, and your will can be updated quickly and easily for free - forever. There's no obligation to leave us a gift, but we hope you will, to enable us to continue our important work.



My Life My Choice Bicester Group meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bicester Methodist Hall, 11am - 1pm. 2025 dates: 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec. Find out more at mylifemychoice.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Christmas Lights Trail

We have held a Christmas Lights Trail in Garth Park for the past four years, and before we make any plans this year we'd like to hear from you. Please scan the QR code or visit the URL below and answer some quick questions. The questionnaire will be live until 6th October. Thank you in advance.

www.bicester.gov.uk/christmas-light-trail-survey/



EVENTS 2025

9
NOV

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

29
NOV

XMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

4-14
DEC

XMAS LIGHTS TRAIL

21
DEC

SANTA FUN RUN



A Bicester Town Council
Newsletter for
the Community

Please note these dates are subject to change; any updates can be found at www.bicester.gov.uk or on our Facebook page.