



**BIGGAR CARES - COMMUNITY UPDATE No 23**  
**WINTER 2021/22**

**SEASONS GREETINGS FROM**  
**BIGGAR COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP**

Since we began in March 2020, we are proud to have achieved the following: Around 3,400 Shopping and Prescription deliveries, 4,250 Hot Meals, 380 Kindness Boxes and Christmas Gift bags, 2,350 Listening Ear calls, 1,300 Shop Queue hours, 320 hours of Dog Walking, 150 hours Gritting and Path Clearance and 250 Afternoon Teas.

We estimate that our total volunteer offer in that period amounts to 5,300 hours. We are still here for our community and will continue as long as there is a demand.

We wish you and yours peace and love to warm your hearts. Stay Safe.



**OUR SERVICES**  
**DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD**

Our usual shopping and prescription delivery service will continue and we will be delivering shopping and prescriptions on Friday 24th and Friday 31st December.

Our helpline is active from 10am to 1pm on Fridays, but at other times, please leave a message and we aim to get back to you within 24 hours.

**The Helpline number is:**  
**07376 318724**

**WINTER PLANNING, SNOW CLEARANCE**  
**& GRITTING**

We are once again undertaking snow clearance and path gritting this winter to try to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. In addition to the gritter we bought last year, South Lanarkshire Council has furnished us with high vis vests, gloves, wheelbarrows and additional salt spreaders. We have 18 wonderful volunteers this year covering Langvout Square, Mercat Loan, Westercrofts Gardens, Millstone Park, the Coop, Guildies Loan and the Boghall estate. Any individual who needs their path clearing can phone 07926 368964 and we will do our best to assist.



## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Once again, we are aware that some members of our community may be alone and unable to see their families and friends for lunch on Christmas Day. Thanks to grant funding from Healthy Valleys (Coronavirus Resilience Fund) and Biggar Community Council (Clyde Windfarm Fund) and in cooperation with The Elphinstone Hotel, we are providing a Christmas lunch for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Some of our guests will be coming along to the Gillespie Centre to celebrate with others, and some will have a hot Christmas lunch delivered to their homes.



Thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers who are giving up their time on Christmas Day to improve the lives of others in our community.

## THE BIELD CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are grateful for funding from the same sources, which enabled us to work in cooperation with The Crown Inn to provide a lunch on 21st December for the residents of the retirement complex at Langvout Court (also known as The Bield).

Gift bags for all of these occasions are being provided by the fantastic local organisation **Womankind Clydesdale** which does so much work to spread kindness in the community.

## Co-op Community Fund

As of 24th October 2021, if you are a Co-op member, you will officially be able to support Biggar Community Action Group as part of the Co-op's Local Community Fund. This means that for every £1 you spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 2p will go into your membership account and the same amount will support the local community organisation you elect to support. You need to swipe or scan your membership card when you shop, so it is really important that you become a Co-op member. Follow this link to sign up to become a Co-op member: <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>



Please follow this link to our page on the Co-op membership website, where you can select us as the local cause you wish to support: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/60374>

## Church Services

Biggar Kirk welcomes you to the following Christmas Services (as long as COVID regulations do not force cancellation):

Friday 24th December:

Watch Night Service at 11.30pm

Saturday 25th December:

All Age Christmas Morning worship at 11.15am

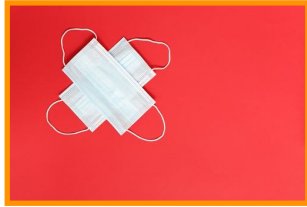
Sunday 26th December:

Morning Worship at 11.15am

These services and all other Christmas services, such as the Blue Christmas for those who are grieving and the Christmas Carol Service, are either already available or will be available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrt2IXdTqh5NoEd3bj1aSEA>

Contact Mike Fucella on 01899 229291 for more information.

## HOSPITAL TRANSPORT



BCAG has been liaising with Getting Better Together, Shotts (GBT), who provide hospital transport for the whole of Lanarkshire and we have agreed a referral process for eligible residents of Biggar. The initial referral will come from BCAG, but for subsequent requests, a resident can contact GBT direct. All hospitals where you are likely to be referred for an appointment are covered. If you have a need for hospital transport, then please request this as soon as possible in advance of your appointment as the service is very busy.

Please call BCAG's Duty Manager on 07376 318724.

You may get an answerphone, but please leave a message and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

## A WORD OF THANKS TO OUR FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS AND OUR PARTNER BUSINESSES

We cannot emphasise enough how important our volunteers are to us. We cannot thank them enough for the immeasurably valuable work they are doing for our community. Their dedication is essential to the work that we do. We cannot do it without them. We would not want to do it without them.



We also want to thank our local, award winning businesses and partners for all that they have done and continue to do. In addition to altering the customer experience to keep everyone safe and working additional hours, many of our local businesses have also been extremely generous in their support for the local Foodbank, provision of Hot Meals via BCAG and supplying goods at cost to WomanKIND Clydesdale. It would be wrong to single out any particular business so a BIG thank you to you all.

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."- Leo Buscaglia.*

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