

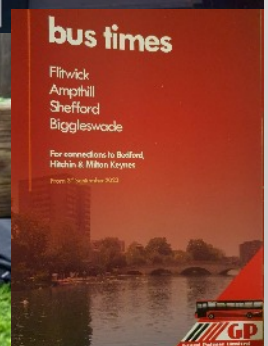


# Biggleswade Community News

NOVEMBER 2023



Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 310163



**Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163**

Email: [admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk)

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers. Or you can read it online at [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)



### **Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club**

**NOTE: We now meet at THE WEATHERLEY CENTRE, Eagle Farm Road SG18 8JH. phone 07493940021.**

We hold 2 meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, starting at 8pm. The 2nd meeting of the month is a Speakers night. The talks are free to attend, access is disabled friendly and refreshments are available. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact us via Facebook or call Karen on 07943 940021



### **Not Strictly Jazz**

On the 28th November we are featuring Jazzface, Craig Stallwood piano, Pete Myatt bass, Steve Seal drums.

Tickets £20 (light refreshments included).

Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield House,

Fairfield Road, Biggleswade SG18 0AA.

**The second evening session** will be on 28th November 8–10pm, complete line-up to be confirmed but will include fantastic vocalist Gavin Skeggs. Our aim with the evening session is not to replicate Sundays but to add a bit of a twist/variation. Tickets £20 (light refreshments included).

**Strictly Stitches** (monthly and non-musical) for anyone who likes to sew, knit or crochet in good company. 30th November 7 – 9pm £5 per session.

For details of all of the above please contact Sarah

[sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahwiggs@hotmail.co.uk) or 01767 312176

Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade. SG18 0AA



### **Biggleswade History Society**

Meet in the Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start, BHS members free, non-members £4.

[biggleswadehistory.org.uk](http://biggleswadehistory.org.uk)

**Monday 6th November - Bill Jordan** - A Miller's Tale. The Jordan family story of farming, milling and survival on the banks of the River Ivel.

### **Biggleswade and District Camera Club**

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 for 8:00pm in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH. The entry is £3.00 payable at the door.

On November 9th we have our Annual David Tyler Memorial Lecture. This year it is being delivered by Bob Brind Surch FRPS (MCPF). The title of the presentation is "Taste of Africa".

On November 30th we have a presentation Delivered by Roy Essery MPAGB (EAF).

### **The Bedfordshire Group of The Alpine Garden Society**

*now meets at the Weatherley Centre, Biggleswade.*



**Alpine**  
GARDEN SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The talk starts at 3.00 pm and we welcome Kit Strange, formerly a horticulturalist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Kit's speciality is bulbs, but she didn't just stay in the glasshouses and potting sheds at Kew propagating them, she got out to many exotic places to bring back plant material and herbarium specimens. We have previously heard about her travels in Northern Spain and the Falkland Islands, this time she will be telling us all about the Alpines of the Pacific North West.

Plants from Little Heath Nursery will be on sale at the meetings.

The cost per meeting for non-members is £5, which includes a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. But, of course, you're more than welcome to join the group. Annual membership is £10 for a single member and £15 for joint membership and members pay only £2 per meeting.

Full details are on our website: [www.bedfordshirealpines.com](http://www.bedfordshirealpines.com)

If you know of an event or activity in Biggleswade or nearby Tell us about it so we can tell others! The deadline for the December edition is Thursday 23 November. Send text and good quality images to [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)  
Tel: 01767 310163

## Updates From Our Partners



**Ivel Valley College** Contact Dean Hawkins - [dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk) - 01767 512080

Our students have been distributing newsletters to pickup points around the town.



**Future Action Biggleswade**

[fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk) [www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk)

We meet regularly to review past events and make plans, Our next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 7 November in Cafe Mocha.

### **Biggleswade Good Neighbours**



If you receive this newsletter through your door it will almost certainly have been delivered by a volunteer from Biggleswade Good Neighbours. Lynda has just stepped down from doing her delivery round and we welcome Maggie to the team to replace her. We are very grateful to Lynda for all she has done and to our team of regular distributors: Lucy, Rachel, Mary, Allan, Nettie, Jon, Sara, Brian, John (x2), Colin, Jill, Jackie, Bryony, Phil, Simon, Maggie and Pam. Do say hello if you see them out and about. If you would like to help with newsletter deliveries please contact us on 07771 104255.

or email [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com).

**Biggleswade Community Gardens.** Is a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share.

[Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org](http://Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org)

## **BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE**

Paper copies of our Monthly Newsletter are available free of charge at pickup points around the town. Printing is expensive and we are grateful to the Town Council for contributing towards our costs. Also Ivel Flix for a donation from the remaining funds when it closed.

We are planning to have a stall at the Biggleswade Christmas Light Switch on on November 24. Come along to meet representatives from the group and our partners.

Contact us via: [www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk)

or call Alan on 01767 310163

BBI

Central  
Bedfordshire

### Bigglesade Library

Biggleswade Library re-opened during the October half-term with children's events during the week including crafts, a scavenger hunt and Halloween themed activities.

The library has been transformed into a modern facility and community hub for residents, with a children's centre, Registrar's office and help for people moving to online banking. There have

been crucial improvements made to the building including new ventilation, flooring, furniture, and shelving, as well as new book stock. The building has been upgraded to function more efficiently and sustainably.

Standard loans and renewals will revert to the 3-week loan period



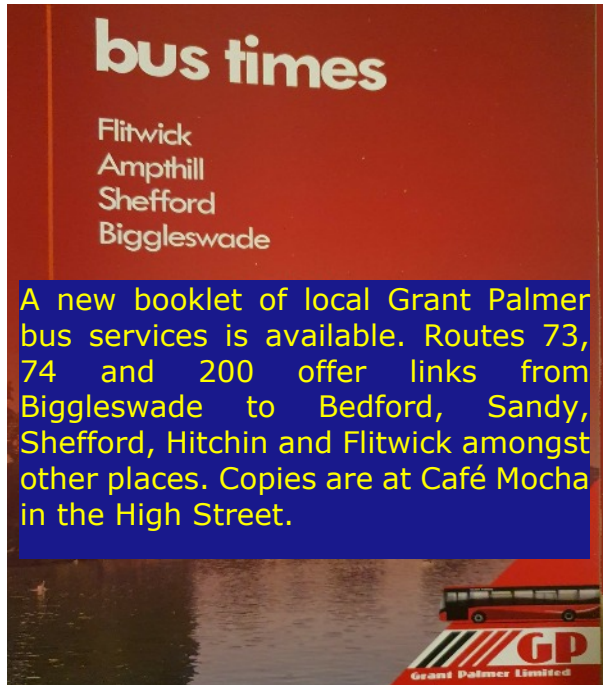
Biggleswade Rotary Club Met with members from the Town Council to plant winter bedding in the planters in Hitchin Street and Shortmead Street Bridge.



### bus times

Flitwick  
Amphill  
Shefford  
Biggleswade

A new booklet of local Grant Palmer bus services is available. Routes 73, 74 and 200 offer links from Biggleswade to Bedford, Sandy, Shefford, Hitchin and Flitwick amongst other places. Copies are at Café Mocha in the High Street.





Biggleswade and District Art Society

**CHRISTMAS  
EXHIBITION  
AND ART  
SALE**

ORIGINAL FRAMED  
AND UNFRAMED  
ARTWORKS  
PRINTS  
CARDS  
UNIQUE GIFTS  
REFRESHMENTS

Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2023  
10am-4pm  
Grand Hall  
The Weatherley Centre  
Eagle Farm Road  
Biggleswade  
SG18 8JH

WITH GUEST  
EXHIBITORS:  
Biggleswade & District  
Camera Club

**FREE ENTRY**

**NATIVITY SET  
DISPLAY & BAZAAR**

St Andrews Parish Church  
Biggleswade

Saturday 25th November  
2023, 10.00-3.30

Display of Nativity Sets,  
Stalls & Competitions, Tea  
& Coffee, Light Lunches In  
Aid of Church Heating  
Appeal.



**DIWALI 2023 EXTRAVAGANZA 10th November 2023**

*Weatherley Centre Biggleswade hosted by Signature Entertainment*

Tickets now available : Adults : £40 Children : £20 Under 5 : Free  
Family : £110

Each ticket includes a delicious 3 course veg and non veg Indian  
dinner, performance of traditional Indian dance by a  
Bharathanatyam dancer, Bollywood dance show, Dhol Player,  
Chocolate Fountain, Henna Artist.

Come and join us for a night of great food and entertainment  
where great memories will be made!

Discount available for group bookings. Last few tickets remaining.  
Please contact Sarj Patel for ticketing info : 07795014731.

## **Christmas at Wimpole**

### **A magical trail with new lights for 2023 – after-dark festive fun for all the family**

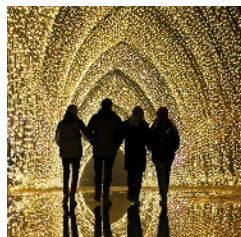


Christmas at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire has everything you need for an unforgettable time with friends and family, including a magical glimpse of Father Christmas along the way. Discover huge feathers floating high into the sky, encounter a

sea of light stretching out into the distance, surround yourself with sparkle in the long glowing tunnel and see contemporary Christmas trees in all the colours of the rainbow.

Advanced From: Adult off peak £15, Child off-peak £10.00, Family off-peak £47 (2 adults & 2 children). Free entry for carers and infants aged 2 & under. Parking is £8 per car. Free to National Trust members if booked before the day of the visit.

Wimpole Estate, Arrington, Royston SG8 0BW Fri 24 Nov to Sun 31 Dec Contact telephone: 01223206000 Call to check latest times or cancellations. Website: [www.christmasatwimpole.co.uk](http://www.christmasatwimpole.co.uk)



## **Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

The Parade and Service provide an opportunity for our community to come together and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. All residents are encouraged to attend and show respect and gratitude for British service members who died in the two world wars.

## **Christmas Light Switch On.**

The annual Christmas Light Switch On will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 12 noon until 8.00 p.m. This event is a highlight of the year for our community and the Council can't wait to see the town light up with Christmas cheer. They are currently planning a fun and exciting programme of activities for the whole family to enjoy, so be sure to get the date in your diary.



### Ensuring the voice of the survivor is heard

We are seeking volunteers with lived experience of domestic abuse for our Authentic Voice Panel (AVP), run by our Domestic Abuse Team. The AVP is designed to bring together survivors of domestic abuse, to gain an understanding of their own experiences and help gather insight into the barriers survivors face when needing support.

Our Domestic Abuse team will then use the feedback of the AVP, and share it with other professionals, to ensure the voice of the survivor is embedded in new processes and services. The input of the panel could result in changes being made or introduced, which could ultimately be lifesaving for someone else experiencing domestic abuse.

In the UK, it is estimated that one in four women and one in six men will be affected during their lifetime. Anyone who has lived experience of domestic abuse can apply to join the AVP. Volunteers will need to be able to give three hours a month, and will be offered specialist, independent support by a domestic abuse professional, who will provide care during their time on the panel. email: [authentic.voice@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:authentic.voice@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 17 November.



Smoking is a tough habit to kick, but if you feel it's time to spark a change in your life, the Stop Smoking Service can help. No GP referral is needed, and they can give you expert guidance and support for free.