



# Biggleswade Community News

JANUARY 2024



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024**  
**Lets Make It A Good One!**

**WARM SPACES  
IN BIGGLESWADE**

A warm space is a friendly, comfortable environment where people can feel safe and at ease.

**Back for Winter  
2023/2024**

**LOOK  
INSIDE TO  
READ ALL  
ABOUT IT!**



**SMALL  
BUSINESS  
BRITAIN**

have  
your  
say...

Central Bedfordshire Council

**Budget  
2024**

Central Bedfordshire



Saturday 6th January 2024  
6.30pm. Church Farm, Dunton  
[www.duntonfolk.co.uk](http://www.duntonfolk.co.uk)



**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)



### The Bigg Loo Push

Biggleswade Neptune Cub Pack are doing a sponsored loo push along the pathway of Baden Powell Way on Saturday 3rd Feb at 10.00am. The toilet pans are being fixed to the seat of go karts, that were made by the cubs. The plan is that two karts will be made ready and that two leaders will sit on the loos and be pushed along the pathway. The event is to raise money for a new set of toilets at the Mafambisa Care point in Africa. This care point provides 75 hot meals a day for the most vulnerable children in the community.

In 2022 the Cubs raised funds for a new shelter and they were very keen to help with this new project this year. The loo pans were donated by the new owner of the Miss Vietnam restaurant, whilst they were doing a re fit and Gill Clay, Baden Powell's Granddaughter, who has kept in touch with Nick Gurney Neptune Cub Leader since the naming of Baden Powell Way in 2015.

The Cubs are very excited at the prospect of the Bigg Loo Push. If you would like to sponsor them please email [info@neptunecubs.org.uk](mailto:info@neptunecubs.org.uk) for further information.

### Biggleswade and District Camera Club

Our 2023/24 Season continues.

On **4<sup>th</sup> January** we have our fifth Lecture entitled "Macro Photography Techniques" given by Andy Sands.

On **18<sup>th</sup> January** we have our sixth lecture entitled "The Art of Black and White Photography" given by Ann Kelly.

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 for 8:00pm in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH.

If you are involved in running a Biggleswade organisation please send us your updates. We maintain an online directory and try to spread the word to our readers.



## 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. No pre-booking required.

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

**Monday 8th January** Local podcaster Natalie Doig presents The Great Fire of Biggleswade: how researching a ghost story led to new discoveries.

**Monday 5th February** "Trench Humour in the First World War" - a talk by Stephen Barker of the Buckinghamshire Military Museum Trust



**Church representatives** meet regularly to plan events and activities. Of course we had a stall at the Christmas Light Switch on to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and distribute details of our Christmas Services.

January 18 -25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We are inviting you to join us at a prayer meeting in one of our Biggleswade Churches and a joint service at 6pm on Sunday 21st January at St Andrew's Church in the Town Centre.



**BIGGLESWADE  
CONSERVATIVE CLUB**

**Thu 4 Jan**

• Knit & Knatter 🧶

**Tue 9 Jan**

• Chattercups returns

**Tue 9 Jan**

• Bingo

**Thu 18 Jan**

• Knit & Knatter 🧶

**Fri 26 Jan**

• Burns Night

**Sat 13 Jan**

• James Philips 🎵

**Tue 30 Jan**

• Film Night: Barbie 🎬

**Sat 3 Feb**

• Greatest Showman Sing Along 🎤

**Wed 7 Feb**

• Jazz Night 🎷

[www.biggleswadeconclub.com](http://www.biggleswadeconclub.com)

## A FOOTBALL CLUB FOR ALL

If your child is shy, has a disability or special needs, no official SEND diagnosis, mental health struggles, weight issues or just doesn't have confidence, our club is fully inclusive for everyone. Sessions are fun filled and led by our friendly team of coaches. Young people aged 5-17 years can play football in a relaxed environment

NEW SEASON starting soon, with a free trial for new children! Kempston, Great Barford and Biggleswade

[celestialsfootballclub@ssgservices.co.uk](mailto:celestialsfootballclub@ssgservices.co.uk)

Phone 07595 229676

## 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.

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and young people? We are looking for highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team as Teaching Assistants or Midday Supervisory Assistants. Ivel Valley is a special needs school and college in Biggleswade, providing education for pupils aged 3-19 with a range of special educational needs and disabilities.



In our 2023 staff survey, 100% of staff said that they enjoy working at Ivel Valley. So, if you are looking for a new, rewarding job, come and join us!



**Future Action Biggleswade**

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

We meet to review events and make plans. Our next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 23 January 2024 in Cafe Mocha. We are planning a "Think As You Shop" event showcasing local/ethical/sustainable producers and retailers in March 2024. Contact us if you would like a free stall for your organisation.

### 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. If you would like to help with deliveries or join the team to provide help to those who need it 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. They meet regularly to socialise and maintain the gardens. All welcome! [Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org](http://Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org)

# WARM SPACES IN BIGGLESWADE

A warm space is a friendly, comfortable environment where people can feel safe and at ease.

SEE POSTERS  
AROUND THE  
TOWN FOR TIMES  
AND DETAILS

Back for  
Winter  
2023/2024

Labour Hall, Crab Lane; Kings Corner, Sullivan Court;  
Krafty Shed, Sullivan Court; St Andrew's Church, Shortmead Street.

## **Richard Fuller MP presents certificates to winners of his local business competition**

Last week, Richard visited the winners of his competition to find the best pub, cafe/restaurant and independent shop in his NE Bedfordshire constituency. Speaking afterwards he said:

"Listening to Eamonn and Shaun describe the quizzes, poker nights, live music, comedy nights and so much more, it became very apparent why **The Rose Pub Biggleswade** is well-loved and received so many votes.

From my very first visit I have always been struck by the enormous range on offer in The **Gorgeous Gift & Card Company**, and Sarah was rushed off her feet when I arrived such is the popularity of her shop.

Equally, **Pecoro** was doing a roaring lunchtime trade when I met with Ellen to congratulate her on her victory. The online reviews speak volumes for the quality of food and drink on offer at Pecoro and goes a long way to explaining the huge volume of votes they received.

Many congratulation to all the winners, the runners up and all the outstanding businesses in North East Bedfordshire"





# 11th Mini Winter beer festival

26th to 28th January  
mostly dark ales  
some brewed at the March Hare

join us at the March Hare for a celebration of darkness, lushness and intricacy of both Johns' dark ales brewed on the premises and a selection of other brewers' dark ales.

A whole weekend of delicious stouts and porters. If dark beer isn't your thing, lighter hoppier beers will also be available and don't forget the Sunday quiz, there may be some dark beer themed questions.

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Noon – 1.30pm**

# Light Lunch



**Homemade Soups with Roll  
Slice of Cake with Tea or Coffee**

**Only £5.00**

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**Trinity Methodist Church**  
Shortmead Street, Biggleswade  
'Opening Doors for the Community'

**Dunton Wassail**

Jack in a Barrel  
Barfront Guizers  
Bedford Morris Men  
The Morris Men  
The Morris Men

Saturday 6th January 2024  
6.30pm, Church Farm, Dunton

www.duntonfolk.co.uk

The 12<sup>th</sup> Dunton Wassail takes place in the Farmyard of Church Farm. With Morris Dancing, a Mummers Play and a riotous Wassail in the orchard. Followed by a music session at the March Hare. So much free entertainment in one night! Not to be missed!

If you are organising an event or activity in Biggleswade or nearby tell us about it, so that we can tell others! to [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

## Offer care and support in Central Bedfordshire



Do you have a passion to support people?

Would you like to...

- ✓ Start a business or work as self-employed?
- ✓ Set your own hours and work locally?
- ✓ Be part of a network of like minded people?

We can help you get set up!



## Find out more at our drop-in sessions

Hosted by: Mandy Burridge, Central Bedfordshire Community Catalyst

**Venue: The Bigg Theatre, 36 High St, Biggleswade SG18 0JL**  
**This will be held every 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1-3pm**

Or you can find out more by contacting your local catalyst  
Mandy directly.

mandy.burridge@communitycatalysts.co.uk

07741 260 675

[www.facebook.com/ComCatsCentralBedfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/ComCatsCentralBedfordshire)



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**FREE Events in the The BIGG Theatre Bar.**  
**....Just turn up and enjoy!**

<https://www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk/whats-on/>

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



### Have your say on our draft budget

Before your elected councillors make any decisions on the budget, it is right to offer you [a chance to give your views](#) on the proposals. If you require a paper copy of the consultation documents or need information in an alternative format, contact [consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or call 0300 300 8301

Consultation opened: 6 December 2023. Consultation closes: 9 January 2024. Elected councillors will consider your feedback before setting a final budget in February 2024. In the meantime, the Council will continue to seek further savings. In March, each household will receive an information leaflet that will explain the details of what has been agreed and its implications for service users and council taxpayers.



### Become a Small Business Award Winner!

Completely free to enter with 12 up for grabs, an opportunity to get the recognition you deserve. Entries close at midnight on 29 February. For more information and to apply see <https://thesmallawards.uk/>

**The Categories:** **High Street Hero** Best high street business  
**Bricks and Clicks Award** Best multi-channel small business  
**Legacy Award** Best family business  
**Supply Chain Champion** Best B2B business  
**New Kid On The Block** Best business start up (less than 18 months)  
**Digital Star** Best digital only business  
**Heart Of Gold** The business that contributes most to their community  
**At Your Service** Best small service business  
**Sole to Sole** Best self employed small business owner  
**Mission Possible** Best social enterprise business  
**Net Hero** The business that demonstrates exceptional commitment to environmental sustainability  
**Small Business of the Year Award** Best overall small business