



Biggleswade Community News

OCTOBER 2024



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

ABOUT THE TOWN - Check These Out!



Positioned in the centre of town, The BIGG Theatre is the premier provider of live entertainment including Theatre, Cinema, Music, Comedy and Dance.



We lost the Social Club next to Asda.



But look what we got in its place!

These new studios are home to Emily Thornton School of Dance, Vision Theatre Arts and a cafe.



Just over the road from Bigg Theatre. If you are alone and new to the area, don't be shy! You can be sure of a welcome here. Get to know some local people and check out what is going on in the town! Pick up a copy of Biggleswade Community News, timetables etc.

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Email: admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

Grab a paper copy or you can read it online at
www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk



Biggleswade Community Group Our AGM took place last month and we reflected on our achievements in a good year. We need more volunteers to help with fund raising and running social events. Any offers or suggestions? We will have a stall at the Christmas Light Switch On. www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk/



Future Action Biggleswade

fab@fabweb.org.uk www.fabweb.org.uk

We were at the St Andrew's Country Fayre, building banana towers and raising funds for the supported charities. During the event we applied for and achieved recognition as a Fairtrade Community.



Biggleswade Good Neighbours

Tel 07771 104255

or email biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com

There is a coffee morning on Saturday 19th October between 10.00 and 12.00 at the Northfields Community Centre. See the ad on page 7. All BGN clients and volunteers will be welcome. If any volunteers can provide cake for the morning that would be very welcome. Thanks. biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com



We are a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share. Get in touch to learn more or join us. Email

biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com



Ivel Valley College Contact Dean Hawkins - dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk - 01767 512080
(See pages 4 & 5)



The Bigg Theatre has joined us as partners and we are exploring how we can work together on common aims. www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk

We are still looking to find more local organisations that we can work with within the Biggleswade community.

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



28 readers went on our Community Group Great Yarmouth trip. We had good weather and good company. It spurred one of our readers, Jan, to pen this thanks to Sam, our excellent driver.

*Our driver, Sam, was just incredible,
Lovely, sweet and nearly edible,
He drove us into Yarmouth town,
Always courteous, never a frown.
Driving such a coach is never easy,
With Sam we never felt queasy,
He drove with the greatest of care,
We never even heard him swear!
Departure and return on time,
Some drivers are late, but was on time.
He followed the rules to the letter,
As a driver, he couldn't have been better.
We hope talent like Sam is cherished.
Let's hope Cozys stay and do not perish.
We raise our glass and say "Three Cheers"
We wish Sam the very best in future years.*



Trinity Methodist Church

FOOTPRINTS COFFEE
MORNING
EVERY TUESDAY
9am – 12noon

All welcome to come
and make friends



Biggleswade History Society

Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade,
Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start, Non-members £4. No
pre-booking required. biggleswadehistory.org.uk

Monday 7th October **Stuart MacFarlane - Battlefield Pilgrimages**
Up until 1920 the battlefields of France had remained under army control and were mainly closed to visitors. However, by August 1928 over 10,000 people were able to sail from Dover on the biggest ever British Legion Pilgrimage. This talk is inspired by a set of photographs from a visit in July 1929.

Monday 4th November. *Stuart Fairclough - Tales of Old Bedfordshire*

If you are involved with a local organisation, send us your updates each month and we will include them if space permits.



Ivel Valley

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

To give you a brief insight into Ivel Valley: we are based in Biggleswade town centre, over two sites & provide education to children with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) across Central Bedfordshire & the surrounding areas. The best thing about Ivel Valley is our pupils! They are incredible & make us proud every day. We are an innovative & inclusive school where the pupils are at the heart of everything we do; we are proud to be a flagship school for inclusion. Preparing our pupils for adulthood underpins our entire curriculum, which was developed in-house & is constantly reviewed to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils. We have high levels of expectations for all our children & young people & we aim to fully extend their academic & social development.

Our links with local businesses form an integral part of our students learning, particularly in our post-16 college where our talented young people engage in work experience, complete accreditations and learn life skills.





Ivel Valley School & College is delighted to be working in collaboration with many local businesses and organisations. Briefly here are some of the highlights of our academic year.

- Students recently had the opportunity to work with Biggleswade Market to run their own stall. This was part of a wider Enterprise project.
- Biggleswade FC provided a Fun Day for students and their families offering the opportunity for students to watch their first Football game, be team mascots and meet the players!
- Sandy Music Festival dedicated their fundraising this year to the school.
- Our local Police Community Team - Delivering Santa to visit the school, blue lights and siren too!
- Local businesses & organisations participated in our Careers Roadshow providing vital information to our young people for their future options.

Local business, independent & franchises, have given incredible work experience opportunities for our young people.

We cannot thank you enough for your kind gestures & support.

We are always looking for new experiences for our students & look forward to more collaborations together in the future. If you feel you could help in any way with work experience, please contact Dean Hawkins at our College who would be delighted to hear from you.

Joe Creswick, Headteacher, 01767 601010

WHAT'S ON

BIGGLESWADE

BUS RUNNING DAY

Sunday
20th
October 2024

- Free rides out on classic preserved buses between 10am & 4pm
- Buses link local visitor attractions including The Shuttleworth Collection, RSPB Lodge and Jordans Mill
- Buses to Broom, Dunton, Potton, Sandy, Sutton & Wrestlingworth.
- Stops at a selection of local pubs on route.

This event is organised by the United Counties Preservation Group with the support of Biggleswade Town Council and the visiting bus owners.

We welcome entries from preserved bus owners who wish to take part in this event. Please send an email to chair@ucpg.org.uk if you wish to enter a vehicle.

THE MARCH HARE

Dunton

A Real Ale Brew
Pub

QUIZ NIGHT
Every Sunday at
7.30pm

*No Charge
All welcome*



CRAFT & FOOD FAYRE

Southill Road, Broom, Biggleswade SG18 9JX

**SATURDAY
5TH OCTOBER**

Located in the front car park
and throughout the grounds

10AM TO 3PM



Crafty Artisans are coming
to Biggleswade Market!

Gift and craft ideas, sweets
and treats and many more!

26th October - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

DIARY DATES

10th November - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Market Square
Remembrance Sunday

29th November - 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the Market Square
Christmas Fair & Light-Switch ON.

WHAT'S ON

Biggleswade Good Neighbours



Morning

For All

Northfields Community
Centre
Saturday 19th October
10 - 12

Energy
Saving
Talk

Interactive
Crafts

Book
Swap

Thursday 3rd October

Noon – 1.30pm

Light Lunch



Homemade Soups with Roll
Slice of Cake with Tea or Coffee

Only £6.00

at
Trinity Methodist Church
Shortmead Street, Biggleswade



Open Mic Night, Thursday 17 & 31 October, The BIGG Theatre Bar

A fortnightly slot at the BIGG Theatre, and whether you're participating or supporting, it's always a great night. Come along, sign up, and perform covers or your own original material. Or, if you're not feeling that brave yet, just come along, sit back and enjoy.

A Way With Words, Every third Wednesday 7.30pm The BIGG Theatre Bar

An intimate, open minded spoken word and poetry open mic night, welcoming poets, and all spoken word performers of any style, genre or level of experience to share their creativity before a warm and receptive audience. Turn up on the night, sign up and connect with emerging writers, artists and poets in this relaxed and inclusive open mic night. If you'd rather sit and listen you're very welcome too.

www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk 36 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JL

Opening Hours

Mon Closed; Tue – Sat 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Sun Closed
On event evenings the bar will be open from 6.30pm.

A Little Help

We are delighted to introduce our new Carers in Bedfordshire Hubs. The Hub in Biggleswade will run every third Tuesday of the month.

The Hubs are designed for you to have in person access to our services, information and staff and will also offer our 'Hub Workshops' programme to assist carers to care better for longer. We invite Parent Carers and Adult Carers to benefit from the sessions which are sandwiched in between time with your dedicated support worker either side so that all can join in together and also benefit from peer support.

09:45am to 10:45am – Parents Carers dedicated time with your experienced Parent Carer Support Worker.

11am to 12pm – Parent and Adult Carers are invited to our Hub Workshops which may also be attended by carers not at a group. [Session One info and booking link here.](#)

12pm to 1pm - Adult Carers dedicated time with your experienced Adult Carers Support Worker.



Mini pamper treatments such as footcare, haircuts or massages will be offered at the Biggleswade Hub from 10am to 1pm in September and December. You do not need to be attending the Hub session to book an appointment.

Take a break from your caring role, meet others in similar situations, learn carer coping tips and share your experiences. We look forward to welcoming you all.

There is no charge to attend the Hub. Carers in Bedfordshire is a charity and relies on donations. If you would like to make more activities like this possible for other carers now and in the future, you can do so on this [JustGiving](#) page

Email: contact@carersinbeds.org.uk Tel: 0300 111 1919



Carers in Bedfordshire is a registered charity. We are here to help unpaid carers of all ages, right across Bedfordshire, with information, support and advice. We give voice to their concerns.

Biggleswade Community Group exists to reduce isolation and draw attention to what help is available. If you know anything that we don't, tell us so that we can spread the word and tell others.