

Support older or disabled people

in Central Bedfordshire



Want to support people in their own homes or run activities or groups in the community?



Benefit from our free professional advice to help you become self-employed or set up your own small business.

Find out more



Mandy Burridge 07741 260675
Community Enterprise Catalyst



Marjan Sousa 07435 943869
Community Enterprise Catalyst

✉ CentralBedsMicros@communitycatalysts.co.uk

📘 www.facebook.com/CommCatsCentralBeds

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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.



Biggleswade Community News NOVEMBER 2024



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

About the town



Did you see the vintage buses in Biggleswade?

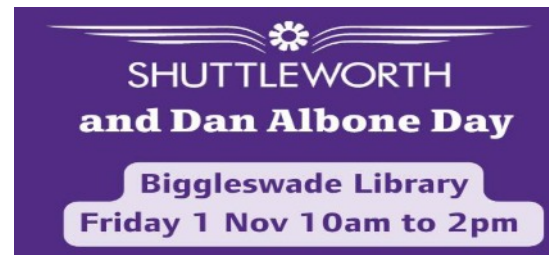
The Town Council have finalised the work to refurbish the play equipment at Berkley Close Park. It is now open to the public.



DIARY DATES

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

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



The Red Lion Pub sold at auction for £400k - but questions remain about its future

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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



Biggleswade Community Group We are pleased that the Town Council have awarded a grant to enable us to continue to produce printed copies of our newsletter. We need more volunteers to help run the group. Any offers or suggestions? We will have a stall at the Christmas Light Switch On. www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk/

We work with these partners that have similar aims:-



Biggleswade Town Council provide funding to allow us to continue to print paper copies of this newsletter and offer it free of charge to our readers.



Future Action Biggleswade has achieved recognition for Biggleswade as a Fairtrade Community. fab@fabweb.org.uk www.fabweb.org.uk

Biggleswade Good Neighbours deliver this newsletter to their clients. Many are housebound and Neighbours without Internet.

Tel 07771 104255 or email

biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com



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 Students distribute this newsletter to pickup points around Biggleswade. Contact Dean Hawkins - dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk - 01767 512080



The Bigg Theatre As well as events it hosts a variety of community groups meeting needs in Biggleswade. www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk



Biggleswade Community Carnival Group is our newest partner. We look forward to working with them. www.biggleswadecarnival.co.uk

WHAT'S ON



The Biggleswade Branch of the Royal British Legion and Biggleswade Town Council extend a cordial invitation to you

BIGGLESWADE REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE

Sunday 10th November 2024

10.45am

War Memorial

Biggleswade Market Square

Lest We Forget



JOIN US FOR THE

Christmas

FAIR & LIGHT SWITCH ON

FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2024
NOON TILL 9PM
BIGGLESWADE MARKET SQUARE

Santa
Gift stalls
Live performances
Lots of surprises!
BSL Interpreter
Food & Drink

WHAT'S ON



Light Lunch at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street

Thursday 7th

November 12-1.30pm

Choice of homemade soups with roll and butter, piece of cake/pie with tea / coffee / squash. All for £6



Biggleswade Conservative Club Everyone is welcome (including non-members) to join us for tea or coffee and biscuits in our warm Club.

ACTIVITIES for you to take part in



Silent Book Club Tuesday 5 November

Traditional Music Night Tuesday 5 November

Shaka The BIGG Live Music Quiz Thursday 7 November

Open Mic Night Thursday 14 & 28 November

Watercolour & Wine Wednesday 20 November

A Way With Words Wednesday 20 November

<https://www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk/>



The Radiance Of Diwali

You are invited to a party on Saturday, 9th November at 5:30 pm onwards, in the Weatherly Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade. Open to all

Communities! For just £23 per adult, come and join us for an exciting night of celebration, for everyone! Enjoy a mouth watering vegetarian or non-vegetarian 3-course buffet.

Dance the night away with our DJ, MC, and Dhol player. A live performance by a talented saxophonist. Spectacular Bollywood and Bharatanatyam performances. This is a wonderful opportunity for members of all communities to come together and celebrate Diwali. Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out!

contact : Sarj Patel 07795 014731 Parv Gill 07949 531915

Updates from Our Partners



Biggleswade Business Forum Is a great initiative to bring together the town's businesses to network and help them tap into the opportunities for growth through the grant funding, training and support available to them under the Shared Prosperity Fund. The first meeting was held last month in The Orchard Centre.

JOIN US FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR & LIGHT SWITCH ON FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2024 NOON TILL 9PM IN BIGGLESWADE MARKET SQUARE Santa: BSL Interpreter: Food and Drink: Craft Stalls: Live Performances: Lots of surprises! This Christmas for just £1 decorate your own bauble to sparkle on the Market Square tree! Every pound goes to the Mayor's charities. Hurry, baubles are limited! Get yours now at the Town Council office.

The BIGG Theatre is at risk



If you've been on the journey with us, you'll know what an amazing space it has become. It's not just a theatre, it's a place where people connect, feel empowered to create, belly laugh with friends and make new ones.

We are a Community Interest Company run by volunteers. Operating an arts space without regular funding is a challenge. Whilst we continue to grow and develop and become eligible to apply for funding we need your support.

We would be so sad if this journey came to an end now, when we still have so much to offer. If you value The BIGG Theatre, please support us by attending our events or donating to our [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/).

<https://www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk/>

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society

Our November meeting starts the new season for the Group (having held our AGM in October). This month we welcome back **Ray Drew** from Essex, who is looking forward to Spring with a talk titled "**Crocus – up Close and Personal**". Ray is an accomplished grower and exhibitor and also a former Director of AGS Shows. He has been involved with the design and construction of several of the AGS's prize winning gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show. So come along and hear all about Crocuses from an expert!

The meeting will be on **Saturday 23th November**, at **2.30 for 3.00 pm**, in the **Elgar Room** in the **Weatherley Centre**. **Note:** This is the **FOURTH** Saturday, not the **LAST** Saturday.

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.

After November we take a short break from in-person talks and are holding a series of on-line talks by ZOOM over the winter months. More details on our website: www.bedfordshirealpines.com



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 4th November. Stuart Fairclough will regale us with 'Tales of Old Bedfordshire' Whether you are new to Bedfordshire and want to learn about the new county you call home, or have lived here all your life and want to remember 'the good old days', this trip down memory lane may teach you something you didn't know and bring a smile to your face.

If you are involved with a local organisation, send us your updates each month and we will include them if space permits. We also publish online at <https://biggleswadecommunitynews.uk/>

WARM SPACES IN BIGGLESWADE

New times for
Winter
2024/2025

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

Warm spaces are being established across the country to support people with the cost of living crisis during the winter months.

Anyone is welcome to access them regardless of their background or their circumstances, you can just turn up.

The exact offerings vary by location but in Biggleswade you can always find a warm welcome. Details of what is on offer are below including: free laundry services, hot drinks, WiFi and kitchen facilities.

I enjoyed the social side of the warm space. Everyone was welcoming and friendly, and I got my washing done while having a cup of tea and a chat.

A Warm Space Visitor

Venue	When	What	Contact	Christmas Closing Dates
Labour Hall Crab Lane Biggleswade, SG18 0LN	Thursday 2pm - 8pm Saturday 1pm - 4pm	Free Laundry facilities – wash and dry, hot drinks, WiFi, heat and eat – use of kitchen	labourhall@gmail.com	Closed 22nd to 27th December Open 28th December Closed 29th December to 3rd January
Kings Corner 6 Britten Place, Sullivan Court, Biggleswade, SG18 8RE	Tuesday 10.00am - 12.30pm Thursday 10.00am - 12.30pm	Hot drinks	Use Facebook messenger to contact King's Corner or email mike@bbchurch.org.uk	Closed 24th December to 1st January
St Andrews Church Shortmead St, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT	Thursday 10.30am to 11.30pm Saturday 10.00am to 12.00pm	Drop in for hot drinks	01767 317207 office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk	Closed 26th December to 3rd January



Biggleswade Warm Spaces has been supported by Preen CIC, Biggleswade Churches Together, Biggleswade Express, Biggleswade Town Council and many volunteers, to whom we are very grateful. Biggleswade Warm Spaces is coordinated by Biggleswade Labour Party