



Biggleswade Community News

JANUARY 2025



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Lets make 2025 a good year! Whether you are a family, a couple or just you, there is no need to be lonely. You are special and we are here for you, with ideas for things to do and places to get help and support.

Welcome to our first edition of the year. Do you have any New Year resolutions? Mine every year is “Do what you can and accept what you can’t”. Age is taking its toll but there is still plenty to keep me occupied. We can all find things to do if we want to. There is plenty to choose from and we aim to make you aware of what is on offer to us in Biggleswade and nearby.

Many of the options are from local organisations or small businesses. If we don’t support them, either as customers or volunteers we may lose them. We are working with a selection as partners and pool our resources. See pages 2 and 3.

For example last year Biggleswade Carnival Parade was cancelled due to lack of volunteers. This year we are working with them to recruit a team so that it can go ahead again. Biggleswade Good Neighbours are doing a great job but could do more with a few more volunteers. Biggleswade Community Gardens volunteers are working to improve Biggleswade’s green spaces and grow fresh food to share. These are just a few which you could consider supporting or helping with.

Look inside for more local information and let me know if there is something that I could include in the next edition.

Best Wishes, Your editor, Alan Dansey

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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 & Partners



Biggleswade Community Group We exist for you our readers to provide support and keep you informed. Do you fancy joining the team? With your help we could do more www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

We work with these partners that have similar aims:-



Biggleswade Town Council provide funding to allow us 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 without Internet. A newsletter distributor for Upper Caldecote would be very welcome. It's no more than twenty locations. 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 Organises the carnival parade plus a range of events. They need more volunteers if it is to continue.

www.biggleswadecarnival.co.uk



MORNING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 10AM-12

NORTHFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE
BIGGLESWADE SG18 0HD

FOR INFO OR A LIFT CALL: 07771104255



Biggleswade Community Gardens

Northfields
community centre,
SG18 0HD

On Saturday January 11
from 10.30am to 2.30pm
we will be gardening at
Northfields, followed by
our AGM.

All members are
welcome & encouraged
to attend.

We will be selecting the
steering group and
members can put
themselves forward.

<https://biggleswadecommunitygardens.org/>

Volunteers Needed for Biggleswade Carnival Parade!

Biggleswade Carnival Parade is in jeopardy, and we need YOUR help to save it! We're holding a meeting soon to decide whether the parade will go ahead next year. The reality is simple: if we don't get enough committed volunteers, the parade won't happen.

To make this cherished event a success, we need a dedicated team to help with planning, organising, and running the parade on the day. In the past, we've struggled with volunteers stepping forward but not following through. This year, we're asking for people who can truly commit to making this event a reality.

If you love Biggleswade and want to see the carnival parade continue, now is the time to act! Comment below or message me directly if you're ready to help bring our community together.

Let's not lose this tradition—together, we can make it happen!

Email hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



Bedfordshire Police want support for our Watch groups and promotion for their work. Biggleswade especially are looking for more volunteers.

SPEEDWATCH is a scheme to help people reduce traffic speeding through their neighbourhood. This is volunteers supported by Bedfordshire Police committing to at least 2 hours a month, using Police equipment to record the speed of vehicles, the data is then used by Police to advise drivers of excessive speeding.

STREETWATCH is run by local residents promoting good citizenship and supporting a stronger community. Patrols are completed in pairs for a minimum of 2 hours a month.

Please use the links below to get a full picture of how these WATCH groups are run and the benefits of volunteering to support your local community.

If you would like to join the schemes or require more information please click "watch Schemes and Initiatives" at www.beds.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information or email Watcheschemes@beds.police.uk



Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 22nd February 2025**, at **2.15 for 2.45 pm**, in the **Elgar Room** in the **Weatherley Centre**. **Note:** This is 15 minutes earlier than previously. **Alice Hunter** will tell us all about the

Flora of Islands in the Med. Alice is a professional wildlife and landscape photographer and leads tours for several wildlife tour companies. So why not join us on a whistle stop tour of Cyprus, Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica in the Spring.

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. www.bedfordshirealpines.com

Biggleswade Achieves Fairtrade Community Status!

Biggleswade has officially been recognised as a Fairtrade Community, thanks to the efforts of FAB (Future Action Biggleswade). This achievement highlights the group's dedication to promoting fairness, sustainability, and ethical consumption at the heart of its community life.



Fairtrade Communities embody a commitment to a fairer future by supporting and promoting Fairtrade products and principles. Through collaborative efforts, Biggleswade has joined this global movement, raising awareness of social and environmental issues while advocating for fair wages and sustainable practices for farmers and workers in developing countries.



FAB has spearheaded this initiative, uniting residents, businesses, schools, and local organisations to champion ethical consumption and sustainability. By choosing Fairtrade products, the people of Biggleswade are making a tangible difference in creating a better world for everyone.

Neil Spencer, Chair of FAB said: *"We're incredibly proud that Biggleswade is now a Fairtrade Community. This status reflects our group's commitment to global fairness and sustainability. We hope this achievement inspires even more people to support Fairtrade and contribute to building a brighter, more equitable future for all."*

This milestone is just the beginning for Biggleswade, as FAB continues to work towards greater awareness and participation in the Fairtrade movement. Together, the community is proving that local action can have a global impact.

For more information about FAB and Fairtrade in Biggleswade, and FAB's campaigns "Think People", "Thinking Environment", "Thinking Local", working with Biggleswade Good Neighbours, Plastic Free Biggleswade, Biggleswade Community Gardens and Biggleswade Community Group, contact fab@fabweb.org.uk, see the website at <https://fabweb.org.uk> or phone/message FAB's Chair, Neil Spencer, on 07910 211824.

THEATRE, MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

7TH JAN - SILENT BOOK CLUB

7TH JAN - TRADITIONAL MUSIC NIGHT

8TH JAN - VINYL REVIVAL

9TH JAN - OPEN MIC NIGHT

11TH JAN - NEVERMIND THE DOOKIE

15TH JAN - WATERCOLOUR & WINE

15TH JAN - A WAY WITH WORDS

16TH JAN - CASTLE COMEDY - JEFF INNOCENT

18TH JAN - FAMILY FOLK SHOW WITH MEGSON

18TH JAN - TOM BRIGHT WITH SUPPORT FROM LILLA SHY

19TH JAN - ROCKING AT THE BIGG THEATRE

23RD JAN - OPEN MIC

25TH JAN - SHAKE IT UP - IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE SHOW

30TH JAN - HANNAH SCOTT

31ST JAN - THE NOISE NEXT DOOR: FREEWHEELING



WARM SPACES

St Peter's RC in Station Road Biggleswade are opening on Mondays from 10.30-12.30, as part of the Warm Spaces Programme.

We are offering a warm drink and cakes and would love to welcome you.

Come and meet us in a Warm Cosy Space and have a chat or maybe join in an Activity. All are Welcome and we are looking forward to meeting you.



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 6th January 2025

Natalie Doig, host of the award winning podcast series, 'Weird in the Wade' dives deep into Biggleswade's Mysterious Tunnels and Other Stories. Many ancient settlements have rumours of long forgotten tunnels connecting the church to the pub, the school to the pub, or a pub to... another pub. Could Biggleswade be home to long forgotten passageways running under our very feet? Come along and find out...

Stratton School Presents

The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum
 With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg
 Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Score and Visual Arrangements by Peter Howard
 Orchestration by Larry Wilson
 Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company
 Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.


Thursday 30th January 2025, 7pm
Friday 31st January 2025, 7pm
Saturday 1st February 2025, 2pm
 at Stratton School

Adult: Immersive Experience £12, Seated £10
 Child Concession: Immersive Experience £8.50, Seated £6.50
 Family: Immersive Experience £38, Seated £30

In the immersive experience, you will be asked to hop, take and throw out for an element of audience participation.

This amateur production of THE WIZARD OF OZ is presented by arrangement with Warner
 Home Video Ltd on behalf of Home Video, Ltd (www.warnerhomevideo.co.uk)

Stratton School **stratton.live/oz**



ZUMBA

Are you ready to exercise while having fun after the holidays? Then Zumba is what you need. Come and join our Zumba classes tailored to your physical ability!

Zumba Fitness at The Studio in Biggleswade centre every Tuesday from 6pm, starting on the 14th of January 2025

Zumba Gold at the Orchard Community Centre every Monday from 10am, starting on the 20th of January 2025

Zumba Seated at the Orchard Community Centre every Monday from 11am, starting on the 20th of January 2025

Classes are 7 pounds pay as you go (cash or card)

Tel 07469 555309

Email shakeitatzumba@gmail.com

The Music Room, Fairfield House, (Not Strictly Jazz Club)

Probably the most intimate venue in Biggleswade

On the second Sunday of each month you too can be beautifully entertained by an ever evolving line up of professional musicians.

If you appreciate live music in casual surroundings come along - join us

12 January 2025

09 February 2025

09 March 2025

13 April 2025

11 May 2025

08 June 2025



5 - 7 Pm (for comfy seats arrive early) Tickets £20 (light refreshments included) Fairfield House and Fairfield Studio,* Fairfield Road, Biggleswade SG18 OAA

Seating is limited; to ensure your place contact Sarah on 01767 312176 or email themusicroombiggleswade@hotmail.com

A Little Help

Central
Bedfordshire

How to recycle your real Christmas tree

Recycle your real Christmas tree at any of our four recycling centres/tidy tips or by placing it near your recycling bin, on your normal recycling collection day, between Monday 6 January and Friday 17 January 2025.

This service is open to all households in Central Bedfordshire, at no extra cost to you.

Please ensure it is placed separately and not in any bin or bag trees should be no taller than 6ft, with trunks no greater than 3 inches in diameter

important reminder: For those who subscribe, no other garden waste will be accepted during this time. Garden waste collections are suspended between Monday, 2 December 2024 until Friday, 24 February 2025.

CareChoices



Bedfordshire & Luton

Adult Care & Support Services Directory 2025

Information and advice about local care and support
Home support • Specialist care • Useful contacts • Care homes

The 2025 edition of the Directory has been published and can be picked up free of charge from Café Mocha.

Hidden Gems?

When people are looking for a Business or organisation such as yours, they are likely to start looking online. If they use a search engine such as Google or Social Media such as Facebook, what will they find?

I run an Internet Hosting Business and work as a volunteer with a number of Local organisations Including Biggleswade Community Group.

If you want what you have to offer to be more visible, I can help, so give me a call

Alan Dansey
01767 310163

