



Biggleswade Community News

FEBRUARY 2025



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

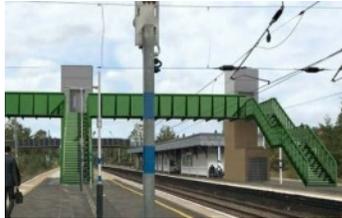


"It is with a heavy heart that we must announce that from today the March Hare BrewPub is now closed. The pub has not recovered since COVID but we will search for a new tenant to maintain, if possible, an independent village pub.

*John & Janice,
3 December 2024*



Biggleswade's very own Music Festival coming Saturday March 8th.



RAILSTATION

Accessibility upgrades have restarted at the station

Work is in progress at Biggleswade station to make it more accessible, with the construction of a new footbridge and lifts. This will provide all passengers – particularly those with limited mobility, heavy luggage, or pushchairs – with a step-free, accessible route to and between platforms.

The project, which is funded by the Government's Access for All Programme, has begun and is expected to be completed by December 2025. The station will remain open to passengers during the construction.

If you have any local news that you think we would like to include in the March edition try to get it to us by Friday 21st February , Thanks
editor@biggleswadecommunitynews

Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163

Email: admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

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



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. 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 Big Theatre As well as events, it hosts a variety of community groups, meeting needs in Biggleswade.

www.thebigtheatre.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

UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS

REGULAR ACTIVITIES at Bigg Theatre

Tuesdays

Chatty Tuesdays Weekly, 10.00am - 11.30am

Broadway Boogie Encore Weekly, 10.15am - 11.00am

The Singers Weekly, 11.30am - 12.30pm

Chair Yoga Weekly, 1.00pm - 1.45pm

Wednesdays

Art Workshop Fortnightly, 12.00pm - 2.00pm

Community Catalyst Monthly, 12.00pm - 2.00pm

Somewhere to Sing 7.30pm - 9pm

Thursdays New Classes Coming Soon



Community Group Update: We are a small team of volunteers so are glad to be able to work with partners for our mutual benefit. Last year we were able to run a popular coach trip to the seaside. We would like to do it again but have nobody to organise it. We could also do with help with admin and grant applications. Any offers or suggestions?



Biggleswade Community Garden at 9.30 on Sunday 2nd February, Join us at Chestnut Avenue and Des Ball's bulb bank for our regular gardening as we maintain the garden and look for signs of new growth from the bulbs we planted last year!



URGENT!!! **Volunteers Needed for Biggleswade Carnival Parade!**

If you love Biggleswade and want to see the carnival parade continue, now is the time to act! 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!

The problem we have is despite us having volunteers for the day itself we need people on board to help put stuff together and complete the legalities and practicalities of the day

Email hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



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 3rd February Ted Martin - Fleet Street 70

Years Ago: the speaker's experiences in the street of shame.

Monday 3rd March The History of the Ickwell May Day - A look behind the scenes by the Ickwell May Day Committee.



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**. **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. www.bedfordshirealpin.es.com

Biggleswade Library was re-opened to the public in October 2023 after a major refurbishment. We now share the building with the Registration Service and the Children's Centre as well as being a hub for Barclays Bank customers.



We run regular events for children and adults, ranging from Rhyme Time for the youngest and a Seated Yoga group for adults. The building is a warm and welcoming space for working in or relaxing with a good book.

Please feel free to pop in anytime, our opening hours are Tues-Fri from 9-6pm and 9-4pm on Saturdays. We will be happy to help with your queries or sign you up for one of our events. Call us on 0300-300-8055 or search for Biggleswade Library on the web for more information about our regular events.

Art trail celebrates International Women's Day



Businesses in Biggleswade are coming together to celebrate this year's International Women's Day (IWD) on Saturday 8 March 2025 by hosting a family-friendly art trail throughout the town.

A variety of works by talented local women artists – from sculpture to paintings, textile art to mixed-media creations – will be displayed in shops, cafes and other venues around Biggleswade. Striking out from a pop-up International Women's Day stall in the market square, intrepid art-hunters are invited to wander around the town while working their way through a list of cryptic or simple clues in order to identify the different locations hosting the artworks.

The art trail challenge runs from 9am to 2pm on Saturday 8 March, with an entry fee of £1 per quiz sheet, and prizes for those who correctly identify the most locations.

Some of the artists are offering work for sale both at the pop-up IWD stall and after the event, with a percentage of funds raised from this, along with the proceeds of the entry fees, to be donated to domestic abuse support organisation Refuge. On any given day, Refuge supports thousands of women and their children across the country, helping them to overcome the physical, emotional, financial and logistical

impacts of abuse and rebuild their lives free from fear. For more information, if you'd like to host or supply a piece of art for the trail, or donate a prize, please contact Biggleswadeiwd@gmail.com



Beaumont Park Care Home Awarded 5-Star Food Hygiene Rating

Beaumont Park Care Home in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, and part of the Healthcare Homes Group, is proud to announce that its kitchen has achieved the highest possible Food Hygiene Rating of five stars. This rating, awarded by the Food Standards Agency under a scheme operated in partnership with the local authority, follows an unannounced inspection last week.



WHAT'S ON



Jazz Jam

 (Not Strictly Jazz Club).

The Music Room Fairfield House & Studio,* Fairfield Road, Biggleswade.

Jazz Jam on the 4th Sunday of each month from 5 - 8pm.

Open to all players, singers and listeners, join the house trio (a monthly changing line up) in the intimate setting of our music room to enjoy listening to or making music.

Players/singers to jam. £10.

Audience/to listen. £15. (light refreshments included).

26 January 2025 - 23 February 2025 - 23 March 2025

27 April 2025 - 25 May 2025 - 22 June 2025

For more information or to put your name down to play, sing or listen,
contact Sarah - 01767 312176 or email themusicroombiggleswade@hotmail.com

*For studio and rehearsal room contact James 07795803352 or <https://www.fairfieldstudios.org>

BIGGLESWADE CONSERVATIVE CLUB

**BINGO WILL NOW BE
HELD ON
2ND TUESDAY AND 4TH
MONDAY
OF THE MONTH
7.30PM START**

**14TH & 20TH JAN
11TH & 24TH FEB
11TH & 24TH MARCH
8TH & 28TH APRIL
13TH & 26TH MAY
10TH & 23RD JUNE**





Biggleswade's very own music festival is coming to town on Saturday 8th March. Look out for artist applications, competitions and details about the day! We can't wait to reveal all!



February What's On



The Ultimate Bubble Show

Sunday 2 February



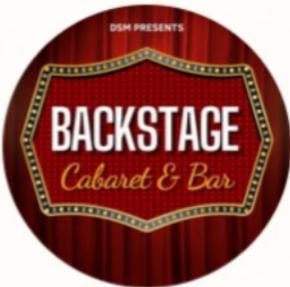
The Jam'd - The Jam Tribute Band

Saturday 8 February



The BIGG House Band with Gina Foster

Friday 14 February



Backstage Cabaret & Bar

Friday 21 February



The West End Jerseys

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 February



Isle 'Ave A Shanty

Friday 28 February

A Little Help



I can get around for a pound with a Young Person's card

CHECK IT OUT

Funded by UK Government

If you live in Central Bedfordshire, and you're 18 or under, apply for a FREE YP Card to travel by bus for £1

YP card

Young person's card continues to allow 18s and under to 'get around for a pound'

Using buses in Central Bedfordshire remains highly affordable for young people as the £1 maximum single fare for anyone aged 18 and under, introduced in 2024, will continue for the foreseeable future.

The scheme, known as the YP Card, has been a resounding success since its launch, enabling young people to travel around Central Bedfordshire and to nearby towns and cities for just £1 per single journey. The initiative continues to make public transport accessible, encouraging greater use of local buses among young residents.

This discounted travel scheme for young people is funded by the Bus Service Improvement Plan grant received from the UK government. For assistance with applications or enquiries, please email public.transport@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.



Dunton Recreation Association are looking to start a weekly games / gaming night in the pavilion. The night will be decided once the majority of participants are consulted. It will consist of traditional board games and if popular include tabletop games as well as card games etc Entrance will be free and open to anybody. There would be a licensed bar available as well as tea, coffee etc. accepting cash or card payments.

The committee invite any groups looking for a venue or interested individuals to get in touch (please ring 07710163135 or contact any of the committee members). Please pass this message on to anybody who you think may be interested.

The pavillion is also available to hire for events:
<https://duntonra.org.uk>