

A Little Help

IVEL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Are you recently bereaved?

Have you been struggling with coming to terms with your loss?

Would it help to talk to someone?

Sharing your loss can make the burden of grief easier to manage.

Please don't grieve alone.

Speak to one of our Bereavement Support Volunteers

07704 734225

Monday–Friday, 9–6pm
This is a free service.



A chance for men suffering with anxiety, depression and grief to talk with other fellow sufferers.

Online and in person meetings. Join in and talk or just listen. No pressure!

07709 446480

Luke@formentotalk.co.uk
formentotalk.co.uk/events

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



Biggleswade Community News

MARCH 2025



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163



WadeFest 2025 is Saturday 8 March From 1pm until late. Artists and times tbc. Free Entry

Biggleswade's very first multi-venue music festival. With over 50 local soloists, duos and bands playing across five different venues this is sure to be a special day and hopefully the first of an annual tradition.

Venues include: The BIGG Theatre; Jones Cafe; DeeDee's Vegan Cafe; Drink Tasting Room; Rosso Lounge.

To stay up to date with WadeFest news, follow @wadefestbiggleswade on Instagram or wadefest2025 on Facebook. See you there!

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Look inside for what we are aware of. Hopefully there is something that you did not know but what have we missed? If you have any local news that you think we would like to include in the next edition get it to us by Friday March 21st, Thanks editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

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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. 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



**CRAFTS / STREET FOOD / COFFEE & CAKE
WINE & SPIRITS / OVER 40 LOCAL TRADERS**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Biggleswade LOCAL ART TRAIL
SATURDAY 8 MARCH
9AM-2PM
£1 per entry

Come join in for some family-friendly fun

Follow the cryptic clues that lead to your most-loved shops

Discover amazing art created by local women

Prizes to be won!

Grab your quiz sheet from our pop-up stall @ Market Square

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

RAISING MONEY FOR:
Refuge
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Churches Together in Biggleswade

Our Biggleswade Churches offer a full programme of events and services and we would love to welcome you .

Representatives meet regularly to plan joint activities. On Good Friday April 18th we will have a walk of witness ending with a service in the market Square.

WHAT'S ON

Traditional Music Night Tuesday 4 March

Quentin Crisp - Naked Hope Thursday 6 March

Bob Dylan - A tribute by The Bob Villains Friday 7 March

WadeFest 2025 Saturday 8 March

Live Music Quiz with Shaka Thursday 13 March

Megson Friday 14 March

The Beertles Saturday 15 March

Castle Comedy - Marcel Lucont Thursday 20 March

Steve Young Friday 21 March

La Bouche Manouche Saturday 22 March

Is That a Whip in Your Hand? Friday 28 March

36 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JL

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



BIGGLESWADE CONSERVATIVE CLUB



Sun 2 Mar George's Pub Quiz

Tue 11 Mar Bingo

Sat 15 Mar Three Drags

Fri 28 Mar Psychic Night 🎮

Wed 9 Apr Club AGM

8-10 May Biggleswade Beer Festival

UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS

Biggleswade has a lot to offer in terms of entertainment, help and support. A key contributor to this is small groups of enthusiastic volunteers working in "not for profit" organisations. Soemtimes this limits what they can offer. For that reason we link up with partners to combine our efforts to achieve more together than we could alone. If you are part of a community group why not get in touch for a chat about how we can work together.



Community Group Update: We attended an Ivel Valley College community day at The Weatherley Centre and enjoyed meeting some of the staff and pupils.

We are pleased that Margaret Curry has joined us to help with admin. Hopefully that will enable us to be more organised and responsive. We still need someone to organise social activities such as coffee mornings and outings.



Biggleswade Community Garden

We will be gardening at Northfields on the 15th March and all are welcome to join us.



Biggleswade Community Carnival

We are taking bookings for Community Groups and Businesses to have stalls at the Duck Race.

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.

Email hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk



As well as events (see page 6) There are activity groups to join:-

Silent Book Club Tuesday 4 March

Vinyl Revival Wednesday 12 March

A Way With Words Wednesday 19 March

Watercolour & Wine Wednesday 26 March

Open Mic Night Thursday 27 March

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



Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society

Our talk in March 2025 takes us to Mexico, when **Paul Spracklin** will show us the fascinating plants and stunning landscapes of this North American country.

Paul is a retired garden designer and writer who has visited Mexico on many occasions. So why not come and join us on a "Whirlwind tour of Mexico"

The meeting will be on **Saturday 29th March 2025**, at **2.00 for 2.30 pm**, in the **Elgar Room** in the **Weatherley Centre**. **Note:** This is 30 minutes earlier than previously.

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

Art trail celebrates International Women's Day



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. please contact Biggleswadeiwd@gmail.com

See Page 7 for more details

ABOUT THE TOWN



The controversial housing scheme for 416 dwellings on a 43-acre site north of Furzenhall Road is going ahead after being resubmitted. It includes access via a new connection from the roundabout at Potton Road Baden Powell Way. A smaller part of the site (with up to 74 dwellings), will be accessed via Furzenhall Road to the south of the site.

Plans include green infrastructure accommodating landscaping, allotments, a community orchard and public open space. A buyer is being sought, likely to be a house builder or a consortium

<https://robinsonandhall.co.uk>



A Message from Dee Dee's

It is with heavy hearts that we make this announcement. At the end of March we will be closing the doors to Dee Dee's for good. With the rent going up, bills going up, price of just about everything going up, we have decided that it is no longer sustainable to keep going. We've loved serving you all, and have made so many great friends and countless great memories over the years, but we feel now is the right time to walk away.

Although this is goodbye for the cafe, we aim to keep the online shop/home delivery/wholesale side of the business up and running, so watch this space for updates regarding this.

We know the cafe has meant a great deal to a lot of you, and we're honoured and proud that we could be a fun, safe space for so many of you. We are forever grateful to anyone who made the trip to visit us, and feel very lucky to have had such AMAZING customers.

We're going out with our heads held high. Love you all. Let's make this last month a good one! Team Dee Dee's



Trains@Trinity

Calling all model railway enthusiasts! The team which has run the Bi-Annual 'Trains @ Trinity' Exhibition in Biggleswade is looking for Enthusiasts to join the team in planning for next

year's (2026) Event. If you can help or would be interested to find out more, please email: bmapletoft@hotmail.com OR gordon.50@hotmail.co.uk