



# Biggleswade Community News

NOVEMBER 2020



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**REMEMBRANCE PARADE** This year, due to covid, the usual Remembrance Parade will not take place in its entirety. At 10.40am a small parade will walk from the Sea Cadets HQ on Station Road to the Market Square. A short service will be followed by the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths will be laid by a small number of dignitaries during the service.

We are asking members of the public to adhere to social distancing guidance and not to gather in large groups. Biggleswade Town Council will be live streaming the event on the Town Council's Facebook page as well as You Tube, so that the whole community can still mark their respects for those that have fallen.

We welcome those wishing to lay wreaths at the Memorial. However we would ask that they again socially distance. Please ensure this takes place after the service and once all equipment and barriers have been removed.

At 10.45am on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November, there will be a short service at the Memorial. Once again we ask that members of the public observe social distancing guidelines with regard to gathering in large groups. **Biggleswade Town Council**

***Biggleswade and District Branch of the Royal British Legion***

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** There will be Christmas Lights in Biggleswade this year, but at the moment there are no plans for an official switch on. Please visit the Town Council's website and their Facebook page for any updates.



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# ABOUT TOWN

**Biggleswade Town Council** is running a campaign to encourage everyone to support local businesses and to shop in our town centre. Many small businesses have had a very difficult year and need everyone to show their support. Others managed to stay open during lockdown, and with long queues outside of supermarkets, it's a good job they did!



The Courtyard Centre at the bottom of the High Street, over the roundabout at the junction of Shortmead Street, is now home to a new business that opened last month. **Bamboo Turtle** is a zero waste shop selling dried goods and liquids to customers who take their own containers. The owners already have a successful shop in

Letchworth and chose Biggleswade as the location for their second one. They were drawn to our thriving Market Town and encouraged by the reaction to their Social Media posts.

**Seasons Fruit & Veg** opens on November 2 in the Market Square. It is a historic listed building that is being carefully renovated to a high standard. The exterior is being decorated and among other things the floor in the 2nd floor kitchen has been sanded & varnished.

It is an existing family ethical business that sources and supplies locally grown produce in veggie boxes, soon available in the new shop. Plans include

GROCERY STORE, DELI, CHEESE ROOM, CHARCUTERIE, LOCAL FRUIT/VEG, KITCHEN DEMO'S & MUCH MORE



However initially the Ground floor retail space will be selling a huge range of fruit, veg & local produce but they will have a limited range of deli items to start with but be assured there will be MUCH MORE to come!

**OPENING SOON** Work has started on the new Thai Rice restaurant in Sun Street (was The Viceroy). All of the old frosted window graphics are being replaced with Gold frosted material. And the signage is being replaced .

## NEWS FROM ORGANISATIONS

**Drink Biggleswade** in Station Road opened on October 27. It is Biggleswade's first and only independent craft beer tasting room and bottle shop. It is committed to providing the local community with high-quality craft beer, made by the best independent breweries in the UK and beyond. In fact beer is so important to them, that they've gone the extra mile to make sure we're getting the best drops possible! The 100% refrigerated storage keeps stock fresher for longer, and the flavours at their most intense. Only a handful of places in the UK have the setup. It is good that beer is being brewed in the town again.

**Millers Coffee House** has opened in the Kings Reach Square with inside and outside seating. Sacha Miller says "We have been so excited about opening up & being part of a lovely community. We believe, especially in these times, how important it is to support local businesses, so we have teamed up with local suppliers not just for all our for our works etc but also our products. 3 different cake makers meet a wide variety of different needs & preferences"



**Preen Community Interest** are running low on books - if you have any good quality contributions they would really appreciate them: Fiction , Non- Fiction, Cookery, Autobiography, Children's books, Craft & DIY 01767 600332

**Stratton Upper School** joined Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. 900 roll Stratton School became the first school in Bedfordshire to join the multi-academy Trust. An investment of £3.5 million will improve the school buildings, facilities and IT infrastructure. CMAT currently operates 15 schools in an area



from Stamford to Cambridge. It has developed a track record in working with schools to improve their own standards and achievement. In 2017 CMAT was ranked as the fifth best performing multi academy Trust for Key Stage 4 in the Department of Education's league tables. More on [The school](#) & [CMAT](#) Web sites.



# HAVE YOUR SAY



Central  
Bedfordshire  
Council

## CBC WANTS YOUR VIEWS ON INDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES & BEING ACTIVE

Our Council is consulting residents, businesses and organisations over its draft leisure facilities and physical activity strategies. Evidence has shown that Biggleswade needs additional exercise studios and an enlarged sports hall. It also confirms the need to ensure that as new schools are built, their sports halls should include community access out of school hours. Evidence also found that those living with long term health conditions, on lower incomes, BAME communities, disabled people, and those living in towns all found it harder to be active during lockdown.

The Council wants to know what types of activity people took part in before and after lockdown, and what barriers stop them being active. They want to know what changes need to be made to their leisure centres to ensure that they provide flexible spaces which can react to changing needs. They want their Leisure Centres to support people not only with exercise, but also with less formal physical activities, which can help people maintain their physical and mental health. Future housing growth will also impact on future leisure provision.

The consultation ends on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. If you want to give your views online [HERE IT IS](#)

**Biggleswade Community Group** provides local information online and in print to include people not connected to the internet. Increasingly government and council information is only available on line so we provide a telephone contact number where we can, We also publish our landline phone number 01767 448954 and we will endeavour to help callers to access the information or take part in a survey etc.

Copies of this newsletter can be obtained from the Town Council, Community Centres, cafes etc. If you are housebound and would like a copy delivered to your door, tel: 01767 448954

## **GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF ABBOTSBURY**

Central Bedfordshire Council wants the best possible quality of life for its residents and has been looking at how it can secure this both now and for future generations. It has been reviewing the Council's own residential care homes, many of whom cannot meet the physical standards and expectations of people needing residential care now and in the future.

The Council owns Abbotsbury Older Persons Home, located at the rear of the Council site in London Road (adjacent to the Yorkshire Grey Public House.) Nearby a new care home is being built, called Mantles Court. It will be operated by Quantum and opens in the summer of 2021. The Council have been offered enough care home places at Mantles Court for all of the residents from Abbotsbury who want to move there to do so, provided they can meet their care and support needs.

This has presented the Council with an opportunity to consider the future of Abbotsbury and is asking for people's views on its preferred option of moving residents to Mantles Court. This proposal was shared with residents, relatives and staff at Abbotsbury at a meeting held remotely on 30th September 2020. The consultation process will run from Friday 23rd October 2020 until Friday 29th January 2021.

Residents, relatives and other interested parties will be invited to contribute their views and suggest alternative options for the future of the home.

[EMAIL: for a questionnaire](#) Or write to FREEPOST RSJS GBBZSRZT, Abbotsbury Older Persons Home Consultation – MANOP Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG175TQ Or [ONLINE HERE](#)

### **Garden waste collections will be suspended**

between Monday, 7 December 2020 and Friday, 26 February 2021 inclusively. Depending on where you live, your last garden waste collection will be either: the week commencing Monday, November 23 or the week commencing Monday, November 30

All garden waste collections will resume as normal from Monday, 1 March 2021.

# ACTIVITIES

**The Weatherley Centre** is open for hire, but most current activities are taking place in the main hall. Zumba Gold, Glow Beatz and Beatz Fitness and Weightwatchers are continuing, and a new children's fun drama class has just commenced (see separate article). The Antique and Collectors Fairs are suspended until the 17th January. If you are looking for a large 350 square metre main hall to allow for social distancing, contact Helen and her team on 01767 315709. Smaller rooms are available.

**Festive pop up craft & food fayre** At Jordan's Mill Saturday, November 14 and Saturday December 12, 10am - 3pm. Free Entry! With a fantastic range of stalls including: - sweet treats, hand-made items, locally made foods and more, there is something for everyone! <https://jordansmill.com> Tel: 01767 603940

**Warden Abbey Xmas Wine Sale** at Shuttleworth House. Sunday December 6. Warden Abbey Vineyard is a Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) project, run with the valued support of the Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard. 07981 113714 [www.wardenvineyard.org.uk](http://www.wardenvineyard.org.uk)

**DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRAMA** Fun Drama Classes at Weatherley Centre on Wednesdays nurturing confidence, creativity and communication

The Helen O'Grady Children's Drama Academy was formed in 1979 when Helen O'Grady, a trained drama teacher, recognised a need for young children to develop their confidence and self-esteem and to improve their verbal communication skills.



The fun lessons enable young people to have something to say, the confidence to say it and the creativity to make it interesting.

Inclusive childrens classes. No auditions. School term time only. First lesson free. £108 for average 12 week term

4-7 yrs 4pm-5pm, 8-11 yrs 5pm-6pm, 11-16 yrs 6pm-7pm

To Book your child's free trial, call 01442 737030 email [cambs-herts@helenogrady.co.uk](mailto:cambs-herts@helenogrady.co.uk) or visit <https://www.hertsdrama.co.uk>

## DESTINATIONS

**Shuttleworth** in Old Warden is open daily (excluding airshow event days), with a 'site-entry' fee, which can be used repeatedly for a month. Winter Opening Hours (Monday 2 November – February Half Term): 10.00 – 16.00. (Closed from 21 – 26 December 2020) Adults – £15 Children under 16 – free (4 per person). (Buy your ticket online and re-use it multiple times for up to a month after the date for which it was purchased. Contactless payments are available on the gate but these are single use only).



The Engineering workshop, library, restaurant, and gift shop remain closed to the public. An outdoor takeaway service is available with snacks, hot drinks and refreshments. Toilets are also available onsite. There is around 60 acres of space included in the admission fee: Six aircraft & vehicle hangars of the Shuttleworth Collection, The Swiss Garden, North Park, Paddocks overlooking the airfield and Play Area. Dogs on leads are welcome on site (excluding specific events) but only assistance dogs are allowed within the Swiss Garden and hangars. Shuttleworth is accessible, with wheelchair friendly paths within the Swiss Garden and level access to all six hangars. <https://www.shuttleworth.org> 01767 627927

**Jordan's Mill in Broom** has a visitor centre, cafe, gardens and 150-year- old flour mill by the River Ivel. Pop into the Riverside Cafe for Breakfast, Lunch or a cup of tea & cake, Wednesday - Sunday from 9am to 4:30pm (Cafe closes at 4pm). Enjoy freshly made light refreshments and meals in the Cafe or on the decking over the mill leat. Take a stroll around the beautifully designed Mill Gardens and discover milling history and the Jordan family story' <https://jordansmill.com> 01767 603940



**Dunton Community Garden** is a lovely peaceful open space where volunteers grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. It is accessible to the public daily from dawn – dusk. Why not take a picnic? – There are benches there. <http://duntongarden.org> 01767 313898

## NEED A LITTLE HELP?



Central  
Bedfordshire  
Council

Help for people who are told to self-isolate. While self-isolating you must stay in your home for the length of time you are told to by NHS Test and Trace. However, there are a range of support services both financial and practical you can draw on [You can use this online form](#) to request support from the Council's community partners who will help with food and medicine collections. They can also make arrangements for you to receive a priority supermarket booking slot if you are unable to arrange one online yourself.

If you are not connected to the internet you can phone 0808 196 3646 to access NHS volunteer responders for help with medicines. For general enquiries phone Adult Care Services on 0300 300 8303.

Financial help (emergency provision) is available following an emergency or crisis to meet the immediate day-to-day expenses relating to food and utilities. Supermarket vouchers and top-ups for pre-paid energy meters are provided to meet these needs. You do not need to be in receipt of any benefit or entitlement. To apply, you must be permanently residing within Central Bedfordshire and be

- 16 years or older
- in an emergency situation and not have enough money to meet the immediate needs of you and your family

If you need to contact us in an emergency, please call 0300 300 8900..

If you are told to self isolate by NHS Test and Trace, and are employed or self employed, or receiving certain benefits, you may be able to claim a Test and Trace Support Payment aimed at supporting people in work on low incomes to self isolate. This is a a £500 lump sum payment if you cannot work from home and are required to self-isolate It is now a punishable offence not to comply with an official instruction to self-isolate, with fines starting at £1,000 and rising to £10,000 for repeat offenders or serious breaches.