



Biggleswade Community News

NOVEMBER 2022



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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM RESULT

Biggleswade residents voted to adopt the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan with 1857 votes for the Plan and 371 against with a turnout of 13.5%. The Neighbourhood Plan will now be adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council. Chairman of the Biggleswade Local Plan Strategy Group and Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade, Madeline Russell, commented "I am delighted that Biggleswade residents have welcomed the Plan. The Strategy Group has worked hard for over four years to create policies which will ensure that the best of Biggleswade is preserved as the town develops."

The Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan now sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by Central Bedfordshire Council and the National Planning Policy Framework as a legal planning document. The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will be used to decide future planning applications for Biggleswade. Biggleswade Town Council wishes to thank everyone who voted.



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Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers.

You can read it online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

Adverts from £10 per edition. Enquiries to 07988 822678



FOR MEN TO TALK

On Thursday 22 September 2022, the group's founder, Luke Newman, attended the BBC Three Counties Radio 'Make A Difference Awards'. He said he was honoured to be nominated for an award for his work with For Men To Talk. He is even more humbled and emotional now to announce that he won it.

On receiving the award Luke said it was an award for all those men who want to talk, 'we are here for you, please reach out'. You can find out more about their events, walks or evening meetings by visiting the Group's Facebook page, telephoning 07709 446480 or email formentotalk@hotmail.com



This year both St Andrew's Church and Trinity Church are supporting the Rotary's Shoebox projects. Trinity will have their Service on the 20th November at 10.30am. For more information visit www.rotaryshoebox.org or contact either church to get involved. Shoeboxes are available if you don't have one.



FAB (Future Action Biggleswade) Is a group that cares about social and environmental justice and wishes to help people 'Think Local' and 'Think As You Shop'. There are three issues about which they campaign: Thinking about people – fairness in trade and good neighbours; Thinking environmentally – for a plastic-free Biggleswade and eco-education; Thinking local – buy local and grow local.

It has been chosen to be supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund for the next year. If you shop in the Co-op you can now choose FAB as your cause, click here

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73136>



NEW MEETING TIMES

Biggleswade Rotary Club has changed their meeting times from a Tuesday lunchtime to the early evening.

The Club meets at Stratton House Hotel, London Road, Biggleswade on a Tuesday at 5.45 for 6pm and lasts approximately 1 hour.

On the 4th Tuesday of the month we have a meal before the meeting. If there are 5 Tuesdays in the month we organise a social evening.

It is hoped the new time will be easier for those people who are working, to join us. Some of the members stay for a meal at the hotel after the meeting but it is entirely a matter of choice.

For further information call Barbara on 01767 601813



FOOTPRINTS COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY TUESDAY

At Trinity Methodist Church in Shortmead Street.

Go along and make friends. Tuesday 9am -12 noon, all are welcome.



The Biggleswade History Society

meets monthly at the Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street Biggleswade, usually at 7:30pm for 8:00pm, on the first Monday of each month (except for Public Holidays when we move to the second

Monday). Speakers provide a variety of talks and presentations. Meetings are free of charge for members with visitors welcome to attend for a charge of £4.00 per meeting.

7 November Member Jean Collins will tell us about brass rubbings, and show us some examples. We may even be invited to "have-a-go" ourselves.

5 December Christmas meeting with nibbles and our famous "Santa Sack" plus "Up the Cut" with Derek Harris, who will tell us about the history of the British Canal System, the life of the canal people and, possibly, sing us a few "canal shanties".



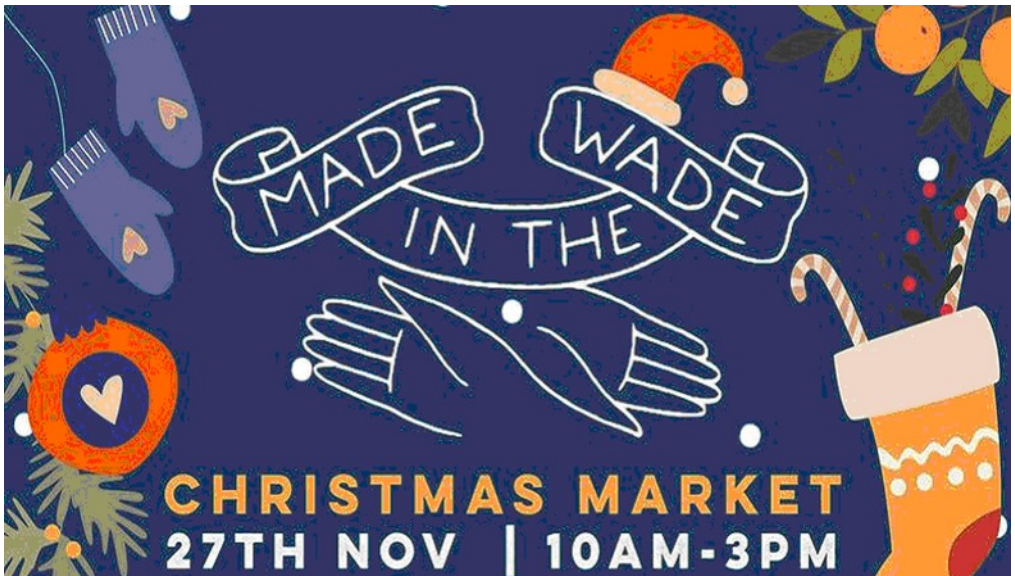
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Shortmead Street Biggleswade
SATURDAY 19TH NOV 10-30 – 12-30
Families Welcome for Fun, Faith and Food.
This month 'EXPLORING LIGHT'



NOT STRICTLY JAZZ

Their next performances at Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield Road, SG18 0AA are on 13th November and 11th December 5-7pm. You can now visit YouTube and search their name to watch a video giving you a taste of their music. Increasingly popular, tickets are £20, under 18s, £10 incl. refreshments. Phone 01767 312176



The Annual Biggleswade Christmas Lights Switch-On

Friday 25th November
12pm-8pm
Market Square
Presented by



WHAT'S ON

Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club
(CIO)

Christmas Dance

26th November 2022

The Weatherley Centre

8pm to Midnight

Dancing to

'New Vintage Plus'

Tickets £27.50 incl. supper

Available from

Lion Ivor 01767 226 419

Lion Judi 01462 814 693

Charity No. 1193179



WHAT'S ON AT THE WEATHERLEY CENTRE

Some dates for your diary:

6th November ART EXHIBITION Grand Hall 10am-4pm

20th November ANTIQUES FAIR

26th November LIONS CHRISTMAS DINNER (see article)

3rd December CASTLE COMEDY 7.30pm for 8pm show start.
Starring Larry Dean – Scottish Comedian of the Year in 2014 at just 23 years old. Compared to Kevin Bridges and Billy Connolly! Appeared on Live at the Apollo, Mock the Week and Michael McIntyre's Big Show. Also appearing are Finlay Christie and Joshua Robertson. Compered by Paul Revill. Tickets at <https://www.castlecomedy.co.uk/biggleswade-home>

18th December ANTIQUES FAIR

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SG18 0JS

Biggleswade Social Club

26th & 27th November

10am to 3pm

FREE ENTRY

On Sunday
from 12:2pm
We have
a

All weekend
there
will be
Festive
Music &
Refreshments

Raffle for Cancer
Research UK

face painter,
Snowman
&
SANTA

Postbox
to the
North
Pole



@TheStitchinCraftCabin

Christmas Craft fair
Biggleswade Social Club
26th and 27th November
10-3 both days with the
appearance of a snowman
on both days. Also a
special appearance from
Santa on Sunday
lunchtime. Plus a post box
to the North Pole for all
your Christmas wish lists
and letters. Along with a
festive face painter.

The weekend will be filled
with festive spirit with
decorations, music and
refreshments. This weekend
will be the last one of the
year to help us raise money
for Cancer Research UK
with the raffle being drawn
on Sunday by Santa before
he leaves around 2:15

SLEEPING BEAUTY THE PANTO

9TH - 11TH DECEMBER



noda
Theatre & Arts

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL, BIGGLESWADE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HOWELLS NEWSAGENTS &
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BATS



ABOUT THE TOWN

FIRST INFORMATION FROM THE CENSUS 2021

The total population for England and Wales is now 59,597,300. Scotland has 5,466,000 people, Wales 3,169,586 and Northern Ireland 1,895,510.

Initial information recently released from the Census 2021 will come as no surprise to those of us living in Biggleswade. East of England is the fastest growing region, up 8.3%. Bedford Borough had the largest increase at 17.7%.

Nearer home in Central Bedfordshire its population has grown 15.7% up from 254,381 in 2011 to 294,200 last year. This compares to the England and Wales average increase of 6.3%. Being so rural a council area it is easy to forget that Central Bedfordshire's population exceeds that of Milton Keynes (up 15.3%) and Peterborough (up 17.5%)

A decade ago the population here was made up of 12.2% under 10s and 15.7% over 65s. This has now changed to 12.3% under 10s and 18% over 65s by 2021.



Maythorn Children's Home in The Baulk, Biggleswade has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted for the fifth year in a row. The home has achieved a 'good' rating in every inspection conducted since 2017.

During the inspection, carried out over two days in July, the home was rated 'good' across all three areas of inspection: the overall experiences and progress of children and young people, how well children and young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers. The report highlighted how children at Maythorn continue to make significant progress with their independence skills, which will help them as they move into adulthood, as a result of "individualised and child centred" care plans – with staff putting the voice of each child at the centre of their work. It went on to praise staff saying that they "know the children well," and "work closely [with families] to ensure that children experience positive family time which helps children to retain their identity and supports their emotional well-being."

Inspectors also noted that "Parents are very positive about the quality of care the children receive. One parent said that the managers are 'absolutely fantastic' and that there are 'super people' working there."

LAND EAST OF BIGGLESWADE NOW UP FOR SALE

Outline planning permission has expired, and its owner, UK Regeneration, has now been put into receivership by its backers.

The 263 acre site, together with five other sites between Biggleswade and Sutton have now been put up for sale.

A major part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan, the new Garden Village would have included 12.5 acres for a primary school, 10 acres of leisure and community facilities and 150 acres of open space, allotments and a country park. Section 106 developer contributions would also have helped pay towards a new secondary school planned for a nearby site. It was the company's request to renegotiate the amount agreed towards the secondary school that caused the development to stall.

This has now impacted on Biggleswade's Schools for the Future, as both schools were a major part of the Council's plan to transfer local schools over to a 2 tier education system. Central Bedfordshire Council are now revisiting school provision in Biggleswade and its area.

In addition to the above site, The Grand Biggleswade Expo Corporation Ltd, also owned by UK Regeneration, purchased two major town centre pubs, the New Inn and Red Lion. Both developments were meant to enhance and strengthen the leisure sector within our town centre, but are also now up for sale.

DEE DEE'S MOVE TO THE MARKET SQUARE



Following on from last month's article about Biggleswade's all vegan café at the Courtyard Centre, we have now learnt that Dee Dee's will shortly be moving into the Market Square shop, vacated by Seasons last year.

Pictured are Simon and Freya, proud new owners. With larger premises they will be able to provide a wider menu and also promote veganism, which does not apply to just food.



AROUND AND ABOUT

GRANT PALMER STEPS IN FOR NEW BUS SERVICE

Flitwick-based bus operator Grant Palmer is to provide an alternative bus service for passengers from Biggleswade, Potton and Sandy from the end of October, following the news that Stagecoach is to withdraw its 72 and 73 services.

Grant Palmer will be providing a new commercial service, which will include:

- An hourly service between Sandy and Bedford (Monday-Saturday) with alternate journeys extended to either Potton or Biggleswade
- An early morning service from Sandy to Bedford (previously provided by Stagecoach) is retained but journeys will finish earlier in the evenings
- Journeys at convenient times for students travelling to and from Bedford College
- A journey to and from Potton coinciding with start and finish times at Sandy Secondary School
- Beeston is retaining its service, however, it will run on a reduced frequency (two hourly compared to hourly previously). Moggerhanger will be served on an hourly basis in both directions of travel
- A direct service to Bedford from Drove Road area in Biggleswade retained (two-hourly)

Grant Palmer will continue to operate the 74 service between Biggleswade and Bedford via Ickwell and Northill on an hourly basis for any passengers from Biggleswade requiring a faster and more direct service to Bedford.

Students who attend Stratton Upper School and currently using Stagecoach's 72 service will be transferred to the Herberts 189 route.

Further information about the new services is available at www.grantpalmer.com



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP

A Message from Shirley

It is with regret that I am resigning from co-editing Biggleswade Community News. It is 5 years since Iris Bull, chairman of the Mayflower Club, and myself started a newsletter, originally for just our Mayflowers members and then, in response to requests, sharing it with the community. This closed down when Covid struck, but our team started this current newsletter in September 2020 and I became one of its two editors.

It has been a great experience, being able to bring local news and Council and NHS information to our readers, but the time has come for me to leave the keyboard. Hopefully others will come forward to take my place, and I will still be there in the background until the end of 2022.

The team will need volunteers to circulate the newsletter to local drop off points, identify and write up local news, and link up with our local event venues.

Our link with Biggleswade Good Neighbours has been rewarding but expensive, so I wish the team well in obtaining more support, both financial and hands on, and I wish the newsletter good luck for the future.

Shirley Legate, Co-Editor

The Way Forward

The constitution for the group states that we intend to build a network consisting of the following

Friends Individuals or organisations will be invited to become 'friends' and will receive regular updates. When appropriate they will be consulted prior to Trustees' decision making.

Working Groups Activities will be carried out by volunteers with appropriate skills and interests. Groups will be formed as required to undertake specific tasks and report to the Trustees.

Partnerships Opportunities will be sought to work in partnership with suitable local organisations on projects to enhance community wellbeing.

So far we have been a very small team and this needs to change to deliver our vision for the community. If you are interested in learning more email enquire@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

Our priority right now is to build a working group to continue to produce this newsletter.

A LITTLE HELP



**Helping Hands
Home & Garden
Services
Biggleswade**

Do you struggle to get everything done?

**Do you need someone to help you with
everyday tasks?**

I am a friendly Biggleswade resident who is
DBS - checked, has public liability insurance
and is happy to help!

Odd Jobs
Life Admin
Gardening
Home Help
Decluttering
Reorganising
Fence Painting
Companionship
Formal Letter Writing

From £11 an hour

rachelhowlett50@hotmail.com | 01767 318667 | 07957 343632

I'm on Community Catalysts smallgoodstuff.co.uk Directory

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?
For more information telephone

07704 734225

(Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm)
And speak to one of our

Bereavement Support Volunteers



Free and Confidential
(Donations Welcomed)

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

Please don't grieve alone

Local radio offers easy social contact for anyone in the area. There are two stations that are easy to contact and welcome calls and messages. Regular listeners get to know each other. Appeals for help usually result in a quick response.

BBC RADIO THREE COUNTIES 90.4FM · 92.1FM · 94.7FM · 95.5FM · 98.0FM · 103.8FM · 104.5FM · DAB: 10D · Freeview: 720

To contact the team on-air please telephone:
0808 100 8800 or Text: 81333 and start the message with "3CR".



Studio Telephone: 01767 260111
Studio Text: 07710 457495
Email: studio@bigglesfm.com

See www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk for updates or ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try to help.