



# Biggleswade Community News

FEBRUARY 2023



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## **BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP** **The Way Forward**

Biggleswade Community Group was established in April 2020 as a not for profit organisation to support the local community.

We work in partnership with Biggleswade Good Neighbours and are interested in partnering with other community organisations. Together we could achieve more; for example in publicising what we have to offer, organising events and offering services such as courses, information and help. Please get in touch to share your ideas.

If you are interested in learning more about how you could get involved please email [enquire@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto:enquire@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk) or phone Alan on 01767 310163

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**Email:** [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers. Or you can read it online at [www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

**Our aim is to make information available to all residents of Biggleswade and nearby villages including those who are housebound or have no internet access. If you are having a problem getting the information that you need call Shirley on 07988 822678 and she will try to help.**



## BIGGLESWADE HISTORY SOCIETY

contact Jennifer Topham, 01767 313407 or see [www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk](http://www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk)

**The next meeting** is at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade on Monday February 6 at 7.30 for 8.00pm  
**"Can you identify these relics?" - with the Archive Team.**

Rotary  
Biggleswade



# SWIMATHON

**SAXON POOL, BIGGLESWADE**

**SAT 25th FEBRUARY 2023**

## SPLASH FOR CASH!

**ENTER SPONSORED TEAMS OF UP TO SIX SWIMMERS  
RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR CHARITY OR CLUB  
AND ROTARY CHARITIES**

*Email Now for your Entry Form:*

*[bvhazell@gmail.com](mailto:bvhazell@gmail.com) or call 01767 601813*

**Every swimmer has a chance to win  
An Amazon Voucher  
Worth £150**



## Future Action Biggleswade

Meets regularly to plan ways to encourage care for the environment and support for local initiatives and businesses.

The next planning meeting will be on Wednesday February 22.

Plans include an event during Fairtrade Fortnight on Saturday March 4 and another for Great Big Green Week in June.

For more information see <https://fabweb.org.uk>

Or contact the Chairman, Neil Spencer, on 07910 211824



On Sunday January 22 there was a joint service at St Andrew's Church during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On Friday March 3 the World Day of Prayer Service will be at St Peter's Church.

For updates see <https://biggct.org>



## Biggleswade & District Camera Club

February Meetings

**Thursday 9th** . A video presentation by Jane Lazenby LRPS BPE4\* DPAGB EFIAP LMPA entitled "Working with Textures".

**Thursday 23rd** A digital presentation by Naomi Saul ARPS DPAGB APAGB EFIAP ASINWP (EAF"A") entitled "Africa's Dust Under My Feet"

There is £3.00 entrance fee payable at the door.

Meetings are every Thursday in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherly Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH.

**For more details phone 01767 316176**  
or see [www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk](http://www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk)



All clients and volunteers are invited to a coffee morning at Biggleswade Baptist Church in London Road SG18 8EB on Saturday February 11 between 10.30am and midday. There will be hot and cold drinks plus cakes to enjoy.

They also hope to have a question and answer session with Deb Taylor and Lisa King, who work for Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity as Social Prescriber and Community Agent respectively. If you would like to find out more about their roles and how they might be able to help you or others you know, please book your place by ringing or texting us on 07771 104255 or emailing [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com).

They look forward to seeing you there.

Everyone that accesses healthcare via the **Ivel Medical Centre** has received a letter saying that the GPs at the practice have resigned their contract. Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB) have been quick to offer reassurances that it's business as usual and the changes could mean that improvements are on the way. You don't have to do anything. There will still be GPs, practice nurses and healthcare staff when you need them.

## ABOUT THE TOWN

### **The Planned Biggleswade Health Hub not going ahead**

The plans for a health hub on the Biggleswade Hospital site have been put on hold for the time being due to budgetary constraints. Central Bedfordshire Council is challenging the decision.

### **Chamomile Gardens**



Grand Union Housing Group is developing Chamomile Gardens, in Biggleswade. The scheme will provide 25 shared ownership and 68 social rent apartments, exclusively for the over 55s. The homes offer independent living with tailored care and support and benefit from being in close proximity to shops and the town centre.

It has been built to help people relax into retirement, with each apartment having its own private balcony or terrace. There are beautifully landscaped gardens, as well as a hairdressers, restaurant and even a cinema room.

They are also providing a "changing places" bathroom within the building, which members of the public will be able to use.

The apartments are available for both shared ownership and social rent and were previously marketed under the name Sorrel Gardens. If you want to find out more about the scheme, or even want to apply for one of the apartments, visit [www.chamomilegardens.co.uk](http://www.chamomilegardens.co.uk)



### **REDUCED BUS FARES**

Herbert's are now doing single bus fare at £2 instead of £2.70 and the return is now £4 instead of £4.70. This is to encourage more people to use buses

**BIGGLESWADE MARKET** There are stalls in Biggleswade Market Square every Tuesday and Saturday. Check it out and support the traders.



## Biggleswade Transport Interchange

Construction at Biggleswade Station started in August 2022 and is ongoing. Other planned improvements include:

- accessible, step-free, access to all platforms
- improved secure cycle parking
- accessible toilets with baby change facility

The changes will make it easier for people to switch between different modes of transport and encourage people to use sustainable modes of travel.

The plans are the result of a Central Bedfordshire Council collaboration with Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railway. They jointly funded this with Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund.



### Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

(Beds RCC) is the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire, with a proven track record built over 70 years. 2023 is the 70<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Year of Beds RCC, and it is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the charity's achievements during this time.

Beds RCC have a wide range of projects and services that benefit local communities across Bedfordshire. The work is carried out in four main areas: Supporting Communities, Rural Development, Community and Wellbeing, and Community Transport. The charity also owns three non-profit businesses: The Barn – Cardington, Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room, and Warden Abbey Community Vineyard.

2023 will be a busy year for the Charity as they celebrate their anniversary. The plans include a ball, staff celebration, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM, and more commemorative events.

If you'd like to find out more about Beds RCC, please contact us: The Old School, Cardington, Bedford MK44 3SX (registered office).

Tel: 01234 838771 / Email [info@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@bedsrcc.org.uk)

[www.bedsrcc.org.uk](http://www.bedsrcc.org.uk)

Suitable  
for  
11+

Stratton Upper School presents



# Fame

the musical

Conceived and Developed by David De Silva. Book by Jose Fernandez.  
Lyrics by Jacques Levy. Music by Steve Margoshes  
Title song "FAME" written by Dean Pitchford and Michael Gore

Thursday 9th February, 7pm

Friday 10th February, 7pm

Saturday 11th February, 3pm

at Stratton Upper School

Adult: £8

Child/Concession: £6

Family: £25

2 Adults and 2 Children

Adult VIP: £12

Ticket to the show, programme and popcorn  
1 alcoholic drink or 2 soft drinks

Child VIP: £10

Ticket to the show and signed programme  
Treat box of sweets and chocolates  
Backstage pass to meet and greet the cast and take a photo

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stratton-upper-school>

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. [www.mti-europe.co.uk](http://www.mti-europe.co.uk)



Stratton  
Upper School

The best outcomes  
for all students

## Thurs 9th February Light Lunch Noon – 1.30pm

Homemade Soup & Roll, Slice of Cake, Tea or Coffee only £5.00

Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade

**'Opening Doors for the Community'**



### Not Strictly Jazz

12 February 2023 5 - 7pm

Tickets £20 (age 10 - 18 £10)

Refreshments included.

Fairfield House & Studio, Fairfield Road,  
Biggleswade. SG18 0AA.

*Live music monthly with exceptional musicians. The regular frontmen are Gavin Skeggs with his beautiful vocals and the talented Dave Jenkins, saxophone and flute or double bass.*



## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 FROM 8 - 10:45pm.

Castle Comedy Biggleswade - The BIG February Show at The Weatherley Centre, with:

**PAUL ZERDIN** - the UK's number one comedy ventriloquist and winner of Series 10 of America's Got Talent!

**JASON STAMPE** - who delivers an

outstanding blend of jokes and crowd interaction

[www.castlecomedy.co.uk](http://www.castlecomedy.co.uk) 07736 050541

NOTE: The line-up is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Tickets are for a comedy night not a specific act.

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### Antiques & Vintage Fair :

**9am - 4pm on Sunday February 19**

<http://marcelfairs.co.uk> 07887 648255

**The Weatherley Centre. [www.theweatherleycentre.co.uk](http://www.theweatherleycentre.co.uk)  
Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JH 01767 315709**

## A LITTLE HELP



### Fire prevention needs you!

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) does much more than just put out fires –and needs volunteers to help in fire prevention services that protect lives and properties.

There is a direct link between fuel and energy affordability and the risks from either not heating homes or heating them in unsafe ways and needed now more than ever are Fuel and Home Heating Advocates volunteers. They visit vulnerable people at home who are struggling with paying fuel bills, providing support to enable them to access the help that's available. The volunteer does the work of making calls and visiting relevant websites on behalf of anyone unable to access the internet.

Volunteers are also being recruited to the Home Fire Safety Visits team which provides home safety assessments and free installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms or specialist alarms for those with impaired hearing.



Additional volunteering opportunities with BFRS include Community Safety Advocates, Diversity and Inclusion Support and Community Events Assistant; to name just a few.

Volunteering is one of the most beneficial things we can do, for volunteers as well as recipients of services and these BFRS roles are particularly rewarding. All BFRS volunteers receive a tailored induction, relevant training, ongoing support and can claim travel expenses.

- Discover what you could do as a BFRS volunteer – contact BFRS's Volunteer Manager [janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk](mailto:janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk) or phone 07543 301604.
- Book a Home Fire Safety Visit (Safe and Well) – via Home Safety at [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk) or email [safeandwell@bedsfire.gov.uk](mailto:safeandwell@bedsfire.gov.uk) or Freephone 0800 043402.

**WARM SPACES.** If you are feeling the cold check out the Biggleswade Warm Spaces! There was a list in the January edition and there are posters around the town.