

## A LITTLE HELP

# FESTIVAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE

'Resilience Of Older Persons In a Changing World'

Friday 6 October 2023



Drop in any time between 10am to 2.00pm  
The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick MK45 1AH



Advice & Information



Entertainment



FREE Refreshments and Lunch



Health and Wellbeing

There will be the opportunity to purchase locally made goods and also to support the Macmillan Cake Stall



OPEN TO ALL

Supported by:



For further details or if you need help with transport:



Tel: 0300 303 8554

Email: [info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk)



## Vision Zone Biggleswade on Monday 23rd October



Are you or a friend or family member struggling with your sight or experiencing sight loss? Come along to this free event between 10am - 2pm at The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JH.

Try out some of the latest technology and magnification equipment from Optelec to support visually-impaired people.

Meet the team from Sight Concern Bedfordshire, your local charity supporting blind and partially-sighted people. At our Sight Concern stand we provide information and advice about sight loss services and demonstrate useful living aids.

There will also be information stands from other organisations too, to be confirmed. You can follow Sight Concern Bedfordshire's Facebook page for further details on this: [www.facebook.com/sightconcernbeds](https://www.facebook.com/sightconcernbeds)

No appointment necessary. We look forward to seeing you there!



# Biggleswade Community News

SEPTEMBER 2023



Email: [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 310163

# COUNTRY FAYRE 2023

Saturday 23rd September

10:00 - 15:30

Get the date in your diary and go along to St Andrew's Church for one of the big annual events in the town. Fun for all the family with stalls entertainment and refreshments.



Have a great day out and help to raise funds for two great charities.



Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163

Email: [admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.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)

**The Ivel Sprinter bus service** provides much needed transport to people living in Biggleswade, Sandy, Potton and surrounding villages, with buses running 6 days per week.



We are currently in need of new volunteer drivers to help us maintain our services and give local people a friendly regular transport service.

You will only need to drive once per month and full training and familiarisation with routes is provided.

For more information go to our web site at [www.ivalsprinter.org.uk](http://www.ivalsprinter.org.uk) or contact Terry Woods on 01767 261047 or email [t.woods@btinternet.com](mailto:t.woods@btinternet.com)

### **The End of Biggleswade Talking Newspaper**

Sadly, the Biggleswade Talking Newspaper Committee have to report that, after more than 40 years of successful operation, it has become impossible to continue. The Covid pandemic caused a complete cessation of recordings of the local news in 2019.

Since then, there has been a drop in the number of listeners, and also volunteers. We believe that advances in technology have also contributed to the lack of requirement for this service. But the final straw was the removal of our recording studio for development by Central Beds Council.

We thank all the volunteers, donators and supporters in the community who did so much to keep the organisation working efficiently for the benefit of our partially sighted listeners. Special thanks go to The Biggleswade Chronicle, who supported us loyally through the years.

# WARDEN ABBEY



The Community Vineyard

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

## **Open Day and Wine Sale with local food and crafts at Warden Abbey Vineyard, near Old Warden - Sunday 10th September, 11am- 4pm**

Join us for our main event of the year! Come along to our Open Day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September for a fun day of activities including a petting farm, wine tasting, food and craft stalls, and more. Book a tour or take a self-guided tour to find out the story of the medieval vineyard and abbey, why and how the monks made wine, and how volunteers care for the vines all year round. The vineyard is run as a community and education project by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

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

for tickets and directions. Advance booking for entry and tours is recommended. Entry: Adults £4 online, £5 on day. Children under 16 free. Guided tours £5, self-guided tours free.



### **ANNUAL POTTON SHOW CRAFT FAYRE**

ST MARY'S CHURCH FIELDS, HATLEY RD, POTTON, SG19 2RP

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 12 - 5PM

A BIG VARIETY OF STALLS. REFRESHMENTS ALL DAY

**Soup and Cake Lunch** on Thursday 7th September 12noon-1.30pm  
Homemade soup, roll and piece of cake including tea, coffee or squash  
All for £5. Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade



**Everybody is welcome – join us and local organisations for:**

Tea, coffee and delicious home baking; Organic gardening information; produce; homemade jams and chutneys; Plant sales.

Real ale talk about brewing by the March Hare Brew Pub  
(*Bedfordshire CAMRA Pub of the year 22 & 23 and County Pub of the year 22*)

Letchworth Morris Men; Mindful walking introduction & Drum circle  
(Rosie Saunders Energy Alchemy)

Tonic Yoga; Pimms and Prosecco and other stalls; Raffle; Best hat & Childrens competitions

Dunton Community Garden, Great Close, Church Farm, Church Street, Dunton. SG18 8RR

N.B. Parking at the garden is limited to those with a disabled badge. Alternative parking in the village near the March Hare Pub, at the Village Hall or Dunton Recreation Association – walk up Church Street and the farm drive, past the Barns and the Garden is on the left.

**QUIZ :** Join us at St Mary Magdalene Church in Dunton on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm. All welcome £4 a ticket. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

**Spreading the word**

***If you are planning an event in Biggleswade or nearby tell us about it so that we can tell others!***

If you are involved with a Community Group or initiative, please let us have your updates.

If you are a local small business we may be able to help you with a news update in Biggleswade Community News for a donation.



**Biggleswade History Society**

Meet in the Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start, BHS members free, non-members £4. [biggleswadehistory.org.uk](http://biggleswadehistory.org.uk)

**Monday 4th September - Jean Duivenvoorden-** "Notes and Lines: 100 years of the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama, 1921-2021". The Bedfordshire Festival is a huge part of the county's cultural calendar and is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country and has a fascinating history. Jean's talk is based on her book of the same title and copies will be for sale at the special price of £10.

**Monday 2nd October - A talk by Nigel Denny** - "Larkinsons and the great airships".

**Biggleswade and District Camera Club**

We start the 2023/24 Season at the beginning of September.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September we have Kevin Pigney DPAGB giving a presentation entitled "Passion for Wildlife"

On 19th October, we have Thomas Peck giving a presentation entitled "Architecture"

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 for 8:00pm in The Sullivan Room, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH.



**Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club**

We hold 2 meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, starting at 8pm in the Sea Cadets HQ, Station Road, Biggleswade. The 2nd meeting of the month is a Speakers night. The talks are free to attend, access is disabled friendly and refreshments are available. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact us, through Facebook or call or message Karen on 07943 940021. We look forward to meeting you.

## Updates From Our Partners



**Ivel Valley College** Contact Dean Hawkins - [dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk](mailto:dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk) - 01767 512080  
Our students have been distributing newsletters to pickup points around the town.



**Future Action Biggleswade**  
[fab@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:fab@fabweb.org.uk) [www.fabweb.org.uk](http://www.fabweb.org.uk)

We are meeting on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 8pm in Café Mocha on the High Street to make plans for Autumn activities and look forward to 2024. Anyone interested in helping us promote social and environmental causes across Biggleswade is very welcome.



**Biggleswade Good Neighbours**

We are always looking for more volunteers to join us. If you enjoy helping people we would be pleased to hear from you on 07771 104255 or [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com).

**Saturday 2 September:** We will have our usual cake stall at the Fire Station Open Day, 10.00am to 2pm, which is a cracking day out with lots of fun activities for young and old! If anyone would like to bake cakes for the stall then please do let us know – any contributions are always gratefully received!

## BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE

Biggleswade Community Group exists to reduce isolation and ensure that everyone has access to important information in a way that is easy to read and understand.

The move to digital publishing online is good and reaches many people. However we do not forget those who want to or need to have it in print. Paper copies are available free of charge at pickup points around the town. Printing is our main cost and we receive a grant from The Town Council to cover a batch of copies with 8 pages. We would like to do more. If you are able to support that with a donation our readers would be very grateful.

Details are on our web site

[www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk) or call Alan on 01767 310163

★ **Shannon Express Chorus**  
from  
**Biggleswade**

**Men Love To Sing**

Join us for  
**5 weeks of singing fun.**

Course begins on  
Thursday  
September 14th  
**at 19.15**

Stratton School Hall  
Biggleswade SG 18 8JB

QR code and BABS logo are also present.

**You will:** Learn 2 songs in 4-part harmony. No requirement to read music.

**You will:** Enjoy helpful vocal coaching.

**You will:** Astonish your friends and family as you take to the stage for a Grand Charity Concert on Friday 13th October in the Priory Centre St. Neots.

See [www.shannonexpress.org.uk/its](http://www.shannonexpress.org.uk/its)

To Book email [bookings@shannonexpress.org.uk](mailto:bookings@shannonexpress.org.uk)



**Biggleswade Fire Engine Pull:** can finally happen again! They need Biggleswade to come out and support them on the day. They are raising money for the Fire Fighter's Charity on 1st October 2023