



# Biggleswade Community News

DECEMBER 2023



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**SEASON'S GREETINGS** Thanks for your  
support, contributions and interest during 2023

**COME ON IN AND LOOK INSIDE**

**Annual Biggleswade Christmas Fair & Light Switch-On**

**BIGG THEATRE**

**WE'RE OPEN!!**

**WARM SPACES IN BIGGLESWADE**

**Back for Winter 2023/2024**

**Bedford Brass Christmas Concert**  
SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2023 FROM 19:00-21:00  
Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade

**ALADDIN**  
8-11 NOVEMBER  
BIGGLESWADE ACADEMY

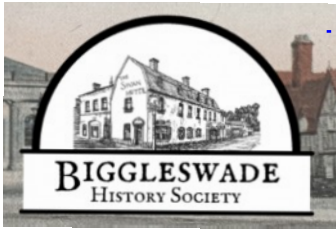
**Grand Palmer**

**BIGGLESWADE**  
History Society

**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)



## **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)

**4 December** A talk by Stuart Macfarlan on "The Christmas Truce – Its Place in the Public Imagination".

**8 January** "The Great Fire of Biggleswade - how researching a ghost story led to new discoveries" - a talk by Natalie Doig.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 17**

10-30 am "Pop Up Christmas?" at THE BAPTIST CHURCH

10-30 am Candlelit carol service at TRINITY METHODIST

6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at ST ANDREW'S

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight. at THE BAPTIST CHURCH

### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20**

6pm "Carols on the Lawn", and seasonal refreshments at ST ANDREW'S

### **THURSDAY DECEMBER 21**

5.30 pm – 6.30 pm Carols at Sullivan Court, Kings Reach

### **CHRISTMAS EVE: SUNDAY DECEMBER 24**

11am Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at ST PETER'S

4pm Carols at the BBC at THE BAPTIST CHURCH

6pm. Christmas Eve Worship - Holy Communion at TRINITY

6pm Children's Mass at ST PETER'S

9.30pm Carols. At ST PETER'S

10pm early Midnight Mass at ST ANDREW'S

### **CHRISTMAS DAY: MONDAY DECEMBER 25**

10am Parish Communion at ST ANDREW'S

10am All Age Christmas Day service at the BAPTIST CHURCH

10-30am - Christmas Day Worship at BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH

11am -Christmas Mass at ST PETER'S

## **BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATE**

We are grateful to Biggleswade Town Council for a grant towards our printing costs. We also received donations, including one from Biggleswade Ivel Flix that closed.

By the time you read this we will have had a stall at the Biggleswade Christmas Light Switch on. We have taken out Liability insurance and are looking for other events to attend so that we can meet local residents.

Contact us via: [www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk](http://www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk)

or call Alan on 01767 310163

### **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 meet to review events and make plans. Our next meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 23 January 2024 in Cafe Mocha. We are planning a "Think As You Shop" event showcasing local/ethical/sustainable producers and retailers in March 2024.

### **Biggleswade Good Neighbours**



If you receive this newsletter through your door it will almost certainly have been delivered by a volunteer from Biggleswade Good Neighbours. If you would like to help with newsletter deliveries or join the team to provide help to those who need it please contact us on 07771 104255.

or email [biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com)

**Biggleswade Community Gardens** is a local group working to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share. They meet regularly to socialise and maintain the gardens. All welcome!

[Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org](http://Biggleswadecommunitygardens.org)

## ABOUT THE TOWN



Good news from Grant Palmer is that the £2 maximum single fare is now available on all their bus routes until at least the end of the year. As Herbert's Travel are already offering this, it means that all bus journeys in the Biggleswade area now cost

no more than £2 per journey.

Grant Palmer timetable booklets can be picked up in Café Mocha or the library.



### FANCY RUNNING A PUB?

Wheatsheaf, Biggleswade, SG18 0LS

- Steady business for 35 years
- Low overheads & easy to maintain
- Surrounded by residential houses, whilst only a short walk to the town centre

Agreement Type Tenancy, Your investment £15,000

SEE: <https://www.admiraltaverns.co.uk/pubs/wheatsheaf-biggleswade/#group-4>

### Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	9:00am-6:00pm
Friday	9:00am-6:00pm
Saturday	9:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	Closed

### Facilities

Computer prints  
Free Internet access

### Building

Full Access  
Automatic Doors  
Lift  
Public Parking  
Ramp

Free access to software  
Ivel Room - for hire  
Microfilm & fiche prints  
Photocopier



# WARM SPACES IN BIGGLESWADE

A warm space is a friendly, comfortable environment where people can feel safe and at ease.

Warm spaces are being established across the country to support people with the cost of living crisis during the winter months.

Anyone is welcome to access them regardless of their background or their circumstances, you can just turn up.

The exact offerings vary by location but in Biggleswade you can always find a warm welcome. Details of what is on offer are below including: free laundry services, hot drinks, WiFi and kitchen facilities.

SEE POSTERS  
AROUND THE  
TOWN FOR TIMES  
AND DETAILS

Back for  
Winter  
2023/2024



Labour Hall, Crab Lane; Kings Corner , Sullivan Court;  
Krafty Shed, Sullivan Court; St Andrew's Church, Shortmead Street;



## The BIGG Build

The renovation of 36 High St is well under way to turn it into the arts space that we're all looking forward to. We can't achieve everything at once, so, we're taking a phased approach. Thanks to a lot of hard work, phase one is complete. The BIGG Theatre coffee shop opened on 5th October 2023.





Trinity Methodist Church,  
Shortmead Street, Biggleswade

*'A Taste of Christmas'*

Seasonal Soups,  
Sandwiches  
& Cake  
with Tea or Coffee  
A Seasonal Thought  
Rev Leslie Noon

Thursday 7th December 12 noon

By Ticket only  
Tickets £8.00

Available from  
Biggleswade Express  
Shortmead Street  
or ring 01767 261305



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SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2023 FROM 19:00-21:00

**Bedford Brass Christmas Concert**  
Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade



**Dunton Folk**  
Real Ale and Cider - Superb Music

**Carols at the Hare**  
Monday 18th December 2023

Christmas Session at the March Hare  
Brew Pub, Dunton, Biggleswade  
Free admission - bring your singing voices!  
Music starts at 8.00pm

Find us on Facebook



**cambrianradio.co.uk**

DJ Richie  
Trance Music  
Thursday 8-9pm  
70's 80's 90's  
groove/funk/soul/disco  
Friday 6-8pm  
Broadcasting every  
week  
From Biggleswade

## WINTER CONCERT



7pm

Doors open from 6.30pm

East Beds Concert Band

Saturday 9th December 2023

Stratton Upper School, Eagle Farm Rd. Biggleswade



## **FREE Events in the The BIGG Theatre Bar. ....Just turn up and enjoy!**

### **ESSIE Friday 1 December, 8pm**

An alt/rock guitar player and vocalist from Perth, Western Australia. Her signature sound is a confident mix of bluesy guitar chops and soaring vocals. She combines gut punchingly assured vocals and characteristic guitar riffs to create an anthem for any road trip.

### **OPEN MIC NIGHTS Thursday 7 December, and Thursday 21 December, 7.30pm**

Hosted by Danii Diaz Reales, Open Mic Night now has a fortnightly regular slot. Simply turn up, tune up, and get ready to entertain. Anyone can come along, sign up, and perform either covers or their own original songs. Or, you can just come along, sit back and enjoy the show. Just turn up on the night.

### **SOUTH OF POLARIS Saturday 9 December, 8pm**

Biggleswade based duo Saul Diaz and Danii Reales bring their unique flamenco folk fusion with a sprinkle of rock sound to the Bigg Theatre. Hugely popular at our recent Open Mic Nights, this soulful duo is not to be missed. This event is free 'Just come on down.'

A promotional poster for the musical "Aladdin The Panto". The background is a warm, orange-red gradient with a subtle pattern. On the left, there is a logo for "BATS" featuring two stylized faces, and below it, the "noda" logo. In the center, the title "ALADDIN" is written in large, ornate, golden letters, with "THE PANTO" in smaller, similar letters below it. To the right of the title is a QR code. At the bottom left, the dates "8TH - 10TH DECEMBER" are displayed. At the bottom center, there is a line of text: "TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HOWELLS NEWSAGENTS, HITCHIN STREET OR TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BATS. SCRIPT COURTESY OF STAGESCRIPTS.COM". At the bottom right, the text "BIGGLESWADE ACADEMY" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

If you know of an event or activity in Biggleswade or nearby tell us about it, so that we can tell others! The deadline for the January 2024 edition is Wednesday 20 December. Send text and good quality images to [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk) Tel: 01767 310163

## A LITTLE HELP

### Community Volunteering

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting volunteers in the Biggleswade area**

#### Fuel and Utilities Support

Providing information and support to vulnerable people, enabling them to access online help

#### Home Fire Safety Support

Supporting staff with home fire safety and wellbeing checks in vulnerable people's homes

#### Community Safety Advocate

Promoting fire safety and home visits, sharing fire prevention information in your area

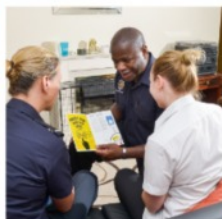
#### Community Events

Attending events, engaging with visitors, sharing information, gathering feedback

#### Diversity and Inclusion

Enabling more people from under-served communities to access fire safety information

**Can you help keep your community safer?**



### What we offer

- Rewarding roles that make a real difference
- Knowing you're helping to keep people safer
  - Excellent ways to 'give something back'
- Flexibility to fit in with your other commitments
- Opportunity to put your existing skills to good use
  - New knowledge and skills
- All information, training and equipment needed for your role
- Reimbursement of travel expenses
  - Ongoing support
- Being part of the great team at Beds Fire!



**Bedfordshire**  
Fire & Rescue Service

Phone 07543 301604 or email  
[janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk](mailto:janet.brennan@bedsfire.gov.uk)



**healthwatch** | **10**  
Central Bedfordshire years

Open position:



- Engagement Officer (part-time)

Join  
our team!

**Closing date 30th December 2023**

For a full job description, organisation brief  
and an application pack, please email  
[info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk)  
or call 0300 303 8554 for further information