



Biggleswade Community News

MAY 2026



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

ABOUT OUR TOWN

Café Mocha

Glory in the High-St

Is a small but very friendly café in Biggleswade town centre, opposite the White Hart car park, with a core of amazing regular customers. We aim to share God's love with the people of Biggleswade. However, the current work force is ageing, and so we are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to commit to the café from July and continue the work. The business is a not-for-profit limited company.

We are looking for baristas, washer uppers, admin people, decision makers, general supporters – anyone with skills that may be useful. Full training given, email Helen.horner@outlook.com



BIGGLESWADE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2026

45+ ALES, CIDERS & PERRIES

WWW.BIGGBEERFEST.ORG

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FREE ENTRY



**BIGGLESWADE
CONSERVATIVE
CLUB
SG18 8BA**



7-9 MAY

THURSDAY 3 PM - LATE
FRIDAY NOON - LATE
SATURDAY NOON - LATE

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Email: admin@biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk

Biggleswade Community Group & Partners



Biggleswade Community Group exists for you, our readers, to provide support and keep you informed. www.biggleswadecommunitygroup.org.uk



Biggleswade Town Council provides funding to allow us to print paper copies of this newsletter and offer it free of charge to our readers. enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk



Future Action Biggleswade FAB (Future Action Biggleswade) campaigns for social and environmental justice: Thinking About People, Thinking Environmentally, Thinking Local www.fabweb.org.uk



Biggleswade Good Neighbours deliver this newsletter to their clients. Many are housebound and without Internet. Tel 07771 104255 or email biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com



Biggleswade Community Garden works to improve Biggleswade's green spaces and grow fresh food to share. Get in touch to learn more. Email biggleswadecommunitygardens@gmail.com



Ivel Valley College students distribute this newsletter to pickup points around Biggleswade. Contact Dean Hawkins dean.hawkins@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk 01767 512080



The Big Theatre as well as events, hosts a variety of community groups, meeting needs in Biggleswade. www.thebiggtheatre.co.uk



Biggleswade Community Carnival Group organises a range of events. www.biggleswadecarnival.co.uk



Biggleswade Community Safety Group works with the Police and other services to help reduce crime: Biggleswadecsg@gmail.com



Community Interest Company Reuse Project, Shop, Safe Place, Advice & Welfare for the local community. info@preencic.org

urgently need to find new premises!

Please think about it and help to raise awareness.



Biggleswade Community Group Our AGM was on Tuesday March 31. We are grateful to Biggleswade Town Council for another grant towards our printing costs.

We have set up a [Just Giving Page](#) to raise funds for a stall to promote what we and our partners offer. Please help us to raise the funds.



Biggleswade Good Neighbours All BGN volunteers are invited to join us for our AGM which will take place from 1930 on Friday the 29th of May at the Sea Cadets' hall in Station Road. It will be followed by an informal social in the bar there giving a good opportunity to meet fellow volunteers. So that we have an idea of numbers, please let us know if you are able to attend on 07771 104255 or biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com



Future Action Biggleswade We have booked a stall at Ickwell May Day on Monday 4th May. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at Cafe Mocha and via Zoom.



We have our mural unveiling event on Saturday 2nd May at 11am at the station on Back Street. More info about all our events is at www.biggleswadecommunitygardens.org



Biggleswade Community Carnival Group

Sadly the Carnival Committee are not able to arrange and host a Duck Race this year. This is due to personal commitments / reasons affecting the majority of the Committee. This is usually a Carnival-led event that has historically been organised and delivered by our volunteers, with support from the Council's Public Realm Team. We hope that it can resume next year. We will review arrangements in full ahead of next year's Duck Race to ensure everything is agreed in advance and workable for all parties.



The Bigg Theatre As well as a cafe and a programme of events this is also the home for a wide range of regular activities.



Bedfordshire Group - Alpine Garden Society

Our May meeting will be in the Weatherley Centre on **Saturday 30th May**, when **Martyn Denney** makes a return visit to tell us all about the second half of his plant hunting trip to Yunnan in south-western China. This time he focuses on the flora around Diqing in the north-west of the province. The talk is in the **Elgar Room**, doors open at 2.00 pm with the talk starting at 2.30 pm.

The cost per meeting for non-members is £6, which includes a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. But, of course, you're more than welcome to join the group. Annual membership is £10 for a single member and £15 for joint membership and members pay only £3 per meeting. www.bedfordshirealpines.com

THE MARCH HARE DUNTON



We are delighted to let you know that we are the new tenants of the March Hare and we are working hard to open the doors again as soon as we can! Initially we will be serving drinks and snacks but we plan to refurbish the kitchen and offer a traditional food service towards the end of the summer.

Thank you to all those who have made us feel so welcome in Dunton already! We look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks! **Jenny & Craig x**



CHURCHES TOGETHER On Good Friday we walked behind the cross from Kings Reach for a service in the Market Square.



A big thank you to Richard Southan for allowing us to use his photos.



YOUR LOCAL CAMERA CLUB



Meetings at the Weatherley Centre have paused for our summer break, but we will still be meeting up for other photographic events. Weekly meetings will resume on 24 September with our Welcome Evening which will introduce the club to prospective new members and have a couple of short presentations by members and a display of digital images and prints.

This season the club has had some successes in interclub competitions winning the interclub battle with Ampthill & Bedford and with Kempston & Stevenage and came third in the much larger Bedfordshire Invitation Competition. Club members have had images accepted into national and international exhibitions and just recently three prints and seven digital images were accepted into the East Anglian Federation Annual Exhibition (open to 93 local clubs) which takes place between 2 and 17 May at the Apex Centre in Bury St Edmunds. Over the summer we are looking forward to a Studio Group session, Photo Walkabout - where we meet at a location and have an hour to take images on six subjects, revealed on arrival, and monthly outings to photographic locations.

The club continues to have images displayed in Cafe Mocha and will have an exhibition of prints at the Greenacre Centre, Stotfold from 17 July until 4 September.

Visitors are welcome to attend meetings with a view to joining the club, which has now been running for over 50 years. There is ample parking and the bar is open for hot, cold and alcoholic drinks. It is not too late to join the club. Meetings at the Weatherley Centre resume on 24 September. For more information, please see our website at biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk or contact the Secretary at secretarybdcc@biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk or telephone 01767 316176.



Biggleswade History Society

Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.
Doors open 7.30 for 8 pm start, Non-members £4. No pre-booking required. biggleswadehistory.org.uk

Mon 11th May - David Fowler

"THE RISE, FALL & RISE AGAIN OF THE CARDINGTON AIRSHIPS"
David Fowler will present his illustrated talk about the fantastic history of Cardington Hangars & its airships including the R100 & R101 through two World Wars up to more recent times & the rise & fall of the Airlander.

4TH ANNUAL



7-9 MAY

FREE ENTRY

2026

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
45+ ALES, CIDERS & PERRIES
FOOD - SPACIOUS GARDENS

CO-HOSTED WITH EAST BEDS CAMRA AT
BIGGLESWADE CONSERVATIVE CLUB,
SG18 8BA

2026
FESTIVAL
CHARITY



OPENS AT 3PM ON THURSDAY
NOON ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY
WWW.BIGGBEERFEST.ORG




RUN THE WADE 2026

Sunday 24th May
5K & 10K ROUTES
Entries Now LIVE!

Choose: 5K or 10K (Two laps of the 5K course)
Bigger - Better - In the Town Centre!

FESTIVAL OF SPORT & FITNESS
Market Square - Sunday Afternoon

Supported by



Biggleswade Town Council

Showcase Your Sport • Demonstrate Your Skills
Promote Your Club • Recruit New Members
Be Part of the Action!

Promote it. Show it. Share it. Don't Miss Out!

To Get Involved, Contact:
Ian Campbell
Community Development Manager
ian.campbell@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

**SUTTON
PLANT SALE**

Saturday and Sunday
16th/17th May 2026
The Old Rectory Sutton SG19 2NB
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES
CREAM TEAS

GARDEN RAILWAY



Sunday 17th May at 3 p.m.
DUCK RACE
Tickets available from Potton Garage

For info contact Jo Hollington on 01767 261910
or email joannahollington@btinternet.com



DUNTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION
presents

**LASAGNE
NIGHT**

£15
Including Entertainment

Saturday
16th May
7pm, (food served 7.30pm)



Advance tickets, available to buy up to and including 9th May
Dunton Pavilion, Horseshoe Close, SG18 8RY
For more information, and to book tickets
Contact Heidi on 07730376560 or email
bookings@duntonra.org.uk

BAR OPEN: Please be advised that, due to licensing restrictions,
under 16's are not permitted in the bar area after 9pm

If you're looking for help in Biggleswade, there are several local organisations and services available

General Advice & Community Support

Julie Balaam, the **Community Agent** helps with access information on benefits, health, housing, and transport. She can assist with completing forms. Phone 07534 484750 or email julie.balaam@bedsrcc.org.uk.

Citizens Advice: Provides free, confidential advice on housing, money, debt and employment rights. They are located at Century House, Market Square, Biggleswade, SG18 8UU Phone 01767 601368.

Biggleswade Good Neighbours: A volunteer group offering local transport (for a small mileage fee), help with small tasks, and social coffee mornings. You can contact them at 07771 104255.

Advice Central: 0300 303 6666 A telephone service for Central Bedfordshire residents that signposts callers to relevant local support

Food & Financial Support

[Biggleswade Food Bank](#) at the Baptist Church, Tel: 01767 312667, can in emergency, provide food parcels to those in need within the SG18 area. They also offer basic toiletries and pet food when available.

[The Need Project](#) Provides food and support to Central Bedfordshire families in crisis; via referrals from local bodies such as Social Services, GP units, Children's Centres etc or local community groups such as churches and other religious organisations, schools etc..

Health & Wellbeing

Mind BLMK Recovery Lounge: An evening drop-in service for mental health support located at The Lawns Mental Health Resource Centre, The Baulk, SG18 0PT. No appointment or referral is needed.

Biggleswade Wellbeing Hub: Focused on social health and connection. Contact Deb Taylor Phone 07951 938237

Parkinson's UK Support Group: Offers friendship and support at St Andrews Masonic Rooms, SG18 8BA for local people living with Parkinson's and their carers. Email: mwilson@parkinsons.org.uk

The Avenue: A group for families of children with autism, offering a relaxed environment for parents and siblings to share experiences. Email theavenuesupport@outlook.com Phone: 07425 551110

Specialist Care for Seniors & Disabled Residents

Helping Hands Home and Garden Services: A local Community Catalyst service that provides assistance with personal admin, household chores, and companionship specifically for the elderly and disabled. Email: rachelhowlett50@hotmail.com Tel: 07957 343632

Adult Social Care: Managed by Central Bedfordshire Council handles formal assessments and support plans for those needing long-term help. Tel: 0300 300 8000 or via <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>