



Biggleswade Community News AUGUST 2026



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 310163

ABOUT OUR TOWN

We care about the environment!



**BIGGLESWADE
NEEDS YOU!**

REPAIR CAFE BIGGLESWADE

We are looking for volunteers to set up a repair cafe.

Can you help? Know anyone who can?
We'd love to hear from you!

ian.campbell@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk
Or call 01767313134/07484084943

DON'T BIN IT, FIX IT!



Calling All Tinkerers,
Menders & Makers!

If you're handy with repairs, enjoy sewing, fixing electrical items, PAT testing, woodworking, bikes, or simply want to help with admin, welcoming visitors or serving refreshments Get in touch with

ian.campbell@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk
01767 313134 | 07484 084943

Sadly Preen's attempts to find new premises have failed! They say "We wanted to stay in Biggleswade so that Biggleswade could continue to benefit from the years of support, donations, shopping and kindness that have made us successful. We love working here so much and all the friends we've made"



We all need to reduce waste. Are you familiar with the recycling options and doing your bit? Do you look in charity shops for affordable alternatives to buying new items?

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



Biggleswade Community Carnival Group
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 We are grateful for donations that will enable us to have a stall at local events. Our printing costs are covered by Town Council grants.



Future Action Biggleswade A public screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing* took place at The Bigg Theatre in Biggleswade. FAB (Future Action Biggleswade) organised the event alongside The Bigg Theatre, it was well attended and follow up is planned. The next FAB meeting will be on Tuesday 29 September.



PREEN Is a "not for profit organisation" providing a valuable and well used service for local residents. Sadly we are about to lose it as no premises will be available!!!



Biggleswade Community Carnival Group Our thoughts are with the Carnival Committee members, who for personal reasons, are going through a difficult time.



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.



If you receive this newsletter through your letterbox it is most likely because you, or somebody at your address, either is or has been a Biggleswade Good Neighbours client or volunteer at some point.

If that is no longer the case, please contact us on 07771 104255 or biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com and we will remove your address from our records.

Newsletters are distributed each month by our dedicated volunteers and we have recently welcomed Hannah and Paula to the team.

John P has had to step down from delivering duties, so if you would like a good excuse once a month to take a walk with a purpose in the Furzenhall area, please get in touch.

UPDATES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



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

7th September - Horace Gales Revisited with Alan Waring - Back by Popular Demand! - Alan brings more tales of his time at Horace Gales in the 1970s and 80s.

FROM GRASSROOTS RESCUE TO REGIONAL LIFELINE: THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF THE IVEL SPRINTER COMMUNITY BUS

When rural isolation and commercial transport cuts impact local communities, one voluntary transport provider is celebrating over three decades of service. The Ivel Sprinter is a blueprint for community-led infrastructure. As a non-profit organisation it has evolved from a single-vehicle emergency transport link to a multi-route regional network operating six days a week.

It started in 1991, in response to requests from rural villagers left without any satisfactory local transport. Demonstrating community spirit, local businesses and civic organisations rallied to raise the funds to purchase a minibus:

Driven by volunteers it facilitated trips to doctors, shops, libraries and market towns. The continued success of the charity relies entirely on its unpaid team. Highlighting this lifelong dedication, two of the founder members remained active until recently. Over the years, the original framework has been expanded. Supported by Central Bedfordshire Council plus donations from local businesses, the Ivel Sprinter now operates a modernised fleet.

Today, the Ivel Sprinter operates a flexible 'hail-and-ride' policy within an approximate 20-mile radius of Biggleswade and Sandy. Scheduled timetables run Monday through Saturday, connecting residents across Biggleswade, Langford, Sandy, Potton, Everton, Tempsford, Roxton, and Sutton to major regional hubs including Bedford, St Neots, and Cambridge.

The service is for all ages, and standard concessionary bus passes are accepted. In addition to scheduled timetables, the vehicles remain available for private hire by local clubs, charities, and schools. To sustain this vital asset and support underutilised weekly routes, the organisation is issuing an open invitation for new volunteers. Rota commitments are highly flexible, requiring as little as one drive per month.

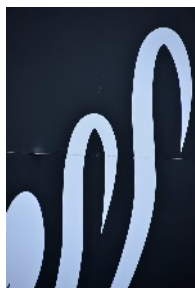


For timetables or detailed information please visit www.ivalsprinter.org.uk
Or Contact Chairman Kevin Wallis Telephone 07989 542781.



YOUR LOCAL CAMERA CLUB

For more information, please see our website at biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk or contact the Secretary at secretarybdcc@biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk or 01767 316176.



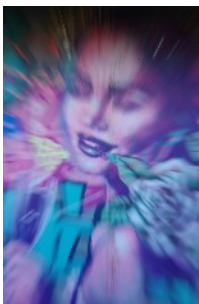
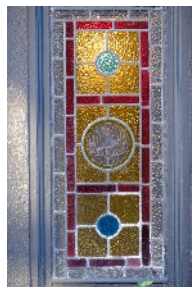
Meetings at The Weatherley Centre have paused until 24 September when we will have Welcome Evening to introduce the club to prospective new members

We still meet up for other photographic events. The July photography visit was to Charlecote House and Park in Warwickshire.

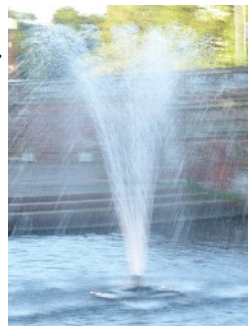


We also recently met for our annual Photo Walkabout, this year in Hitchin, where each photographer is challenged to take images on six subjects in an hour followed by a drink and get-together.

This was followed by a Zoom meeting to look at everyone's results and a show of hands for our favourite images. The subjects this season were Black & White, Window(s), Geometry, Shadows, Motion and Colour Pop.



The overall winner this year was Mary Dominey, who particularly enjoys this challenge. Close behind was Carolyn Gostelow. Here are some of the winning images and now all Mary has to do is decide on the venue for next time.



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.

St Andrew's Church For the last 40 years we have held a one day event within the Church grounds, raising funds for different charities. This year it is Cruse Bereavement Care; supporting those who are struggling with grief. Also Homestart Bedfordshire, which supports families with young children going through challenging times. More details on Page 6.

Save the date Saturday 19 September.

the dunton garden

SPORTS DAY!

FUN, FRIENDS & FRESH AIR!

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3 to 10

GROWING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST
10:00 - 12:30

Go to wegottickets.com and search 'Dunton'
£5 per child | £8 for 2 children

£5 PER CHILD

£8 FOR 2 CHILDREN

Fun Races, Games & Challenges, Lots of Laughs

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BIGGLESWADE

COUNTRY FAYRE

A day of food, fun and community spirit!

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

10:00am - 3:30pm

FREE ENTRY

Raising Funds for: Cruse Bereavement Care, Home Start Bedfordshire

Come and enjoy:

- Raffles & Tombolas
- Inflatable Assault Course
- Jam packed arena line-up
- BBQ & Refreshments

Exhibition in Church "Calmmess in Crisis"

DUNTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION Fundraising Event

BANGERS AND MASH

With Onion Gravy

£14 Including Entertainment

Saturday 15th August
7pm, (food served 7.30pm)

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

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

All Saints Church Sutton

Tea & Talk

Sunday 13th September at 2.30 p.m.

A Talk about the history of All Saints Church and the characters who played a part in the story & Afternoon Tea on the Terrace at The Old Rectory

Tickets in advance £15 including tea. Please pay into church bank account: PCC of Sutton 30-90-79 00120106 Ref: Talk and email joannah@linton@btinternet.com to confirm.

All proceeds to All Saints Church

If you don't tell us we can't tell our readers!

Vision Zone 2026

Solutions for Low



0800 145 6115 /

Would you like to find out more about assistive technology, Support, Services, Groups, and much more?

Our Vision Zone events bring together a variety of excellent services and charities covering your local area.

No matter what your sight loss condition we are here for you. Whether it's just to gain knowledge or hands on experience of new technologies, entry is free to our events, and our friendly staff will greet you with a warm welcome.



Wednesday 30th September – 11am to 2pm

The Weatherley Centre, Sullivan Suite, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH

Refreshments available & Free parking onsite

ENTRY IS FREE & NO NEED TO BOOK

BIGGLESWADE BAPTIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY COFFEE AND CRAFTS

Join us for a welcoming coffee morning with plenty of refreshments and craft.

Thursdays 10am-12pm

Biggleswade Baptist Church

adele@bbchurch.org.uk

In aid of
BREAST CANCER NOW

Dunton Community Garden with St Mary Magdalene Church invite you to our

Tea Party

Saturday 8th August
10:30 - 12:00 noon

Refreshments and cakes in aid of a great cause

At Dunton Community Garden, Church Farm, Church Street, Dunton SG18 8RR

dunton community garden

www.duntongarden.org

DWE Bedfordshire

NEW IN OUR CAFÉ!

CRAFT TABLE

CREATE, PLAY & RELAX!

Grab a craft pack for **£2** and let your little ones get creative!

PARENTS, ENJOY A COFFEE WHILST THEY CRAFT AWAY!

THE PERFECT WAY TO RELAX, GET CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!

ONLY **£2** PER PACK!

A LITTLE CREATIVITY MAKES A BIG DAY!
See you in the café!

IGNITE

WASH COFFEE

RELAXATION

LEARNING

PLAY

A SPACE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Have Your Say:

Help improve support for victims of crime in Bedfordshire

Have you been affected by crime or antisocial behaviour in the last three years? The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), John Tizard, is inviting residents to share their experiences as part of a review of services and support available to victims across the county.

The survey is open to anyone affected by crime or antisocial behaviour, whether or not they reported the incident to the police. Feedback will help identify what is working well, where improvements are needed, and how support for victims can be strengthened.

It takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous and confidential. Information provided will not be shared in a way that could identify participants and will not affect any current, ongoing or closed investigations or support services. It closes on 17 August.

Have you been affected by crime or anti-social behaviour in Bedfordshire in the last three years? If so, please take a few minutes to share your experience. Your voice could help improve support for victims.

- It takes around 10 minutes
- Is anonymous and confidential
- Helps improve services and support for victims across Bedfordshire



Your feedback will help us understand what's working well, where improvements are needed, and how support for victims can be strengthened in the future.

Share your experience:
<https://orlo.uk/Dk8k1>

If you need support while completing the survey or after sharing your experiences, help is available through:

Signpost to Support: <https://www.bedfordshirevcs.com/>

Victim Support: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Your experiences matter and could help improve support for victims across Bedfordshire.