



Biggleswade News

December 2023



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Photography by
Paul Langshaw

INVESTING IN BIGGLESWADE

Drove Road Chapel



Biggleswade Town Council is pleased to announce significant progress in Phase Two of the Drove Road Chapel restoration project.

The French drains have been successfully installed which will help prevent flooding and reduce the risk of long-term water damage.

In addition, low-level repointing works have been successfully completed.

The north and south chapels have also been internally restored and redecorated.

Work is underway to repair parts of the Drove Road Cemetery boundary wall.

The Town Council will provide residents with regular updates via its social media channels and website, ensuring that residents remain informed about the progress, timelines, and any relevant developments relating to the project.

THE MAYOR'S NEWS & EVENTS



Friday 1st September 2023
The Mayor attended the grand opening of Noatum Logistics.



Tuesday 19th September 2023
The Mayor, Mark Foster, enjoyed a guided tour of Mantles Court Care Home.



Friday 29th September 2023
The Mayor met with Adam Janocka, Operations Manager at Tourettes Action. Tourettes Action is one of the Mayor's chosen charities for 2023/24. The meeting explored potential collaborations and fundraising opportunities.



Wednesday 4th October 2023
Councillor Mark Foster enjoyed a guided tour of the independent living development at Chamomile Gardens.



Monday 9th October 2023
The Mayor and Councillor North attended Mantles Court Care Home to take part in a Quantum Care Community Challenge. The challenge is designed to build stronger connections between care home residents and the community.



Tuesday 17th October 2023
The Mayor of Biggleswade had the pleasure of attending Generation Jam at the Biggleswade Elderly Day Care Centre. The event brings together Biggleswade's youngest and oldest generations through music.



THE MAYOR'S ELVIS CURRY NIGHT

The Mayor, Councillor Mark Foster, hosted a curry night on Wednesday 4th October 2023. The event was held at Biggles Lounge where attendees enjoyed a selection of Indian cuisine and entertainment from "Elvis". The Council is pleased to report that £1,758 was raised during this event for the Mayor's chosen charities.

The Mayor would like to thank the local businesses who donated raffle prizes: Surfin Cafe', Asda, Dreadrock Cakes and Bakes, The Krafty Shed, House of Hatton, Sapphire Hair and Beauty Academy, and Biggleswade Town Council.





THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE



FACILITIES & ONLINE BOOKINGS

The Centre offers a Main Hall and a Training Room, both available for hire.

The Main Hall is approximately 13 x 20 metres, with vinyl flooring and a high ceiling at 5 metres. Its maximum capacity is 120 people, depending on use, making it perfect for classes, meetings, functions, and parties.

The Training Room is approximately 7.5 x 9 metres, with a maximum capacity of 40 people, depending on use. It is available to all organisations and businesses in and around Biggleswade for training purposes and meetings.

The Town Council is also pleased to announce that an online booking system is now available by navigating to the following link:

<https://TheOrchardCommunityCentre.as.me/>

Residents can easily book the facilities they need for their events, meetings, and activities.

Printable hire charges from April 1, 2023, can be found by clicking **[here](#)**

WHAT IS THE ORCHARD CENTRE?

The Orchard Community Centre has a range of facilities available to the community.

Whether you're celebrating a birthday or enjoying ballet for babies, the Orchard Centre is the place to be.

Check out our social media for regular updates on what goes on at the Orchard Centre: @biggleswadeTC.

Address: The Orchard Centre, Sullivan Ct, King's Reach, Biggleswade, SG18 8SZ



CHRISTMAS FAIR & LIGHT SWITCH ON 2023

Biggleswade Town Council hosted its annual Christmas Fair & Light Switch On in Biggleswade Market Square on Friday 24th November 2023. The event was well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed by members of the public.

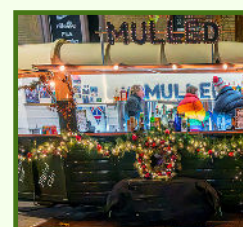
The event featured a diverse range of stalls, offering everything from crafts and jewellery to cupcakes and burgers. In addition to the stalls, there were a number of fair rides that added an extra layer of excitement to the occasion.

There were performances throughout the day from Biggleswade Schools, Community Groups and Bands.



Biggleswade Town Council would like to thank everyone that participated in the event.

Next years Christmas Fair & Light Switch On will take place on Friday 29th November 2024.



EVENTS IN BIGGLESWADE

Walk the Green Wheel

23rd September 2023

The Mayor of Biggleswade hosted the 4-mile Green Wheel Walk on Saturday 23rd September 2023. The walk was well attended and was led by Cliff Andrews and supported by Richard Lawrence from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

The walk began at Dan Albone Car Park, and followed the picturesque path along the River Ivel, concluding at the White Hart Pub. The walk included visiting the newly refurbished Franklins Recreation Ground and The Lakes football pitches.

Due to exceptional community support, a total of £137.50 was raised for the Mayor's chosen charities.

Images of The Green Wheel Walk (2023)



Vintage Vehicle Day

29th October 2023

Biggleswade's first Vintage Vehicle event took place on 29th October 2023 in Biggleswade Market Square.

Biggleswade Town Council would like to thank The Berkeley Enthusiasts Club and United Counties Preservation Group for showcasing their vintage vehicles. The Town Council would also like to thank United Counties Preservation Group for running a free shuttle service as part of this event.

The Council will be discussing arrangements for a further Vintage Vehicle event in 2024.

Images of The Vintage Vehicle Day (2023)



Remembrance Sunday

12th November 2023

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday 12th November 2023 in Biggleswade Market Square.

The service was led by The Reverend Liz Oglesby-Elong.

A parade took place along Hitchin Street and the High Street to the War Memorial, followed by the roll of honour, a two minute silence and wreath laying.

The ceremony was live-streamed onto the Town Council's Facebook page and Youtube channel.

Images of the Remembrance Service (2023)



Civic Service

17th March 2024

The Town Council's Civic Service will take place at 1pm on Sunday 17th March 2024 at St. Andrew's Church, Biggleswade.

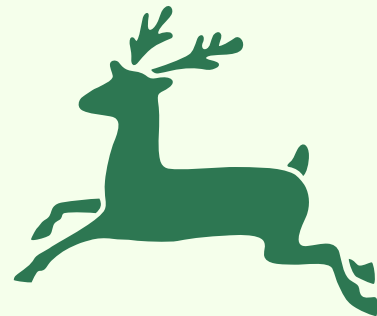
This event acknowledges and celebrates community groups and voluntary organisations within Biggleswade.

Images of the previous Civic Service (2023)





NEWS & UPDATES



Grant Applications

The first tranche of grant applications were considered and agreed at the October 2023 Council meeting. Congratulations to the grant applicants who were awarded funding.

The next grant application deadline is 28th February 2024. To apply, please click [here](#).

Car Parks in Biggleswade

A new LED floodlight was installed at Rose Lane Car Park in September 2023.

Line-marking works were completed at White Hart and Dan Albone car park in October 2023.



Planters in Biggleswade

Biggleswade Town Council staff and Biggleswade Rotary Club members planted flowers along Sainsbury's bridge.



COMMUNITY NEWS



The Bigg Eats

Biggleswade Town Council hosted two Bigg Eats events on Thursday 10th August 2023 and Thursday 14th September 2023 in partnership with Hitchin Street Food Monthly and DRINK Biggleswade. The events were well attended and offered an array of diverse cuisines and drinks as well as live entertainment.

The Council is pleased to confirm that Bigg Eats will return each month during April to September 2024.

Biggleswade Markets

Did you know that Biggleswade's market heritage dates back centuries. King Henry III bestowed the town with full market town status in 1227.

Every Tuesday (8pm to 3pm) and Saturday (9am to 2pm), Biggleswade Market Square buzzes with stalls offering a diverse array of goods. From plants and foods to household essentials, charming gifts, and ornaments, there's something for everyone.

Are you a trader looking to join? Email market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01767 313134



MAYOR MARK FOSTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The end of a year presents an opportune time to celebrate what we have achieved, reflect on the challenges we have faced, and to look forward to what lies ahead in the coming year.

As Mayor, I have had the privilege of meeting with many local people and organisations this year to learn of the great work that they do for the residents of Biggleswade. Whether in the private sector, voluntary sector, or within public services, there are so many people contributing to benefit our town and its residents.

Biggleswade Town Councillors and Officers have worked hard throughout 2023 to enhance the towns play areas, provide cleaner green spaces, more modernised car parking facilities, and a greater event offering.

This year saw the grand re-opening of Franklins Recreation Ground following a major refurbishment. The area now offers a range of new and inclusive play equipment and enhanced seating. I hope that you and your family have had the opportunity to enjoy this improved area and equipment.

In May, the country commemorated the Coronation of King Charles III, with Biggleswade holding a celebratory event in the Market Square for residents to mark the special occasion.

In August and September, the Council held two successful Bigg Eats events in the Market Square, offering a range of different food and drink options and live entertainment. Due to the success of these trial events, the Council will be arranging for further Bigg Eats events to take place in 2024.

On a more sombre note, Christmas is a time to think of others. My thoughts this Christmas go out to those who continue to struggle with the cost-of-living crisis, as well as those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the Israel-Gaza war.

As Christmas is also time for giving, I would like to take this opportunity to mention the three charities that I am supporting during my term as Mayor: Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, Tourette's Action, & Mind BLMK. Thank you to all those who have donated to these charities and to everyone who attended the charity events that I held throughout the year to raise additional funds. If you would like to make a donation to these charities this Christmas, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

On behalf of Biggleswade Town Council, I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.



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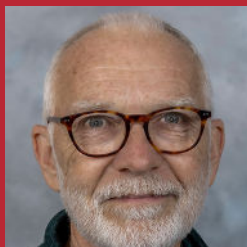
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Please note that councillor email addresses are all @biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

For further information on Councillors, meetings and many other Council services please visit:
www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

If you are unable to visit the website please visit or contact the Town Hall:
enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

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**Biggleswade Town Council
wishes you a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy 2024**

