



### The Union Workhouse (142 London Road)

The workhouse was formerly built on this site for the Biggleswade Union in 1837 on 3 acres of land called 'Gallows Ditch'. The building housed 280 paupers from 24 parishes and later became an infirmary, maternity hospital and old people's home called 'The Limes'. The fine Victorian building was demolished in 1972.



### County Court House (91 High Street)

Frederick Hooper, solicitor and registrar, opened the building in 1861 for use as a County Court for civil cases and offices for his solicitor's practice next door at Brigham House. Customs & Excise later used the building before it became the Job Centre. The building is now a private house.



### J R Goldthorpe (38 High Street)

William Goldthorpe was trading here as an ironmonger by 1869. His son, John Richard, carried on the business in these premises up to 1970. This is the longest established business currently operating in this town.





### Town Hall (Market Square)

The Town Hall was built by a private company in 1844 at a cost of £800 and was used as a public hall until 1922. The Drum Clock was moved from the original Post Office opposite in 1898.



### The White Hart (Market Square)

The White Hart is thought to be the oldest building in the town after the parish church. It also incorporated a malting until the arrival of the railway in 1850.



### Former Regal Cinema (Station Road)

The Regal Cinema seated 744 patrons and opened on 27 July 1936 with comedy film star Will Hay in attendance. This was the premier entertainment in the town and included a café. Between 1940 and 1946, Sunday evening concerts were staged. The cinema closed in 1976 and became a Bingo Hall.





### Old Police Station (4 Station Road)

Biggleswade Police Station was built c.1855, when Edwin Blunden was the first Superintendent of Police for the Biggleswade Division of the Bedfordshire Police Force. It was operational until 1939, when the new building opposite opened. This building still contains the original cells.



### Maythorn Coachworks, (Market Square)

John Maythorn, a manufacturer of horse-drawn carriages, moved from Sun Street to this site in 1869. The factory and showrooms of Maythorn & Sons Ltd covered a large area of the town centre, making bodies for expensive motor cars with Royal Patronage. Following a fire in 1923 the factory was rebuilt, but subsequently closed in 1931. The premises were substantially demolished in 1990. (Iceland Supermarket now occupies this space).



### Market House (Market Square)

There was an ancient Market House on this site before 1565, when it was in a ruinous condition and repaired. During the Victorian period it contained shops and a dwelling house above. In 1937 the building was reconstructed and incorporated the 16<sup>th</sup> century oak frame roof.





### The Shambles (Market Square)

The old Shambles stood on this part of the Market Square until it burned down in 1896. (The building now standing there is Century House).



### The Swan Hotel (Pegasus House, High St)

On this corner site stood the Swan Hotel, an ancient coaching inn reputed to have been visited by Samuel Pepys. The building burned down in The Great Fire of Biggleswade in 1785 and was subsequently rebuilt to become the principal hotel in the town. It was demolished in 1973.



### Charles Penrose (3 High Street)

Charles Penrose Dunbar Cawse (1874-1952) was born here. He had a long career in film, theatre and radio. The first gramophone record was in 1911, the most famous of which was 'The Laughing Policeman', made by Charles Penrose in 1926.





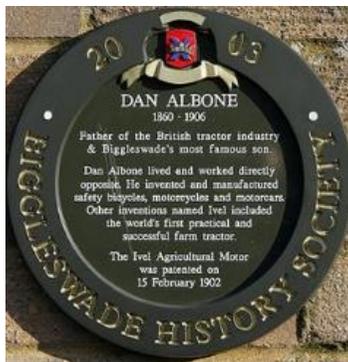
### Mead House School (Shortmead Street)

The inscription above the front door read 'ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN' and is reference to the Biggleswade Academy for boys founded by John Conquest in 1834. Behind this building stands the former school. Both buildings together with Nos 52-58 Shortmead Street are now converted into 11 flats, Elphick's Court.



### Bourne Chapel (132 Shortmead Street)

The Bourne Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1873 and continued until 1939 when it combined with Trinity Methodist Church. During WW2 it was a Woman's Service Canteen and a clinic for mothers and babies evacuated from London.



### Dan Albone 1860-1906 (Shortmead Street)

Dan Albone, father of the British Tractor Industry and Biggleswade's most famous son. Dan Albone lived and worked directly opposite. He invented and manufactured Safety bicycles, motorcycles and motorcars. Other inventions named Ivel included the world's first practical and successful farm tractor, The Ivel Agricultural Motor was patented on 15 February 1902.



Ivel Hotel & Ongley Arms  
Dan Albone's Home



### The Sun Inn (9 Sun Street)

This 17<sup>th</sup> century building was frequented by Lord Torrington in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and was in its day Biggleswade's premier coaching inn with 24 bedrooms. The inn maintained 44 horses, 6 post chaise and 2 carriages. One of the three original horse-mounting blocks can still be seen in front of this property. The Sun Inn closed in 1836.



### Methodist Chapel (2 Fairlands)

On this site stood the first Methodist Chapel built in 1795.

No photograph available.



### Council Schools (Rose Lane)

The British Board School was built in 1874 for 200 boys, enlarged in 1905 to accommodate 200 boys, 200 girls and 213 infants and was known as 'The Council Schools'. This was the main school in the town for nearly 50 years before changing to a Secondary Modern School, then St Andrews Lower School in 1964. It closed in 1988 and has been converted to private accommodation.





### Downs Maltings (Church Street)

Downs Maltings c. 1720 was one of 26 maltings in Biggleswade using local barley. The malt was conveyed along the Ivel Navigation to Kings Lynn and then by sea to London. The Maltings and adjoining property is currently being converted into private accommodation.



### Ivel Mill (Mill Lane)

There has been a watermill on this site for over 1000 years. Henry Franklin, already a coal merchant became the miller in 1883. After a fire in 1945 the building was restored and used as a warehouse. In 1959 the business became Dalgety Franklin. In 1982 the mill was converted into private flats.



### Biggleswade Windmill (51 Osprey Road)

Near to this spot stood the tallest and finest windmill in Bedfordshire from 1859 to 1967. It was 70 high and had five floors, with a gallery around the cap. The three millstones could grind three tons of grain per hour. It was demolished in one day.

