

The Loop

June 2018

£1.00

Welcome to all

If this is the first time you have seen The Loop, I hope you enjoy reading it. We aim to include a mix of information from and about the parish of St James (Biddenham and Great Denham); providing the opportunity for residents to join in forthcoming local events and read about recent activities. We would be delighted if you decide to subscribe and become one of our regular readers. There is a subscription form in your welcome pack.

Whether you are new to The Loop or a regular reader, if you have any news or opinions to contribute please get in touch. You can email me on loopeditor@gmail.com or deliver items to 22 Day's Lane. The copy date for each edition is published on the back page.

Jean Gambold
Editor



Biddenham Under 5s Urgent appeal for help

Biddenham Under 5s play group takes place in Biddenham Village Hall every Thursday during School Term time, between 9.30am and 11.30am. It is a vibrant and long-standing group open to children under the age of 5 years accompanied by a parent, grandparent or carer. Adults regularly help out while they are present.

Help is needed to ensure the Under 5s continues this year following the summer holidays. A volunteer or volunteers are needed from early September to open up and supervise the closure of the Village Hall each Thursday.

If anyone is willing to assist, please contact Yvonne:

Tel. 07540 107331

Email. biddenhamunder5@gmail.com

'Keep in Touch' reminder

Last month's edition of The Loop included a form that you must fill in and return to Jacqui Piper if you are happy for St James's Church to continue to let you know about church activities and news other than The Loop itself. If you haven't already returned the form and wish the church to keep in touch with you, please send it back as soon as possible.

You will continue to receive The Loop even if you don't return the form.

Patio makeover for the Three Tuns

The garden at the Three Tuns has been refurbished for the summer. The old decking has gone, replaced with an extended patio, and new furniture has been brought in.

There are also some summer specials on the menu. Find out more at their Facebook page.

Biddenham Gardens Open in aid of the British Red Cross

Sunday 10th June 1.30-5.00pm

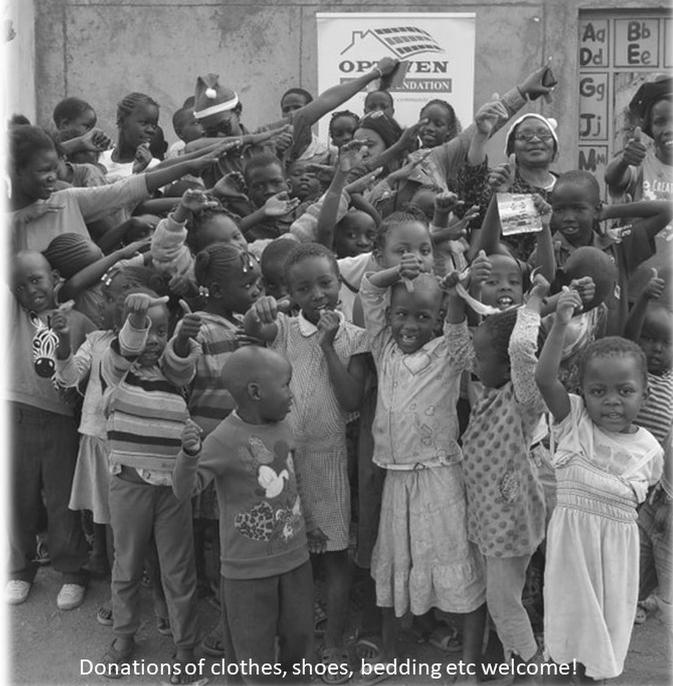


£5 per adult, children free

'The Loop' is published by the Parish Church of St James as a service to the communities of Biddenham and Great Denham
The editor welcomes contributions from residents and friends via email to loopeditor@gmail.com

Benefit Lunch

To raise awareness of the
Soweto Anti-Aids Children's Home
Kenya



Donations of clothes, shoes, bedding etc welcome!

2 June 2018

Bedford Athletic Rugby Club, Wentworth Drive

12.00 noon to 4.00pm

Three course meal with entertainment

Tickets £20 Contact June on 07832 103553

Don't forget the Foodbank

Please continue to bring in-date non-perishable food. The container is at the back of the church.

You can find the latest list of items needed by Bedford food bank at [https:// bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)



The Parish Church of St James, serving Biddenham & Great Denham

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax ericjohnlomax64@aol.com	Tel: 852241
Readers	Christopher Dawe Paul Fricker	Tel 363890 Tel 342843
Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn Edwin Martin	Tel 364251 Tel 348718
Verger	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
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	www.stjamesbiddenham.com	

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

'Don't forget Grace!' These were the words, that a woman spoke to her husband, as he left a café last week. Presumably Grace is a little girl that he was tasked with picking up from school, and I suspect that the woman had reminded him because she was all too familiar with the nature of men. I had a sudden vision of the man sitting at home watching football on the TV, while little Grace stood at the school gate, with her duffle coat on, waiting for her daddy to turn up.



As somebody who finds it a struggle to single task, let alone to multi-task, I am not surprised that mum chose to remind dad. It is easy to get distracted, and then Grace can be left at the school gates altogether.

Of course, I am not talking really about a little girl here. I am talking about a basic quality of the message we proclaim, that God does not look at us because we are good or deserving, but simply because he loves us. 'Grace' means undeserved favour; it is the quality which God demonstrates to us, and that we should demonstrate to others. We are loved and it is as pure and simple as that. In Greek literature, the concept of Wisdom is personified, so Grace, for me, will keep her capital letter and, for our purposes, shall remain a little girl.

In the sixteenth century, the Church was corrupt but, as always, it was filled with sincere people. Often, in Europe, rising costs and repairs of the vast capital resources, such as St Peter's in Rome, meant that Christians had to find new ways of making money. There was a simple solution. Indulgences were sold, which were, in effect, expensive seats in heaven that people could purchase directly from God. The entry fee to heaven effectively demanded two things; impossible moral standards and ludicrous amounts of money.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) struggled with all of this. He had no money but sought heaven through the crushing moral demands of the cloister. Even as an Augustinian monk, Luther found it impossible to suppress his own passions and believed that, despite all his efforts, Hell would be his final destination. It was then that he discovered Grace. He was reminded of her by a revelatory reading of Paul's Epistle to the Romans; 'and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus'.

Luther became aware, through this, how fundamentally, we all failed to meet up to the standards of God's righteousness, and that neither wealth nor goodness were enough to get us into heaven. He realised, however, that what Jesus did on the cross, as a profound act of God's love, was enough to open the gates to us. We don't need to buy tickets, as they have already been bought.

To everybody, including Church people, in our success driven society, where everybody, including our children, are often judged by their ability to achieve, it would be good to accept people on the basis of love and not on the basis of what they can give to us.

When you go out to work today, don't forget to Pick Up Grace.

God bless,
Eric

Biddenham Women's Group

Beautiful Butterflies

A perfectly timed talk on Beautiful Butterflies was enjoyed by the Women's Group in the second week of May. Wilf Powell, a retired professor of entomology who had worked for an agricultural company, showed us some stunning photographs of butterflies from gardens, woodlands, nature reserves and from around the world. Sadly, they cannot be replicated in a black and white publication apart from the 'cabbage whites', marbled whites, wood whites and some female butterflies.

He began by showing us pictures of jewellery, fashion and furniture in an effort to enthuse us. We needed no encouragement as the pictures, with some additional information from Wilf, spoke for themselves.

Butterflies can be identified in the egg stage. Look for the eggs, which are different shapes and may be laid singly or in batches on the food plant of the caterpillar. The longest phase of the life cycle is that of the caterpillar and when they pupate they attach a girdle to a leaf, usually on the underside to protect themselves from birds.

Some butterflies hibernate and these are the first you will see flying round your gardens. These may be the Brimstones, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals, while other species survive the winter as eggs, caterpillars or chrysalis. There are plenty of Orange Tips, Holly Blues and Large and Small Whites flying around at the moment and I saw a Speckled Wood down the lane last week. The females have slightly different colouring so it may be worth doing a bit of research if you want to learn more.

Where the brambles are flowering you may find Gatekeepers among the grasses and around the bottom of hedges, Meadow Browns. The butterflies with the ragged wings are Commas and these are nettle feeders. The Cowslip Meadow is a good place to look for butterflies, especially Marbled Whites when it gets warm. We should see the Duke of Burgundy, one of our small and rarest butterflies, as it feeds on cowslips and primroses but it is sadly in decline. I think I saw a single male recently in the meadow but have spotted them in the past around All Saint's Church and on the far side of the golf course.

We have 59 different breeding butterflies in the UK and several migrants of which the Painted Lady is most common.

With the depletion of roadside verges and swathes of grassy areas being constantly mowed we are losing valuable habitats for wild flowers and consequently food sources for butterflies, insects and birds.

Many of our members were inspired by the beauty of butterflies so why not visit our own wonderful Cowslip Meadow, Dunstable Downs, Chicksands Wood or other nature reserves and see what you can find. Happy hunting!

Our next talk is of an historical nature: Ann Wise will be giving a talk entitled 'A History of Women's Undies' on 12th June at 2.00pm in the Church Barn. Please do come along if you wish. Visitors £3.

Val Fitzhugh

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Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 6pm and Sat 9am - 4pm

Biddenham History Society

The next meeting of the Biddenham History Society will be on Monday 2nd July. We will meet at 2.30pm at the Church Barn and walk to the War Memorial via the Coffin Path. We will remember those who died during the 1914 – 1918 War and consider what the village was like 100 years ago, in 1918, in the closing months of the war. We will return to the Barn for refreshments. I hope the weather will be kind to us!

Kathy Fricker

Having a party?

Think of holding it at the village hall.

www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk

For lots more info, pictures and virtual tour

Discounted hire charges
for village residents



Keech Hospice Care opens shop in Great Denham

A second charity shop has opened in Great Denham. Joining Barnado's in the shopping centre is the new Keech Hospice Care shop.

With convenient free parking, these shops are worth a look and make donating second hand goods very easy.

The Keech shop was opened by Shayne Smith, 6, who cut the ribbon supported by his grandmother Kara Powell. Kara said she loves the fresh design of the new shop and wants everyone to support the charity which cares for her grandson Shayne, who has intestinal failure.



"I care for Shayne 24/7 which can be very hard – and Keech is there when I need a break," said Kara. "When I take Shayne to the hospice it gives me the chance to have a 'normal' conversation with other families who know what I'm going through and I can relax because I know he is being looked after by people who know what to do if anything goes wrong."

"The new shop in Great Denham looks fantastic and I can't wait to start shopping here. I think everyone should not only shop at the charity's stores, but also donate your quality items to Keech Hospice Care to help them raise as much money as possible."

As a charity, Keech Hospice Care relies on its community to help raise around 70 per cent of the funding it needs for its care services. Every year the hospice must raise £5.7million so it can continue to provide excellent care and support to adults in Luton and south Bedfordshire and Children in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Milton Keynes.

Angela Burgess, Head of Retail at Keech Hospice Care, said the charity prides itself on stocking quality items in its 32 shops across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes. "We really want to dispel the myth that charity shops are full of items that no one wants. I encourage anyone who has never been into our stores before to visit and prepare to be pleasantly surprised at what we have to offer, not to mention the very reasonable prices," said Angela.

"By buying and donating your items, you're helping Keech Hospice Care to ensure local adults and children facing a terminal or life-limiting illness can receive excellent care and support at a time in their lives when they need it most."

Information from www.keech.org.uk

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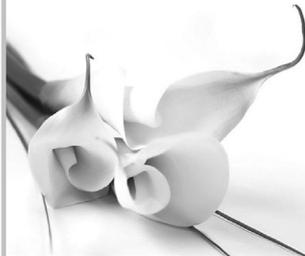
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A warm welcome to new Biddenhamites

This edition of The Loop is being distributed for the first time to new residents in the St Mary's development in the village, north of Bromham Road, and the Friends of the village pond wish you all welcome.

Nestling in a quiet corner of our lovely village, amongst trees and fields with views to the ancient village church and beyond, you'll find the tranquil village pond, one of Biddenham's cherished treasures. If you haven't already discovered this ancient pond, here's how: follow the public footpath between Gold Lane and St James's church, directed by the pond's own sign between 3 and 5 Gold Lane and the brown direction signs there and by the church.

Created in 1700 by the Boteler family as a carp pond to supply fish to Biddenham Manor, it's still here today as a haven for wildlife, including the rare and protected great crested newt and the rare midwife toad, and a village amenity for everyone's enjoyment. It's within the Biddenham Conservation Area, features on the Biddenham Heritage Trail, and is illustrated on both the village sign on the village green and the Millennium Window in the village church.

We hope you'll visit our village pond. There are benches you can relax on and appreciate the natural beauty all about you, and an information board to tell you about the pond. There's much more about it on our website (you'll find there directions and a plan of the pond, and you can print a leaflet to guide you on a walk round the pond) and we also have a Facebook page (see the two addresses below).

The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond keeps this special place for you and future generations to discover and enjoy. A dedicated team of volunteers undertakes the continuing conservation and maintenance work and fund raising needed to preserve and manage the pond and its surrounds. Funding comes mainly from Friends' annual subscriptions (great value at a minimum of only £5 per household per annum); and grants and donations have been gratefully received from the local councils and village and other organisations.

There's more information on the village pond website about becoming a Friend and a membership application form you can print to join: you'll be most welcome. Or you can contact Jane Knight, our treasurer (phone: 330173; or email: jane@80kltd.co.uk) or Paul Godden, our secretary (phone: 344081; or email: pgodden@btinternet.com) who will be happy to send you a membership form. You can just be a Friend helping support the pond or be an active participant in practical conservation work in the fresh air in the 'green gym' down at the pond. You can find details of events and activities in the diary.

Dipping in

A chance to explore the wildlife in the pond at the annual pond dipping event led by our own Chris Jones on Sunday 3rd June from 2.30pm. Children, please bring a responsible adult, and no dogs please.

Summer Splash Out

Our Summer Event and Splash Out takes place the next week, on Sunday 10th June at 3.30pm in the Church Barn, Church End. We look forward to welcoming you there for a catch up on what's been happening at your village pond,

and to enjoy some summer refreshments, some relaxation and a chat. As usual, there are no tickets and no charge, although we do welcome donations to our funds.

Your Autumn workout

The Autumn work morning at the pond will take place on Saturday 10th November from 10.00am to lunchtime. More details nearer the day. An ideal opportunity to workout in the 'green gym'.

Data protection and keeping in touch

Pond Friends, have you completed and returned your consent to keeping in touch form included with your Spring Splash? Please do, we value your support and want to be able to keep you in the picture on what's occurring at your village pond. Thank you very much.

The Pond Team

The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond
www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond



Café B...

*Tuesday 19th June and
17th July*

*Biddenham Village Hall
10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

*Selection of teas, coffees,
hot chocolate and juice
Home baked cakes
Book Swap*



To us, it's personal.



Would you like to make a difference?

We are currently looking for caring people to look after older people in their own homes in the Bedford Area

If you are dedicated, hard-working and have a genuine desire to work in an environment where you will be helping others, please get in touch. We offer full training and flexible working hours to suit you.

Please call Jackie on 01234 868820 for more information.

News from Utange

The heavy rains are causing landslides and destroying many mud hut homes in Kenya right now. Feed500 continues despite the challenge for the ladies who cook for the children. The barefoot orphans have been arriving soaked and muddy to receive their maize & beans and bag of unga flour these past weeks.



Zawadi and Fatuma are two enduring the elements. Zawadi (left) lives with her sick grandmother as her folks are dead. She grows vegetables outside her mud hut to add to the maize flour we hand out for her to take home so she can feed them both.

Fatuma (right) looks after her disabled Mum. A big responsibility for a 13

year old who is the oldest of four siblings. They are both in their final year at government primary school and praying for sponsors to be able to go to Celebration High School when we open next January. Just £350 per year will enable this to happen and give them both hope for a brighter future.

The Casuarina children were all back together again for Easter as the boarders returned home for the holidays. Nicholas, our eldest boy, preached in the English service at Utange Baptist Church with Rehema translating into Swahilli. All the children visited another church in Utange to display their singing and dancing talents, to high acclaim! We are very proud of our talented bunch of youngsters.

Utange Orphans charity
www.utangeorphans.org



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This month in the garden

Until the middle of May the weather continued its record-breaking behaviour. After the wettest, coldest April we have ever experienced we had the hottest and driest May Bank Holiday. I was lucky and went on holiday in the Canary Islands for the second half of April so I escaped the worst period of cold and rain. When you get back from a holiday, the first thing to do is a tour of the garden and a look in the greenhouse to see how things have grown. This year they hadn't; hardly anything had changed except the three varieties of beans sown in the greenhouse had germinated well. None of my outdoor vegetable sowing had come through and the worrying thing is that, in the middle of May, it still isn't showing. Have the seeds rotted or will something happen sometime? Apart from that, the Bank Holiday heatwave has made the world a lot greener.

Things being green, brings me on to lawn care. At last the grass is growing and will need cutting at least once a week. There is always a temptation to cut lawns too low. Unless you want a cricket pitch, lawns will look much greener if they are cut relatively high. I keep my mower on three settings above the lowest. Using a professional lawn care service costs money but it does repay you with a lovely green lawn; especially at this time of year before dry weather gives you the dilemma of whether or not to water the grass. Don't forget to keep the edges cut frequently with sharp long-handled shears and an occasional trim from a moon-shaped edging tool.

Weeding needs to be a constant occupation from now on and it is another task that really does make a huge difference to the look of a garden. As I often say, a little and often is always the best way. In the flower garden one way is to cram in so many plants that there is no room for weeds but that doesn't suit all flowers and bare patches of clean and freshly turned over soil can add much to the appearance of a border. Shrub roses in particular need that sort of treatment. Once you have cleared away any noticeable weeds it is easy to keep bare earth looking good with frequent hoeing, which takes very little time.

Weeding in the vegetable garden is necessary for optimum growth and also for appearance. A neatly set out vegetable garden is very attractive. Fruit areas also need weeding although mulching bushes and canes is good for the plants and can reduce weeding. If you grow raspberries, be careful with a hoe near the canes because it is easy to cut down the freshly emerging shoots at the base of the canes which will make next year's canes.

Another W is watering. Even though we have had so much rain this year it doesn't hang around long in the upper levels of garden soil where roots grow. Test moisture content a couple of inches below soil level and be ready to get the hose out (or splash out on an irrigation system and start using it). Better still, use a watering can with rain water from your many water butts. Plants in containers will need daily watering and newly planted trees and shrubs need less frequent watering but done generously. It's good to keep roses and dahlias watered on a weekly basis in this way. Container plants benefit greatly from frequent applications of liquid fertiliser. Before you plant anything in a tub or basket, mix water-retaining granules into the compost, which helps to make the most of your water. Remember that acid loving plants grow best with rain water rather than tap water. Water butts are necessary but the amount of water one butt holds doesn't go far so I try to ensure that I give priority of rain water use to acid loving plants.

June is a great month for enjoying flower colour and you can increase your enjoyment with regular dead-heading, especially for roses and annual bedding and container plants. This makes flowering more prolific and keeps it going longer.

I look forward to meeting many of you in our Open Garden on 10th June.

Jeremy Arthern

Biddenham Cricket Club



The season is now well under way most teams having played at least one match except the very unlucky Under 9 team whose opposition have cancelled twice.

The cricket field is looking in magnificent condition in spite of the very wet start to the season thanks to David Watson and his assistants.

The junior section of the club continues to thrive through the enthusiasm and energy of the coaches and helpers in all areas. A number of new coaches and helpers have been present to ensure that we can provide safe and enjoyable sessions for all age groups. The importance of individuals generously giving their time to help the club deliver a positive experience for youngsters is evident from 6.00pm at the ground every Monday evening up to mid July.

As far as senior results are concerned, on Saturdays the team have made a good start in the games that have so far been possible. The Sunday league side lost its first match in Division 2 of the Bedfordshire County League, but in future should be able to field a stronger team. The Sunday friendly team with a mixture of youngsters and more mature players played its first match of the season at Drayton Parslow.

The club would again like to formally record its thanks for the support it continues to receive from its vice presidents and sponsors who have increased in number this year.

Club news, fixtures and results appear on the website at: <http://biddenham.play-cricket.com/home>

The 100 club provides the club with useful income and also raises its profile within the village amongst the residents for an annual fee of £12. If you would like to join the cricket club as a member, you will also gain automatic entry into the 100 club draw, which is held each month.

Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Junior Co-ordinator	Chris Spurgeon	07707 771606
Club Welfare Officer	Maija Bissett	01234 589473
100 Club	Judith O'Quinn	01234 363489

Richard Fone

Ian Bates

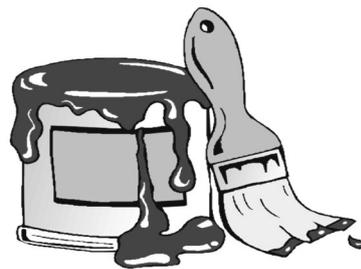
We are sorry to report the death of Ian Bates of Day's Lane.

We hope to carry an obituary in next month's edition of The Loop.

Maintenance morning

On

Saturday 11th August from 9 a.m.



Please come and help Spring clean and take the inventory of the Village hall.

Lunch at the pub for all who help

Email liz4watson@aol.com or

Phone 345028

To let us know you're able to help



HOME CRICKET MATCHES SCHEDULED IN JUNE 2018

DATE	DAY	START	OPPONENTS	TEAM
09-Jun	Sat	13:30	Aspley Guise I	Sat League
10-Jun	Sun	10:00	Blunham	U11 County
12-Jun	Tue	18:00	Olney Town (A)	U13's
13-Jun	Weds	18:30	Elstow	Midweek League
17-Jun	Sun	10:00	Pavenham and Felmersham	U11 County
17-Jun	Sun	13:30	Bedford	Sun League
23-Jun	Sat	13:30	Eggington I	Sat League
24-Jun	Sun	10:00	Harrold	U9's
24-Jun	Sun	10:00	Queens Park	U11 Dev
24-Jun	Sun	13:30	TBA	Sun Friendly
26-Jun	Tue	18:00	Harrold (B)	U13's
27-Jun	Weds	18:30	Kempston Methodists	Midweek League
28-Jun	Thur	18:00	Queens Park	U15's

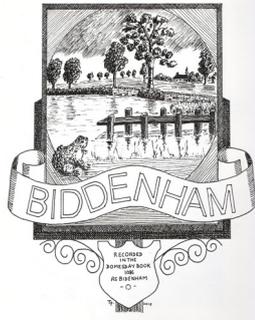
Biddenham Society Development proposed at White Cottage, 34 Day's Lane

I wanted to draw your attention to a proposed development (18/00877/FUL) at White Cottage, 34 Day's Lane, as something of interest from two angles.

White Cottage is a Grade II Listed building meaning that it is one of 378,000 buildings in England that is noted as being of special architectural or historic interest and considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting. The house is listed because it is an Arts and Crafts house built in 1908 to the designs of C. E. Mallows, with particular exterior and interior architectural interest and with close design connections to other houses in Biddenham, either by the same architect or by the renowned Baillie Scott. The full listing can be found at this abbreviated url: <https://goo.gl/q9ds2G> and, if you have any interest in the history on your doorstep or the historical architectural designs just around the corner, do go and have a look at the website (or, indeed, the cottage itself).

So why am I writing?

Two reasons - firstly, the proposed plans to make some changes to the house itself and secondly to build a large annex in the garden. To be honest, I was initially relaxed about the proposed changes to the house until it became clear that the proposed changes would alter many of the original features and, to a certain extent, destroy aspects of the reason it had been listed in the first place - the removal of internal windows, the installation of soffit vents on the outside, replacing tiles and various other things.



This is not to say that the Biddenham Society does not support such changes, it just requests that they are made sympathetically to the rest of the house. We recognise that houses such as this need to be upgraded to enable them to be suitable for more modern and newer families with different types of living. Hence the Society supports the proposed kitchen extension and its replacement with a dining room but has suggested a number of conditions be applied to this.

This is similar to an application made to one of the other listed houses in Biddenham that requested a modest extension. The application was subject to negotiation between the applicant, the Conservation Officer and the Planning Officer and the consented development was modest by comparison with the application for alterations to White Cottage - but it did go ahead.

The second point of this note is about the proposed application to build an annex in the garden. This is to be a few metres away from the house, 1.5 metres away from the boundary fence (bordering 36 Day's Lane) and it stands 12m long x 6m wide x 6m high. For a point of reference, 6m high is probably as high as the guttering on your house, possibly a bit higher. Can you imagine a small house suddenly appearing on the other side of your fence and the impact it would have on you and the use of your own garden?

Biddenham Society has objected to the development of the annex and hope you will agree with our view. While the date for comments has now passed, we will watch the outcome of this and hope the decision will be the right one.

Will Jenkin
Vice Chairman

Founded in 1965 by a group of concerned residents, The Biddenham Society remains committed to the continued preservation of the beauty, history, character and heritage of the village.

The Three Tuns, Biddenham

Open every day 9.00am to 11.00pm

Weekly changing set menu
2 courses £17.95; 3 courses £21.00
available lunch Mon-Sun; dinner Tues-Sat

Extensive Bar Menu available 12-6 every day

Seasonal a la carte menu
available lunch & dinner Tues-Sat

Home cooked children's meals

Light cooked breakfast available from 9-12 every day with your choice of teas or coffees £5.95

Bookings:
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Find us on
Facebook:
The-Three-
Tuns-Biddenham



in support of
Sue Ryder St John's
Hospice

Fashion Show

Date: Sunday 29th July 2018

Time: 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Location: The Hall, St John's Hospice, St John's Road,
Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, MK44 3RJ

Tickets are priced at £7.50 this includes a glass of
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Why King's Field?

The housing development continuing on land north of Bromham Road has an overall name of King's Field, although you may also see it written as Kings Field or even Kingsfield as in the new Kingsfield Sports & Community Club at the western end of the development. However it's written, the name was chosen to commemorate an event that took place 104 years ago, on Thursday 22nd October 1914 when King George V came to review the Highland troops then stationed in and around Bedford, including Biddenham.

The review took place in Bromham Road, the Bedfordshire Times and Independent of 23rd October reported, 'in the large field beyond the Midland Railway, and lying between the Golf Course and the Bromham-road, opposite the first Biddenham turn'. 'As a matter of fact', the report continued, 'the troops occupied both this field and the Golf Course beyond, but the march past took place in the first field'. 'The Gordon Brigade, probably owing to the proximity of their billets to the review ground, were the first on the scene. They marched up in the neighbourhood by 9 o'clock, and took up their positions on the Golf Links.

'The Scottish horse, from the country, were also fairly early arrivals. The Seaforth and Cameron Brigades started to arrive about 10.00am, and also went to the Golf Links, and the following troops arrived in the following order:- R.G.A., R.F.A. (Golf Links), Argyll Brigade, A.S.C., R.E., and R.A.M.C. Some of the units arrived with bands playing, and in some the men were singing and whistling, but generally speaking there was an air of seriousness.'

'During the arrival of the troops the reserve regiment of the Beds Yeomanry marched up to their training ground – a field off the Biddenham-road, and their smart appearance,

despite the absence of uniform in many cases, was favourably commented upon. When the King left they were formed up down the Biddenham-road, but owing to the crowd they had no opportunity of seeing His Majesty.'

On arrival after 11.30am 'the royal car passed straight up the road to the second field where His Majesty was received by the general officers, and forthwith he inspected the Scottish Horse, the Artillery Regiments, the Gordons, the Camerons, the Seaforths, and other troops parading in that part of the ground'.

'At 11.50am His Majesty and his retinue entered the first large field at the corner diagonally remote from the gate opposite the Biddenham-lane and began his inspection of the troops on that side, walking along the front ranks from west to east'. The King then moved across the field towards the gate and the march past began, each section headed by a band of pipers. Rain began to fall and fell more heavily as the King eventually left to reach the railway station by 1.30pm.

There is much more in the newspaper report of the event which is now marked more than a century later by the name given to the development and by the regimental names, such as Argyll, given to some of the roads at the eastern end of the development. Caber Walk is a reminder of the Highland Games staged on Easter Monday 1915 for the Scottish troops still billeted in Bedford.

Local man, the late Albert Church, in his 'Recollections of my life in Biddenham' recalled that this event was the greatest thrill of his school days and the only time he could remember playing truant from the village school, as the children were not granted official time off to see the King. He couldn't remember what the punishment was, probably two strokes of the cane or to stop after school and write fifty or one hundred times, with a slate pencil on a slate.

Peter Applewhite

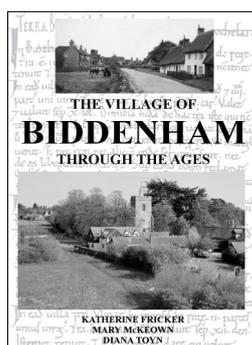


Bridge in Biddenham

Are you interested in joining a Duplicate Bridge group for intermediate players?

A club has started at the Church Barn on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

If you would like to join or for more information please contact Bernard Henry on 07866 456769 or email him on bahenry0309@gmail.com.



The Biddenham history book

Now only £15

We are also selling reproductions of the colour photos by Apex Images that appear in the book (and some that we did not use). Please ask Mary McKeown for details.

Contacts:
Kathy 342843, Diana 211716,
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marymckeown37@gmail.com



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Poppy Walk for Honour 12th August 2018

Calling families, dog walkers and rambles! Get walking and raise funds for The Royal British Legion, Bedfordshire's Poppy Walk for Honour, The Poppy Walk returns to commemorate the end of the First

World War and to say thank you to the First World War generation, all who served, sacrificed and changed our world. Come to Bedford Priory Country Park in Bedford, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9SH on Sunday 12th August, 2018. Join the Poppy Walk Squad and be part of the fun!

We will be gathering at the Visitor Centre at Priory Country Park Bedford from 11.00am to embark upon a choice of two routes, 2km, which is wheel chair and push chair friendly or 10km for those that really want to stretch their legs. Stroll around some of the area's most interesting sites.

As well as the walk there will be live music and activities with refreshments available at the Cloverdale Retreat, he Park's Café. A wonderful day out for the whole family to enjoy while raising funds for wounded, injured, and sick members of our Armed Forces and their families. Why not come and join us?

Times:

Registration 11:00am
Act of Remembrance 11:30am
Walk starts 12:00pm

Register online at: bedspoppywalkforhonour.co.uk or upon arrival on the day

Registration:

Adult (age 12+) £8
Child £5
Family (2 adults+2 children or 1 adult+3 children) £20

Michael Lewis

Community Fundraiser Bedfordshire

Prayer of the month

Give me
A pure heart
That I may see thee,
A humble heart
That I may hear thee,
A heart of love
That I may serve thee,
A heart of faith
That I may abide in thee.

Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)

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St Joseph's & St Gregory's Catholic Primary School



With the onset of warmer weather, there is no nicer place to be than in St Joseph's and St Gregory's swimming pool!



Water confidence and swimming are part of the PE curriculum and are vital skills all children should learn. These skills may save their own or another life in the future.

We are well on the way to completing our first year as St Joseph's and St Gregory's Catholic Primary school and cannot believe we will soon be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children and welcoming our new Reception children and their families.

Contrary to popular belief, St Joseph's and St Gregory's welcomes children of all faiths, not just Catholic families. There are a limited number of places still available in some year groups across the school and we offer regular tours of the school, on either Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Prospective parents are invited to contact the school office (01234 352062) in the first instance.

Miss L Sumpter
Headteacher

Plans well in hand for Biddenham Show

This year's show will be held on Sunday 9th September from 12noon to 4.00pm at St James' School field and Biddenham Village Hall. Once again, we are grateful for the sponsorship of Taylor Brightwell.



As ever, the centre of attention will be the gardening, baking and craft classes with photography being re-introduced this year.

Other attractions will include the popular fun dog show, Punch & Judy, bouncy castle, the Human Fruit Machine, second hand book stall and charity plant stall, all with the background music of our resident Jazz DJ.

Catering will include teas, possibly a hog roast but definitely a barbeque, a bar and ice cream.

Now all we need is better

weather than last year.

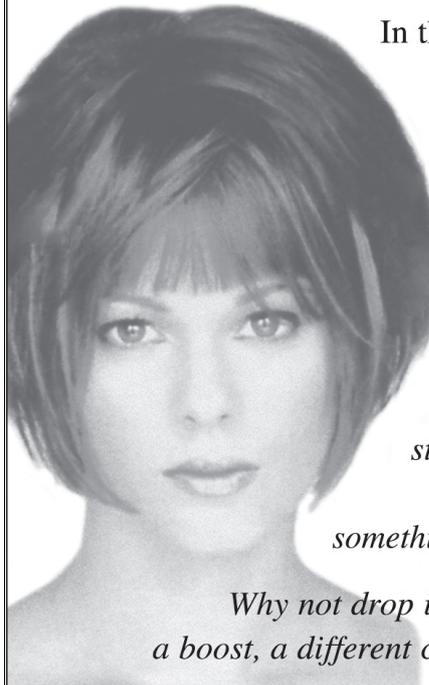
We still need help either to serve on the Committee or to help with setting up and running the Show on the weekend of the 8th/9th September.

If you can help please contact Stelios Mores on 07802 432293 or email stelios.mores@gmail.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are always welcome - email loopeditor@gmail.com or deliver to 22 Day's Lane

From Mary McKeown

I am writing to thank Peter Chase and the Parish Council for their dedication, particularly over the past 12 months, in protecting the interests of the village. Peter Chase's Annual Report on page 12 of the May edition of *The Loop* covers many subjects: St James' School, path resurfacing, the Coffin Path, trees in Thorpe Close, flooding, drainage, hedgerows and, more seriously, the proposed demolition of Biddenham House and its replacement by eight new houses. Then, the most serious threat to the village, came the developer, Lioncourt, with its application to build 250 houses on land west of Gold Lane, and the subsequent raising of many hundreds of individual objections.

We residents are also indebted to Peter Applewhite and the Pond Committee, Tony Wood and the Biddenham Society, and others, including past residents, who also feel strongly that the beautiful rural ambiance, especially of the historical end of our village, should be preserved, not destroyed. I am sure other residents would wish to join me in thanking all these dedicated people.

Mary McKeown
37 Church End

From Tony Wood

Dear Editor

Many of us in the village are delighted at the way *The Loop* has evolved under your editorship to become a true community publication. Many congratulations. The May issue exemplified this very well, with a wide range of excellent contributions illustrating numerous facets of village life. Full marks to the Church for supporting the publication over many years.

As one of its functions, *The Loop* could serve an important role in helping to raise the awareness of residents to threats facing Biddenham from developers anxious to despoil our village for their own financial gain. The applications to demolish and replace Biddenham House with several new dwellings, and to build 250 properties on the land west of Gold Lane being recent examples. In these two cases, taken together an amazing response of just under 800 written objections were made by members of the public, primarily as a result of a strong campaign involving local groups, leaflets circulated by the parish council, and a programme of door-to-door canvassing by some very committed residents.

The potential value of a regular local publication to publicise detrimental proposals like these cannot be underestimated, but for *The Loop* to have an important voice it must also be widely read across the village. The Parochial Church Council could do us all a further great favour if it could find ways of expanding considerably the present number of subscribers, so that when the next threats arise (as they surely will) this important publication can play its own part in helping to despatch them to the sin bin!

Yours faithfully
Tony Wood

From a resident in Deep Spinney

I live in Deep Spinney near to the Pavilion and the Hair Salon; on Wednesday 16th May between 10.30am and 11.45am (I was out) my property was broken into.

They forced entry by breaking the double-glazed unit in one of my French doors at the rear of the property. He or she stole cash and some personal items. The police were informed and I am now one of many with a crime reference number.

I am sorry but I do not want to give my name or house number; but I feel that you should be made aware so that other residents will possibly be more vigilant.

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Biddenham Parish Council

If you have recently moved in to Biddenham, then may we, as your Parish Council, welcome you to our community.

The Parish Council is the lowest rung on the ladder of government in our country, and is paid for out of your Council Tax. This year, if you're in a band D property, £34.63 of your annual Council Tax goes to the Parish Council. We try to spend it wisely, looking after the fabric of the village, and acting in the interests of our residents. In point of fact, £250 was donated this month to the publishers of the Loop, to support their initiative to bring this lovely publication to your brand new doorstep! Once again, welcome.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 in the upstairs meeting room of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Peter Chase (Chairman), Alan Jacobs, Jon Gambold (also a Borough Councillor), Chris Gee, Francia Slade, Terry Platt and Joe Warren. Clerk Lyn Lyman, standing in for Alison Southern who was unwell, and six members of the public were also present. Councillors Graham Bates and Krzys Osuch and Borough Councillor Roger Rigby sent their apologies.

This annual meeting allocates to councillors various duties the council must carry out. In that respect, invitations are sought for the role of chairman. I volunteered for a fourth year (and no-one else was interested) so have pleasure in continuing to serve you in this capacity for another twelve months.

There was one new duty this year – that of Data Controller. Councillor Joe Warren will act in this role, in which he will be the contact point for anyone concerned about personal data the Parish Council holds about them. They are entitled to ask what that data is, what it's used for and (if it's not required to be held for some legal reason) then to have it deleted if they wish. We are opting for a minimalist approach to holding data, so won't be keeping lists of names and email addresses for any reason, other than matters relating to the hiring and operation of the Pavilion.

Planning (again)!

Just to keep you up to date with matters relating to the land west of Gold Lane. Cllr Gambold reported that the Borough Council's Local Plan for 2021 to 2035 has been postponed until much later in the year. This is because a large housing development to be built between Sharnbrook and the Santa Pod raceway has been withdrawn. The Borough Council is seeking an alternative to replace this before moving ahead, so they continue to meet their overall target for new house-building.

It remains to be seen how quickly Borough will move to consider the outline application for housing west of Gold Lane, but there is now a higher chance that this will happen before the Local Plan policy 19, which would remove protection from this land, would be in force. That's if it gets approved anyway, given the extraordinary number of objections that residents of Biddenham and their friends and relatives made; fully 653 against Policy 19 and 569 against Policy 23.

Cars, cars, cars

Even though we are a mile from the railway station, increasing numbers of commuters are parking their cars for the day on side-roads off the main Bromham Road, King George Avenue into the new housing estate near town, and our own Biddenham Turn in particular. We already have a problem with the verges being chewed up by this, and now, as you may have heard, the Bromham Road railway bridge is to be re-built. Its closure will last a year, during which



time there will only be a temporary footbridge in place. So I don't doubt this problem will only get worse, as commuters face long and convoluted routes to get to the station car park (which itself is going to halve in size due to cranes and things), and instead resort to walking the last mile.

We wait to see what the Borough Council propose for traffic management. The closure is expected to start in August, so time is getting short.

One resident at the meeting asked about leafleting cars, appealing to them to park off verges and, indeed, somewhere else altogether. I doubt they would take any notice. We will see about working with the Borough to manage this problem in a way which can be properly and legally enforced.

Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm in the upstairs room at Biddenham Pavilion. Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to raise.

Peter Chase
Chairman



Biddenham

International School & Sports College



The School had something to celebrate at the end of April.

Firstly, three members of staff successfully completed the London Marathon raising substantial amounts for their charities. Mr Knight was running for the British Heart Foundation, Miss Copley for Children with Cancer and Dr Pateman for Motor Neurone Disease.

Secondly, two former pupils, Nathan and Aston, now playing handball in Denmark came in to deliver a handball session to our Year 7 and 8 students while back in the UK. The students loved it.



Biddenham Gardeners Association

Warden Abbey Vineyard

In May we were pleased to welcome Janet Rose from Warden Abbey Vineyard, especially as she had brought samples of wine for us to taste. Vines were first planted at Warden Abbey in medieval times by the Cistercian Monks. They themselves mostly drank beer but the wine they produced was used for the sacrament and for their guests and pilgrims, hundreds of travellers stayed with them every year. They also used the wine for preserving. The land on which the vineyard sits now belongs to the Whitbread family and in 1985 Lady Jane Whitbread decided to plant up the modern vineyard. The vineyard was leased to Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity in 2010 and the vines are now cared for by volunteers and community groups.



Warden Abbey Vineyard is a community and educational resource. Not only does it produce award winning wines that have secured the future of this historic vineyard but it also provides learning and skills development and social and therapeutic horticulture for various local organisations and schools, as well as volunteering opportunities and support into employment.

Janet gave us an overview of the horticultural year of the vine from the pruning of the canes in the winter to leave two canes to fruit that year and two for the year after. The effect of the sun is maximised as the vines are planted on a south facing slope. Later on the canes are tied in using a stapling mechanism. There are currently 3,200 older vines and 800 newer ones which have been planted recently in the four acre site. European vines are grafted onto American root stock to ensure that the vines are immune from the mites which attack the roots. When the vines have reached about six feet high the tops are cut off to promote fruiting. Careful note is taken of the number of bunches produced and the sugar level of the grapes is tested throughout the year in order that a decision can be taken on

when to harvest, how many crates will be needed plus the number of lorries for transportation etc. The harvested grapes are taken to Box Hill in Surrey to be made into wine.



The vineyard produces two white wines, "The Reformer" named after John Howard and "The Nonconformist" named after John Bunyan. We sampled the latter and also tried the vineyard's sparkling wine. All three are available in various local retail outlets.

At the end of her talk Janet gave the answers to questions she had posed at the beginning and so we found out that there are approximately 600 grapes in a bottle of wine and that there are 502 vineyards in England and Wales. However, in terms of acreage, all of them put together are smaller than some of the biggest vineyards in Chile who are producing wine on a huge commercial scale. What a fascinating evening and many thanks to Janet for entertaining us throughout.

Our next meeting will be on 19th June when Adam Pasco will talk us through 'Easy ways to better gardening'.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact **Linda Truscott** on 01234 270747 www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk

Are you retired?
Come for
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Friday 15th June
10.30am to 12.00 noon
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in Biddenham Village Hall
from 12.30pm
£6



Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month

Book swap

To book: email firstfridaylunch@outlook.com
Or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

All welcome—everyone, all ages!
1st June, 6th July



The Friends of St James
*- the charity which helps conserve
the church, churchyard and barn
for future generations*

Membership
Treasurer

Peter Leverkus
Paul Fricker

Tel: 353662
Tel: 342843

Mobile Library

Great Denham Community Centre
Saturdays 2nd, 16th, 30th June
2.20pm-2.40pm
Biddenham Thursdays 7th, 21st June
Church End 10.00am-10.20am
Nodders Way 10.25am-10.50am



Remember your library card!

Hall Booking Details

Village Hall

From the Village Hall website you can check availability on the diary, look at the facilities and download a booking form.

www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Church Barn

Contact the Booking Officer, Jan Burns on 344019 or janburns@gmx.com if you would like to hire the barn. Smaller than the Village Hall, it is ideal for a small party or meeting.

Pavilion

The hall is available for children's parties, anniversary lunches, christening receptions, meetings etc. We can also hire the small upstairs meeting room which has tea and coffee making facilities.

Booking enquiries to biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk or contact the Clerk, Alison Southern on 01234 406099 (ansaphone available)

Great Denham Community Hall

www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

Regular Events in Biddenham

Monday

10.00am	Cha Char Chimps	Village Hall
10.00am	Yoga	Pavilion
2.30pm	Cardiac Rehab exercise	Pavilion
6.30pm	Pilates	Pavilion
7.15pm	Guides (term-time)	Village Hall
7.45pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion

Tuesday

10.00am	Art	Church Barn
10.00am	Personal Fitness	Pavilion
4.00pm	Ballet (term-time)	Village Hall
7.00pm	Personal Fitness/Circuits	Pavilion
8.00pm	Country Dancing (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

Wednesday

9.00am	Baby Sensory	Village Hall
9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
10.00am	Tai Chi	Church Barn
1.15-5.15pm	Baby College (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	Table Tennis	Pavilion
2.30pm	Art	Church Barn
6.30pm	Aerobics	Pavilion
6.30pm	Handbell Ringing Practice	Church Barn
6.45pm	Ballroom Dancing (term-time)	Village Hall

Thursday

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
9.30-11.30am	Under 5's (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	U3A Handbells	Church Barn
2.00pm	Love to Dance	Pavilion
7.00pm	Fit-Steps	Pavilion
7.30pm	Whist	Village Hall

Friday

9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
11.00am	Mother & Baby Yoga (except 1st Friday)	Village Hall
3.30-7.45pm	Ballet classes (term-time)	Village Hall
1.30-4.30pm	Duplicate Bridge	Church Barn
7.00pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion
7.00pm	Choir Practice	Church Barn
8.00pm	Tango	Village Hall

Saturday

9.30am	Pregnancy Yoga	Village Hall
9.30am	Zumba	Pavilion
10.45am	Zumbini	Pavilion

Sunday

9.00 -10.00am	Explorers	Church Barn
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Contact for Village Hall events: www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk
Contacts for Pavilion events, email clerk@biddenham-pc.org.uk.

100 CLUB

April draw

1. Ann Davis	451
2. Paul Lake	320
3. Nick Peacock	72

Drawn by John Gardner



Welcome Packs for

New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

June 2018

- Fri 1 June First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15
 Sat 2 Jun Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15
 Sat 2 June Benefit lunch for Soweto Anti-Aids Children's Home, Bedford Athletic Rugby Club, 12.00pm, see p2
- Sun 3 Jun The First Sunday after Trinity**
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Sun 3 Jun Annual Pond Dipping, Biddenham Pond, 2.30pm, see p5
 Thu 7 Jun Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15
- Sun 10 Jun The Second Sunday after Trinity**
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Evening Prayer at All Saints, Kempston **6.00pm**
- Sun 10 Jun Red Cross Open Gardens, Biddenham, 1.30-5.00pm, see p1
 Sun 10 Jun Pond Summer Splash Out, Church Barn, 3.30pm, see p5
 Tue 12 Jun Biddenham Women's Group, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p3
 Wed 13 Jun Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p13
 Fri 15 Jun Coffee & Cake, Church Barn, 10.30am-12noon, see p14
 Sat 16 Jun Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15
- Sun 17 Jun The Third Sunday after Trinity**
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Evening Prayer at St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 19 Jun Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p5
 Tue 19 Jun Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p10
 Tue 19 Jun Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14
 Thu 7 Jun Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15
- Sun 24 Jun Birth of John the Baptist**
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 No evening service
- Sun 24 June Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, Kempston, 4.00-5.30pm, see p10
 Sat 30 Jun Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15

July 2018

- Sun 1 Jul The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Mon 2 Jul Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30pm, see p4
 Fri 6 Jul First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15
 Tue 17 Jul Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p5
 Tue 17 Jul Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p10
 Sun 22 Jul Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, Kempston, 4.00-5.30pm, see p10
 Sat 29 Jul Sue Ryder Fashion Show, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, 1.30pm, see p8

Contributors please note: the next edition of The Loop will cover both July and August.

For cricket fixtures see page 7

For regular events listings see page 15

The Loop

Editor	Jean Gambold	Tel 349849
Proof Reader	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Church correspondent	Peta Martin	Tel 348718
Advertising	Clare Sugars	Tel 355262
Subscriptions	Richard Harris	Tel 210434
Distribution	Richard Church	Tel 214805

All **July/August** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to loopeditor@gmail.com
 or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close
 (cj.sugars@talktalk.net) by
Thursday 21st June please.



The views expressed in 'The Loop' by various community groups do not necessarily represent the views of St James's Church or the Parochial Church Council.