

The Loop

May 2018

£1.00

GDPR...what??

Otherwise known as the new Data Protection rules.

You may have been receiving lots of emails recently from companies and charities asking for you to confirm that you want to 'stay in touch' with them. The reason for this is that new laws come into force in May which govern the way that they can retain and process your personal data i.e. your name, contact details and anything else they hold. The new laws essentially provide that you must give your written consent otherwise they can no longer contact you or store your details.

These new laws also apply to Churches and any other bodies which hold information about you (for example the Friends of St James).

The distribution of The Loop by the Parochial Church Council is covered by what is known as a 'legitimate reason' i.e. by completing your subscription form, you are consenting to us holding your details in order to provide you with your copies of The Loop. However, it is sometimes helpful for us to be able to contact you about other church events and news.

For future years we will be updating the annual subscription form to allow us to do this, but for this year we are asking you to complete the enclosed Keep in Touch form and return it as stated on the form.

Please note that if you do not return a completed form, you will continue to receive The Loop each month, but we will not be able to let you know of future church activities/news.

Should you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact me. My details are on page 2.

Jacqui Piper
Secretary

St James's Church PCC



Post Office to open in Great Denham

A Post Office will be opening
in Great Denham Daily
Needs and Convenience

Store, Roman Gate, Great Denham on Monday 14th May at 1.00pm.

Opening hours will be Mon-Sun 7.00am to 11.00pm.



If you are a member of Biddenham Women's Group you will probably recognise at least one of 'The Sterlings' pictured here. Otherwise, see page 3 for enlightenment.

Bulky Waste Collections

There will be bulky waste collections in Biddenham and Great Denham over the weekend of 12th/13th May.



Saturday 12th May

Manor Road/Church End, Biddenham 8.30am-9.30am

Main Road/Nodders Way, Biddenham 9.30am-11.30am

Biddenham Pavilion 11.30am-12.30pm

Sunday 13th May

Great Denham, the first roundabout on Kingswood Way (near Park and Ride) 8.30am to 10.15am

Darlow Drive, Biddenham (between Biddenham Turn and Ison Close) 10.30am-12.30pm

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites.

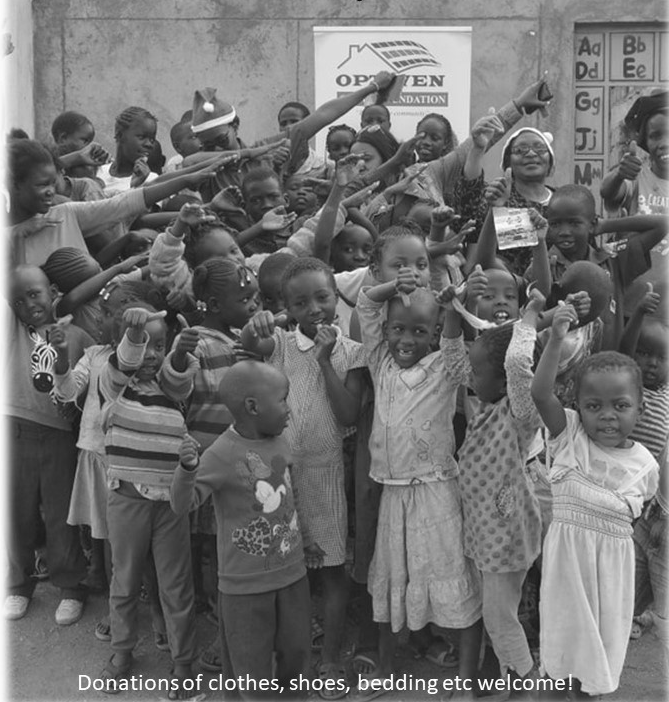
**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH AT
THE SITE IF THE COLLECTION
VEHICLES ARE NOT THERE**

**'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

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE

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

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Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

As I write this, I am also preparing for a conference in Berlin, on the impact of digitisation in the work place.

I guess that the main discussions will be around the tendency for social relations and community to be eroded by the impersonalisation of the new work place. I have noticed how the email has resulted in keeping us in our small isolated corners, while we communicate more and more through short soundbites that are direct, unpunctuated and emotionally ambivalent.

A little more energy is placed in communication with friends. Instant messenger is punctuated with the frequent emoji, which, if used properly, can add humour, pleasure, hope, sadness, and even irony to communications. Often this way of communication can be deeper and more expressive than a face to face conversation, but still we find people shouting at one another over great distance. Touch and empathy have evaporated. I, like many, post often on Facebook, sometimes saying things I would never say directly to a face, but the distance leaves the real me safe from comprehension and, ultimately, violation.

Our society is now data driven! Companies like Amazon and Google provide statistical analysis of our habits, our interests and even the things that emotionally connect to us. That way they can not only direct advertising towards our own deepest desires, but they can also automate the authorship of texts that are likely to have the most impact on us. Imagine that, bespoke novels, written by electronic mainframes in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Equally, technology reduces each of us to measured elements of the machine. Education, for example, seems to be moving away from enrichment, to the commoditising of children, testing, resolving then processing. It is distressing how parents are taken in by this, without realising the ultimate unhappiness, and erosion of self-worth, that we are imposing. There is a human cost to this.

We see this, increasingly with our generation of young people. Instances of recorded mental illness amongst the young are rising every year, and much of this, I suspect, is to do with the distance young people find themselves from their heavily Instagrammed digital profiles, and their hidden, inner life which is so much more fragmented and conflicted than the machines would have us believe. We wear a digital mask that separates other human beings from the real us. 'I am a rock,' Paul Simon writes, 'I am an island, and a rock feels no pain, and an island never cries.' The trouble is, however, we do cry, and like everybody else, we do bleed, and the digital mechanisms that create the new opt-in/opt-out communities, create a deep, unsatisfying sense of loneliness and isolation.

I am not an enemy of technology, in fact, I am a bit of a gadget geek, but as a Christian priest, I spend as much time as I can with real flesh and blood human beings, in the recognition that these human beings are loved. I am of the belief that each of us is a unique, gifted individual who was created in the Imago Dei. We promise you, that amongst us, in our church, data will have no impact on how you will be treated. Our church values people as people, and as the family of God, we are here for you.

God bless,
Eric



Biddenham Women's Group

The History of British Variety

What a laugh you missed!

David Pibworth, a local script writer, director and actor entertained us for an hour with lots of inside stories related to the pictures of performers and comedians which he showed to us. He was ably assisted by Edna Rance, a member of our group who, as an erstwhile acrobat, had personally met most of the people David talked about. In fact, we had our own double act!

Here are some of the entertainers mentioned with a little snippet of information about each one.

- Max Miller – rather rude and not nice off-stage.
- George Formby – could not read music, was a brilliant performer but was kept in check by his fierce wife, Beryl. (Edna confirmed this.)
- Max Wall – fell out of favour because of his 'lifestyle'. At 82 he fell down the steps of a well-known hotel in The Strand and, being very inebriated, didn't feel a thing – ever again!
- Wilson, Kepple and Betty – famous for their Sand Dance, employed several Bettys – sometimes from the audience.
- Harry Worth – a bumbling character who became famous with his reflection in a shop window.
- Frankie Howerd – very hard to write scripts for due to his 'oo-ers' and he was a bit cantankerous.
- Norman Wisdom – really funny and nice to every one and had lots of 'unlikely friends' (e.g. the PM of Bulgaria).
- Winifred Atwell, Beryl Reid and Hilda Baker were mentioned – the latter being a bit 'standoffish'.
- Flanders and Swann, Flanagan and Allen and the Crazy Gang came next and David enacted the scene where he pretended to talk to someone stuck in a post box.
- Al Murray – was rather bombastic but was once a head boy at Bedford School.
- Morecambe and Wise – Glenda Jackson said it was harder working for them than the Royal Shakespeare Company. Edna's memorabilia showed that The Sterlings, the act she was in, appeared on their bill.

David finished by talking about Music Hall acts which could be repeated over and over again. With television, comedians need more fresh material.

Ken Dodd, who had the longest act in history, could keep going for four hours at a time. He was very popular and was good with people. His finest act of all though perhaps, was to marry his secretary just before he died – and perform a little more tax evasion!

All the above information is hearsay, of course, but nevertheless kept us amused.

Our next meeting is an open meeting to which anyone is welcome, especially if you are keen on entomology. Dr Wilf Powell will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Beautiful Butterflies'.

Join us in the Church Barn at 2.00pm on Tuesday 8th May. £3 members, £4 non-members.

Val Fitzhugh



Edna is on the left.

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This month in the garden

My hope that the weather would improve after a dismal March was not realised and April up to the time of writing has been even worse. At this time last year, I wrote happily about a lovely Spring and I noted how the apple blossom was taking over from the wonderful display of plum blossom and the brilliance of my amalanchier tree. This year the plum blossom is just beginning a muted show and



the amalanchier has not yet blossomed, and probably won't do much because the wood pigeons have been busy nipping the buds. In the first week of April I was able to take advantage of the only day when the soil had dried out enough and I sowed carrot,

parsnip and beetroot, a month later than usual. One compensation has been that, once the daffodils came out, they have stayed out for a long time because of the cold.

It looks as if May will be a busy month catching up with the backlog and keeping things under control as the weather warms up. Some of us will be especially busy as we prepare for the Red Cross Open Gardens in the village. Note the date of Sunday 10th June and help to make the event a success. This is, amongst other things, your chance to see where I do my gardening.

After all the rain, weeding will be a high priority and the sooner you can get on with it, the better. It's no good trying when the soil is wet, as walking on it will compact the soil, the earth will not shake away from the weeds and weeds disturbed by hoeing will regrow rather than drying out and dying. Regular weeding keeps the garden looking much neater and means that the nutrition in the soil goes to

the plants that you want to be there.

The quickest way to fill your garden with colour is with annual flowers, although they do mean more work than perennials which keep going year after year. The cheapest way is to grow them yourself from seed but that does call for some 'real' gardening and needs to be started much earlier than this. Nurseries, garden centres, and superstores will be full of bedding plants now and the choice is greater earlier in the month. Do check though whether the plants are frost tolerant. The risk of a late frost is there until around the third week of May. Wherever possible keep tender plants under glass until then and it is worth keeping some horticultural fleece handy that you can spread over plants outside showing new young growth when a frost is forecast. This applies especially to dahlias growing outside which may well be showing new growth by now. If you have dahlias in containers don't put them out till late May. If you have ordered plug plants for May delivery note the expected delivery date and, if you will be away when they are expected, try to arrange for a neighbour to collect the package and open it up. Plants will suffer from being left wrapped up.

In the vegetable garden the frost warning applies to quite a few popular vegetables, notably runner beans, cucumber, courgette and tomato. It's best to start them off by sowing in the greenhouse in late April or buy them as young plants later in May. Runner beans can be sown directly in the soil in May. Keep succession sowing in mind as a way of lengthening your supply of salad crops and vegetables; lettuce, especially, is best grown in very small amounts on a fortnightly basis. With such a cold, wet winter and spring, vegetables are likely to be expensive so growing your own will be a good option this year.

Lawns won't have needed much cutting this year but the grass will be growing strongly now and will need cutting at least once a week, lowering the cut to the regular height but not so that the grass is shaved. A longer cut helps the grass to grow more strongly and look greener. As plants bordering a lawn get bigger watch for the ones that overhang the grass and trim them back. Grass which is overgrown will die back and look unsightly when plants are eventually cleared.

If you have neutral soil and are able to grow camellias or rhododendron, take off the dead brown flowers and keep the plants watered regularly with rain water and fed with a suitable liquid feed. You should be rewarded with a good flower display next year.

Jeremy Arthern



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Annual frog foray

Conditions were ideal, clear water in the pond and a dry, mild evening, for the tremendous turnout of 18 frog forayers on Friday 6th April, the best for many a year. They were rewarded with an equally tremendous turnout of and display by the newts, also the best for many a year, both common and particularly great crested, with the males' splendid crests easily visible. There was abundant daphnia, and ramshorn snails also put in an appearance. It was a tad early for some other little beasties and if there were frogs about they didn't appear until after we had all gone! A big thank you to Chris Jones who led the foray and to our enthusiastic forayers.

Spring work morning

The next day, Saturday 7th April, a fine and bright morning was perfect for tidying the pond site after the Winter. Our ten volunteers, including some new faces, worked hard, trimming, lopping, raking, mowing, and the site and path from Gold Lane looked all the better for it at home time. And let's not forget the traditional Spring bonfire the weather permitted.



Thank you very much to our volunteers, and to the Manor Hospital for the welcome refreshments that gave us a mid-morning boost. And thank you also to the kind lady from Nodders Way who, at the Frog Foray, said she would bake some cakes for the work morning. She delivered and they were delicious!

Annual Parish Assembly

A busy first two weeks of April continued on the evening of Wednesday 11th April when Peter Applewhite reported to the annual Parish Assembly on all things village pond since the last Assembly. This included the work done with the Parish Council and other village societies to highlight the issues and causes for concern for the village at large and for the pond arising from the planning application to build houses on the land west of Gold Lane and the proposed policy 19 in the Borough Council's Local Plan 2035. That policy would remove from the same land the existing protection from development afforded to it. He thanked all those many villagers and those in the wider community who had registered their objections to the application and to policy 19.

Annual pond dipping

Come and explore the wildlife in the pond on Sunday

3rd June from 2.30 pm, led by our wildlife expert, Chris Jones. All equipment is provided though you might like to bring a notebook, pencil, and a camera to record your finds. Children, please also bring a responsible adult, and no dogs please.

Summer Splash Out

And the very next Sunday 10th June, at 3.30 pm it's our 2018 Summer Splash Out and AGM in the Church Barn, Church End. No tickets required, just come along, hear what's been happening at the village pond, relax, have a chat and enjoy some summer refreshments.

The Pond Team

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

Prayer of the month

O come, O Holy Spirit, come!
 Come as holy fire and burn in us,
 Come as holy wind and cleanse us,
 Come as holy light and lead us,
 Come as holy truth and teach us,
 Come as holy forgiveness and free us,
 Come as holy love and enfold us,
 Come as holy power and enable us,
 Come as holy life and dwell in us,
 Consecrate us, until we are wholly Thine
 for Thy using, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ancient prayer

Andrew Charles

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Soup Lunch for Christian Aid

Everyone welcome

Sunday 13th May 12.30 – 2.00

Biddenham Village Hall

Please support this event as there will be no door to door collection in the village

Raffle and Bring and Buy

No tickets, donations welcome



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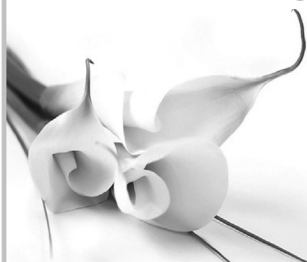
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Wall Garden

On a recent ramble I discovered a forager's feast, all growing on top of the church wall and, thanks to all that rain, was delighted to see that a rather rare plant had survived last year's radical tidy-up.



The little white-flowered saxifrage with leaves like three-fingered cartoon hands is aptly named *Saxifraga tridactylites* (dactyl being Greek for finger). Other small white flowers appearing on the wall at this time are hairy bittercress, *Cardamine hirsuta*, with its fine long seed pods extending beyond the four petals (not welcomed by gardeners as when the pod dries out the seeds shoot everywhere) and common whitlow grass, *Eophila verna*. This is not a grass at all but a crucifer (four petals form a cross) or more recently termed a brassica, and was thought to cure whitlows (inflammation of the finger).

Chickweed, *Stellaria media*, is good in salads, has a multitude of uses in herbal medicine and, as the name suggests, was fed to poultry. Another widely used medicinal herb, *Galium aparine*, goose grass or cleavers (because it sticks to things) grows happily on the wall too. The sedum leaves are edible when young and the mosses have a multitude of uses if you are on a survival course as they hold water, are anti-bacterial, keep you dry when built into shelters and burn well when dried out.

Herb Robert, *Geranium robertianum*, has reddish coloured leaves and pink flowers with five petals. It has a high vitamin and mineral content and fresh leaves can be eaten or made into tea. Or, if you prefer a stronger brew there's always some red deadnettle, *Lamium perpureum*, (which, years ago, was used in place of hops for beer) growing on the corner.

This little area is worth a closer look. There are also some interesting wild flowers emerging along the bottom of the wall, many of which have medicinal uses.

May all your weeds be wild flowers!

Val Fitzhugh

Don't forget!
Red Cross Open Gardens
in Biddenham
Sunday afternoon
10th June
More details next month

Biddenham Cricket Club



The sun has started to shine and there is the promise of some cricket being played in the near future. The cricket ground is gradually being transformed from a waterlogged field, proving treacherous for example for anyone setting off across it with a pushchair, to being something fit for play by the time the May 'Loop' is issued.

The junior section of the club was well publicised in April's report, and the senior teams are equally keen to start the season well.

On Saturdays David Morrish will again lead the team in the Four Counties League – this time in Division 2. A rule change in the winter means that all matches will be played on a win/lose basis so there will no longer be any draws in the 40 over per side games.

On Sundays the team has moved up a division, now competing in Division 2 of the Bedfordshire County League, with matches now comprising 45 overs per side against potentially stronger opposition. Will Lowerson is again leading the team on a Sunday.

Midweek cricket will also be played in Division 2 of the Bedford Midweek league with most matches being played on Wednesday evenings. These matches are normally 16 overs per side against local opposition including Elstow and Sharnbrook.

News of early results will appear in the next report.

New members both young, and not so young, are always welcome. Please contact Glenn Taylor or Richard Fone for more information. Details of subscriptions for 2018 will be on the front page of the club website.

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

Growth at St James's Report of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18th April 2018

There were 26 members of the church present with the Rev. Eric Lomax in the chair. The two church wardens, Laurie Hurn and Edwin Martin were voted on for another year and Michael Hurford agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Jane George and Anne Church stood down from the PCC and were thanked for all their hard work. Tony Wills was elected as a new member.

St. James's is a growing church and there are now 100 members on the electoral role. Quite a few young families have joined the church with a flourishing Sunday School as well as a monthly meeting of Messy Church in the church barn which welcomes all children accompanied by a parent, and is proving very popular. There is now an all age service on the first Sunday of the month with the focus being more on the young people, and there is no communion on that Sunday.

The organist and choir master Graham Weeks and the choir were thanked for their hard work and excellent contribution to the worship. One of the highlights this year was Stainer's Crucifixion.

There was some debate about occasionally changing the time of the Sunday service to a later time so that more of the elderly could attend.

IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BELL RINGER?

St James's needs you. We need more volunteers to become ringers and the diocese would arrange tuition for this. Please let Eric know if you would like more information. Don't be shy.....please apply.

Michael Hurford reported that the church finances are in a very satisfactory state, and we have paid our annual parish share in full.

Although the church is growing there is always room for more people and you would be warmly welcomed. Why not come and join us?

Peta Martin



BIDDENHAM CC HOME MATCHES SCHEDULED FOR MAY

DATE	DAY	START	OPPONENTS	TEAM
06-May	Sun	10:00	Bedford Lions	U11 County
12-May	Sat	13:30	Printers	Sat League
13-May	Sun	10:00	Pilgrims Oakley	U11 County
13-May	Sun	13:30	Luton Town and Indians II	Sun League
15-May	Tue	18:00	Pilgrims Oakley	U13's
16-May	Wed	18:30	Wilden	Midw'k Lg
17-May	Thur	18:00	Elstow	U15's
19-May	Sat	13:30	Westcroft II	Sat League
20-May	Sun	10:00	Olney Town	U9's
20-May	Sun	10:00	Harrold (A)	U11 Dev
20-May	Sun	13:30	Dunstable Town II	Sun League
26-May	Sat	13:30	North Crawley II	Sat League
27-May	Sun	10:00	Bedford Tigers	U11 County
27-May	Sun	13:30	Blunham I	Sun League
29-May	Tue	18:00	Pavenham and Felmersham	U13's
30-May	Wed	18:30	GNG	Midw'k Cup
31-May	Thur	18:00	Bedford Harriers	U15's





'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs

Dinner for the children!

Tuesday 22 May

Tuesday 19 June

4.30pm - 6.00pm

St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 27 May

Sunday 24 June

4.00pm - 5.30pm

All Saints Church Hall, Kempston

For children of all ages
(accompanied by an adult)

Free - No need to book - Just come along!

Everybody Welcome!

St James's Church, Biddenham
All Saints Church, Kempston

St James CE VA Primary School

As we start back to school for the summer term, we are greeted by our building site. Currently, we have holes and mud:



But, in a few weeks, we will have beautiful classrooms which look something like this:



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Our website will regularly be updated with photos showing progress, check www.stjamesvalower.org.uk/gallery if you'd like to see how things are progressing.

Looking ahead to the summer term, our Years 4 and 5 children will enjoy their residential trips, where they will take part in lots of different 'adventurous' activities not often offered at school – cycling, sailing, obstacle courses and so on, plus they enjoy the opportunity to be away from home for a few days.

In June, we will start to welcome our new Reception children and families to St James' through a series of induction events and visits. Individual families will receive details of these during May. Contrary to popular belief, St James' is not an over-subscribed school and we will have places available in most year groups from September – if you know of anyone who may be looking for a school place, do let them know and invite them to contact us; we offer regular tours of the school, usually on Tuesday afternoon, for prospective parents.

We were pleased to be able to host the most recent Parish Council AGM and meeting, where we were able to share just some of the resources which Parish and Borough Councillors have helped us to purchase. We're really very grateful for all donations of support, which will directly benefit the children here.

As an outcome of the meeting, we talked about the possibility of holding an Open Day for members of the local community to come and see the school in action – this is something we hope to implement at some point soon.

Maria & all at St James'

Biddenham Cricket Club

25 years ago: selected details from the 1993 season

Having been founded in 1986 as the "Three Tuns Cricket Club", friendly matches were played each season until the club entered the Millman Competition as "Biddenham Cricket Club" in 1994 following the name change in 1992. 14 friendlies were arranged for the one team in the 1993 season. All home matches were played at Allen Park. The ground at Deep Spinney would not come into use until 1995.

The captain in 1993 was Ian Rosser and vice captain was Micky Litchfield. Also on the committee that year were Tina Wilkins (Treasurer), David and Jill Woodward, David Watson, John Wagstaff and Gordon Shepherd. There was a total of around 40 playing and non-playing members.

The fixture card for 1993 stated that "the long term aim of the cricket club and its membership is to become an integral part of village life, with eventual league and junior cricket as a natural progression".

15 matches were eventually played in 1993, the team winning 13 and losing just 2, perhaps encouraging the thought that league cricket would be the logical step in 1994.

The top run scorer was Gordon Shepherd with 449 runs from 13 innings. The most wickets (20) were taken by Glenn Taylor closely followed by Micky Litchfield (19)

A total of 29 players took part in the games. Ian Rosser's meticulous record keeping means we have all their names and number of matches played:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 13 | Micky Litchfield, Gordon Shepherd |
| 11 | Glen Honan, Ian Rosser |
| 10 | Richard Leonard, Glenn Taylor, Stephen Gilder, David Watson |
| 9 | Glen Cirket |
| 8 | Tom Perry |
| 7 | Lindon Wood, Keith Beardmore |
| 6 | Fred Wiltsher |
| 5 | G Perry, John Congdon |
| 4 | Roger Grey |
| 3 | John Wagstaff, T Walton |
| 2 | John Daniels, Simon Quail, G Truscott, Graham Humphrey, Robin Grey, Luke Perry |
| 1 | S Smith, C Black, R Barcock, J Waddington, G Bennett |

Highlights from the surviving scorebook include a remarkable game on 29th August against Bedford Athletic. Batting first, Bedford Ath made 218-4 including 138 not out by Peter Marks (yes the same!), but Biddenham replied to win with 221-4 with Lindon Wood scoring 132 not out. In the first match of the season v Olney Town 2nds on 2nd May David Watson top scored with 57 in a 7 wicket win. Not forgetting the bowlers, Glenn Taylor took 5-17 against Mulsoe on 6th June, Steve Gilder 5-16 against MK City on 27th June, and, not to be outdone, Richard Leonard 5-17 at North Crawley on 25th July. Lindon Wood scored another 100 the next week also against North Crawley resulting in another win.

Clearly an enjoyable season that was celebrated by a players' dinner at the 3 Tuns on Friday 15th October.

Finally, an extract from the club's then rules and regulations in pre-email (and helmet!) days reveals that:

- Team selection will be posted in the "Three Tuns" in the week prior to the match
- Members will play at their own personal risk of injury.

Richard Fone

May Bank Holiday ramble – and tea!

In aid of *The Friends of St James, Biddenham*



Join us for a relaxed family stroll exploring the wild flowers and plants along Biddenham's rural footpaths

Children, buggies and dogs all welcome!

Bank Holiday Monday – 7th May 2018

Meet outside the Church Barn at 2:30pm

Afternoon Tea with home-made cakes served in the Church Barn from 3:30pm (donations welcome)

For more information, call Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662

In aid of *The Friends of St James, Biddenham*

- the charity which preserves and enhances the historic church buildings for future generations

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

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Spring Harvest 2018

A group of 9 people from St James's and our god daughter and her two toddlers spent 5 days in Skegness at the Christian conference Spring Harvest. This is a meeting of 6,000 Christians from all denominations from Coptic and Catholic to Pentecostal, though a small majority were Anglican.

And the high points for us were:

- Spending time with our god daughter and her children and spending time with the St James's families.
- Edwin having a kipper every morning for breakfast.
- Being prayed for by a North Korean lady. Her daughter had died of starvation, she was interned in a brutal concentration camp and was tortured for being a Christian. She started a new church in the camp in the smelliest part of the toilet block where no staff ever went. Here they praised God and studied the Bible. Their favourite hymn was "Amazing grace" which they had to sing in whispers so as not to be found out. The lady got all 4,000 of us to sing this hymn very, very quietly in the arena. It was a wonderful sound, maybe a bit like heaven.
- The bishop of Durham led the morning service on the last full day. He felt a bit nervous and felt he would like to be prayed for. So he went to the session for the children of 6 to 9 years and knelt down. A whole crowd of children stood round him with their hands on his head and shoulders and prayed that the love of Jesus should be in his heart and that he would talk about Jesus. He then felt strong enough to go and talk to 6,000 people.
- And finally, it was great to see it dawning on the teenagers that they were not odd in having a Christian faith in this secular age. It was actually quite cool! And the younger kids enjoyed their groups, they loved the huge swimming pool, the water world and the fairground.

And the teaching and worship?

The Bible studies were on the epistle of James: When you become a Christian and know Jesus as your Saviour that is not a ticket to heaven, it is a commission from the King to work for the kingdom of God. To feed the hungry, love the loveless, seek justice for the oppressed and to proclaim freedom from sin bitterness and guilt through Jesus' work on the cross.

The worship varied from daily morning prayer to extremely charismatic sessions for those who worship in this way.

As well as this there were numerous sessions on politics, gender issues, how to build a new church, bringing up children, dance workshops, drama workshops, sessions for church administrators etc. etc.

The flats were comfortable, the staff warm and helpful and the food was excellent for mass catering. Why not join us next year? Have a word with Jacqui Piper (tel 356993), we have already booked our place. The only problem is that if you go, you will find yourself thinking about all sorts of issues we are inevitably involved in if we are serious about our faith.

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Biddenham History Society

It is a hundred years since some women were given the right to vote, so we decided to mark this event by inviting Bob Ricketts, who many may know from the Bedford Architectural, Archaeological and Local History Society and the Historical Association to come to talk about the women's suffrage movement in Bedfordshire.

Bob started by testing our knowledge about women's suffrage both nationally and locally and then detailed the progress women had made in terms of economic status and representation by the early twentieth century but not in terms of being able to vote in parliamentary elections. Women were well represented in teaching, though they had to resign on marriage, and in the post office, a considerable employer, and they could help administer the Poor Law and be active in local government. It was the right to elect MPs and sit in Parliament that was lacking.

Bob showed that the suffrage movement had its roots in the North of England during the nineteenth century. However, it was well established in Bedford by the early twentieth century, and the women who supported the suffrage came from teaching such as Amy Walmsley and Margaret Stansfeld, and medicine such as Dora Mason.

The meetings that they held were not uneventful. Bob described one meeting at which Dora Mason was the speaker, where unruly youths from the town caused trouble. Dora had to retreat into Bank Buildings (near the Swan Hotel) and then make her escape from the roof wearing the long skirted fashion of the time! In the period 1909 – 1913, Bedford was not an easy town in which to hold meetings. The women frequently faced insults and garbage being thrown at them by local youths.

Bob's researches have shown that the suffrage movement in Bedford was largely based on the suffragists, the followers of Millicent Fawcett, who believed in making their point by non-violent means. The Duchess of Bedford lent them her support. There were not many suffragettes, the members of Emmeline Pankhurst's WSPU (The Women's Social and Political Union) who advocated more violent tactics. However, Christabel, Emmeline's daughter, did come and speak in Bedford.

Bob did not have any information about the suffrage movement and Biddenham. He did say that the suffragists often became early members of the Women's Institute. Biddenham had a Women's Institute in 1922, which was early in the movement's history, so it would be worth doing some research into these early members of the WI to see if they had a link with the suffrage movement.

Bob's talk was very stimulating and has opened up other areas for research. It should also inspire us to visit the Women in Bedfordshire Exhibition which is at the Higgins



*A statue of Amy Walmsley is planned for The Embankment, by the Butterfly Bridge.
This is the maquette.*

until September.

The next meeting of the Biddenham History Society will be on Monday 2nd July. We will meet at the Church Barn at 2.30pm and then have a walk to the War Memorial to reflect on Biddenham one hundred years ago, in 1918. We will then return to the Barn for refreshments. I hope you will be able to join us.

Kathy Fricker

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



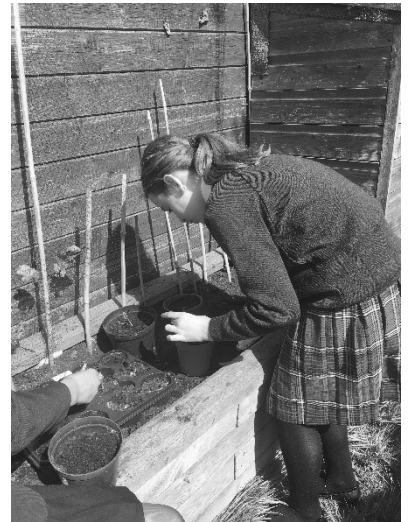
With the arrival of the warmer days, the Gardening Club is finally in full force! The newts are back in the pond and we have been very busy clearing the pond and the surrounding area for them. Despite the inclement weather, we have a variety of vegetables on their way including runner beans and peas. Over the coming weeks we will be planting more seeds, re-potting, caring for and maintaining our crop.

Last term we took part in two Woodland Trust initiatives, tree decorating and the recycling of Christmas cards. We are now working very hard towards the Gold Award.

We do have one or two people that actually offer their support for the Club, but we would welcome anyone who would like to contribute, not just with our Gardening Club but also with any of the other Clubs we run.

Please contact the School Office on 01234 352062 if you have some time to spare during the school day.

Miss L Sumpter
Headteacher



Potting on the runner bean plants grown from last year's seeds



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Biddenham Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly 2018 Chairman's Report



My third year as Parish Council Chairman has seen some very significant issues, mainly regarding planning, around the village. This is my report for the Annual Parish meeting, held on 11th April 2018.

Firstly, I'd like to thank Chairman of the School Governors, Tom Perry and Headteacher, Maria Soulsby for opening St James' school to us this evening for our annual Parish meeting. As the Borough's schools gradually move to the two-tier system, lower schools such as St James' are changing into primary schools. The challenges this brings are being met with optimism and energy. We're able to see here today how the new classrooms being built, necessitated by the change to primary status, are an opportunity not just to "tack on" two more years, but to bring more fundamental benefits to the school as a whole.

I was personally invited to visit the school by Tom and Maria back in October. This followed the Parish Council's decision to award a grant of £2,000 for the purchase of various mathematical learning aids (some of which I tried on my visit). When we finished my look around, we had a very civilised cup of tea in Maria's office, and reflected on the fact that the school sits both physically and socially at the heart of our community. We would like to do more together, and this meeting tonight reflects that intent.

And so, I turn to matters outside the gates of this place. Literally just outside, where we have the footpath leading down Main Road to the west. This, we recognise, is in need of resurfacing, and this will be done later this year using money put aside both last year and this. As one reaches the war memorial, I'm delighted to say we have had all the over-grown shrubbery removed along the fence there. The trees are to be pruned back soon, too. These jobs are harder to progress than you might think, which makes the final results all the more pleasing.

Walking further on, we get to the Coffin Path. This time last year it had been ploughed up yet again. But come the autumn we received the good news that the field is not to be

cultivated for at least three years. We await the outcome of discussions Chris Jones, the Borough and the Wingfield estate are having about whether the path can be laid with shingle.

Matters further afield that we have been addressing are the application to fell the trees in Thorpe Close, flooding and drainage, and averting the loss of hedgerow on the main Bromham Road.

One area which seems sadly to be growing in popularity is the idea of demolishing one house to replace it with something much larger. We have failed to have any significant influence over this, both this year and last. And although more may yet be thrust upon us, it is of course very good news indeed that we've seen the refusal of permission to demolish Biddenham House, in the heart of our village and its conservation area. This was a far bigger development than the other developments where one house replaced another. Owners and their developers do seem to like to "try it on" with the most outrageous initial schemes; we must never be complacent about the need to speak up in opposition to such aberrations.

We can now look back on how we dealt with raising everyone's awareness of the Biddenham House application, and how to voice our individual opinions of it, with some satisfaction. It became, as it were, a rehearsal for the main event; that is the double whammy of the outline planning application for 250 houses on land west of Gold Lane, coupled with the Borough Council's proposal in their Local Plan (2021 to 2035) to remove protections on the green spaces around the edge of our village.

From the initial meeting with the developer, Lioncourt, where we pulled together a potent mixture of the leaders of our community institutions, to meetings with the Borough chief executive and lobbying the consultation event in the Church Barn, we gradually developed the idea of bringing together a group within the village of both stakeholders and helpful, knowledgeable types with experience of dealing with the issues we now face. The resultant Biddenham Advisory Forum has only met once so far, but helped spur the activity we've all seen since. Key has been the ability to communicate the issues, and to make it as easy as possible to then present individual, personal objections back to the Borough Council, whether that be the planning people or the Local Plan consultation process.

We're grateful for the support provided in arranging the online "Have-a-say" facility, the detailed letters of objection sent by the Biddenham Society and Friends of the Pond, and the three letters Jon Gambold worked on with me which he and his wife Jean then hand-delivered to every house in the village. And special thanks go to Councillor Joe Warren, who has tirelessly kept the village web site updated with the latest news and led efforts to get people to sign paper letters of objection at various events around the village.

We now wait to see how events unfold as the consultation periods for both the application and the Local Plan come to an end. With many hundreds of individual objections, we have surely made certain that the Borough mandarins and their political masters understand the strength of feeling and absolute opposition we have to these plans. Biddenham is a privileged place, and some people think we are all posh types who only care about ourselves. Not so! We are good people. We are people who care about our environment, our heritage and our community. Some things are just plain wrong, and when they are we're going to say so.

Thanks, everybody, for your support. As your Parish Council we will continue to hear your concerns, be proactive, and use the limited influence granted to us.

I'd like to thank all my fellow Councillors, our two Borough Councillors, Jon and Roger, and our clerk, Alison Southern (who cannot be here tonight) for their great commitment and effort.

Peter Chase
Chairman, Biddenham Parish Council



Café B...

*Tuesday 15th May and
19th June*

*Biddenham Village Hall
10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

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

Biddenham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting and this month's Parish Council Meeting were held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 in the main hall of St James' Primary School. The Annual Parish meeting is required to be held once a year; strategic matters are discussed and wide consultation on parish matters is sought.

At the main meeting, we heard very informative updates from Ann Williams of the Bedford Geology Group, who help look after our Site of Special Scientific Interest (aka the gravel pits at Deep Spinney), Gary Ingerson of the new Biddenham Sports Complex off the Great Ouse Way, Peter Applewhite regarding the village pond, Peter Marks on behalf of Biddenham Cricket Club, Chris Jones on Cowslip Meadow and footpaths, and Tom Perry on behalf of the school.

After these reports, I presented the annual Parish Council report, which you can read on the previous page. There was also time for a public open session, which raised concerns about plans for rebuilding the Bromham Road railway bridge and untidy fencing etc. at the bottom of Biddenham Turn. More about the latter below.

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, some attendees left for a tour of the school, and councillors were shown some of the maths equipment purchased with the grant we made to the school last year.

There then followed a normal meeting of the Parish Council. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold (also a Borough Councillor), Chris Gee, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade, Terry Platt and Joe Warren. Clerk Lyn Lyman, standing in for Alison Southern who was unwell, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and five members of the public were also present.

Keeping Biddenham Tidy

Following the tidying up of shrubbery near/behind the war memorial, we hear that Bidwells, on behalf of the Wingfield Estate, are doing some other tidying up around the parish. This is most welcome. During the earlier part of the meeting, a resident of Biddenham Turn complained passionately about the poor state of that road's verges, the triangle of grass near the junction with Bromham Road, broken fencing, dumped rubbish, etc. It is, indeed, appalling; and along with Bidwells we will do what we can to sort things out.

If you see rubbish, broken street furniture, or damage caused by vehicles driving or parking on verges, do please let us know via the parish clerk (email clerk@biddenham.org.uk).

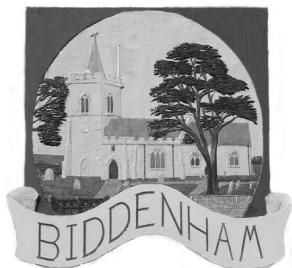
Data Protection

Your Parish Council has, like everyone else, to make sure it keeps and uses personal data carefully and responsibly. The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which comes into force on 25th May, is having an impact across the land: we are no exception. We are currently finding out the statutory responsibilities we must meet, and who is going to perform these.

Suffice to say the approach I am keen to see us adopt (in common with the boss of JD Wetherspoons) is one of minimizing the holding of any personal information. If we don't store such information, we can't do bad things with it.

Money

Our financial year has just ended, and I'd like to let you know the "headline numbers", since most of our income (our "precept" of £40,000 last year) comes from your council tax payments. This money was supplemented by



other income of £4,258 during the year, but we actually spent £694 less than this altogether.

For the new year (2018/19), we are expecting to have to shell out £12,000 on resurfacing the main footpath down Main Road, and still hope to commission the roundabout pillars (long talked about, much desired, but still yet to make it off the drawing board for various reasons). All told, we forecast we may need nearly £62,000 this year. So, we have asked for a precept of £43,000 and will be using some of our reserves. Things should calm down again in 2019/20.

Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th May 2018. Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to raise.

Peter Chase
Chairman

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Biddenham Gardeners Association

The Art of Tree Moving

The speaker was Deric Newman who is the General Manager of Civic Trees; a company which specialises in moving mature trees. The scale of their activities, the size of trees moved and the size, power and complexity of the machinery employed are mind-boggling; a very different matter from the domestic scale of the horticulture we are normally concerned with at our meetings. Deric's beautifully illustrated presentation was lively and entertaining and held the attention of a well-attended meeting.

Deric began by setting out the reasons for moving mature trees. Trees can be moved when they might otherwise be felled, to create space on a development, to improve the location of a tree or to use the tree for a different purpose, perhaps as a new focal point. Deric followed this introduction by a brief survey of the history of tree moving. If the Hanging Gardens of Babylon existed it is thought mature trees would have been used. In the seventeenth century the landscape gardener Andre le Notre moved trees from the Bois de Boulogne to the grounds of the palace of Versailles and tree moving was sufficiently common to justify the publication of a book on the subject by John Evelyn. In the eighteenth century Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton frequently used mature trees to create their landscapes.

The modern history of mature tree moving began in the massive urban regeneration of Britain in the post-war years of the sixties. With government backing, the Civic Trust was formed to promote the use of trees and Deric's father worked closely with the Trust in carrying out this work. Initially most of the work involved the removal of forest trees because there was very little provision for commercially grown trees. Deric's father was much involved in the development of techniques for tree moving and a very significant development was his invention of the Newman Frame which allows a root ball of between 2.5 and 4.5 metre diameter to be lifted. It is still the most effective and efficient way of moving large trees. When the Civic Trust closed in 1963, Deric's father took over its work and set up the company Civic Trees which Deric now runs.

The process of moving a large tree may be spread over a couple of years, although development requirements often don't allow this sort of time. Preparation involves root inspection to discover the existing root structure and its extent and determine the future root ball size and allocate any services which might be in the way. The roots are then severed around the tree to a depth of 300 to 750 millimetres and a barrier put round them to prevent root regrowth. The rootball is wrapped in hessian attached to the frame and it is never undercut; the whole tree being lifted from the remaining roots by brute force. As well as root severance the crown of a large tree may be removed to reduce stress on regrowth.

A standard formula is used to determine the size of the rootball that will be necessary for good regrowth and this can be used on a domestic scale for moving small trees and shrubs in our gardens. The diameter of the rootball should be three times the stem diameter at a height of one metre above ground level.

When a tree is ready to be lifted a two inch hole is drilled through the trunk and a bar inserted and attached to the frame so that the weight of the tree is transferred to the frame. Before removal a new hole of carefully measured depth will have been prepared and made ready to fill with good backfill material of a high organic content which will include root builder and fertiliser. After transfer the tree will be guyed with wires to prevent movement while new roots are being established. The tree will suffer transfer shock after replanting and this will stop any growth in the

first year with slower than normal growth in roots and foliage the next year. Maintenance will be needed for at least a couple of years. This involves lots of water, applied infrequently, further pruning, an annual feed, mulching over the rootball area with bark and checking the guy wires to maintain tension.

Instead of a frame over the rootball a different technique is used for smaller trees. This is a mechanical 'spade' fitted on a powerful tractor. The spade consists of four curved blades which wrap round the tree and then dig round it and under it; the four blades fitting together around and under the tree so that it is removed with no need to wrap the rootball and driven to the new site. A matching hole will have been prepared with the use of the same sized spade. In 1968 Civic Trees imported the first spade to be used in the UK.

Nowadays there are many nurseries growing mature trees commercially. Civic Trees take clients on nursery tours to choose their trees and Deric told us that Deepdale Nursery near Pottton is an interesting place to visit.

Our next meeting will be on 15th May when we shall have a talk on Warden Abbey vineyard with wine tasting and sales.

Jeremy Arthern

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

Biddenham Handbell Ringers on regional stage

Four members of the Biddenham Handbell Ringers will be joining the East Anglian team for their 'Handbells in Concert' at St Neots on 5th May.

Please support them by going along if you can, details are below.

 <p>Handbell Ringers of Great Britain East Anglian Regional Team With Musical Directors Tim Willetts & Aidan Fozard</p>  <p>40 musicians Over 360 instruments with guest soloists For further information visit ear.hrgb.org.uk Facebook: search for EARbells Tel: 01992 584761 Or 07534 434900</p>	<p>Handbells in concert</p> <p>Saturday 5th May 2018 3.00pm The Priory Centre Priory Lane St. Neots PE19 2BH Tel: 01480 388922</p> <p><i>Tickets available on the door</i> <i>Adults: £12</i> <i>Concessions: £10</i> <i>Juniors (under 18) free</i></p> <p><i>Programme includes classical, modern and original handbell music</i></p> <p><small>HRGB is a Registered Charity 298945 (England) ; SCO38918 (Scotland)</small></p>
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First Friday Lunch

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pudding and a drink,
on the first Friday of every month
in Biddenham Village Hall
from 12.30pm
£6



Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month

Book swap

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Or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

All welcome—everyone, all ages!
4th May, 1st June

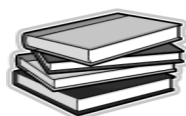


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*- the charity which helps conserve
the church, churchyard and barn
for future generations*

Membership Peter Leverkus Tel: 353662
Treasurer Paul Fricker Tel: 342843

Mobile Library

Great Denham Community Centre
Saturdays 5th, 19th May, 2nd June
2.20pm-2.40pm
Biddenham Thursdays 10th, 24th May
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
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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
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.
Contact for Church Barn events, janburns@gmx.com

100 CLUB

March draw

1. Ross Kilroy	79
2. David Watson	76
3 David Tatum Hume	470

Drawn by Sheila Frossell



Welcome Packs for

New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

May 2018

- Fri 4 May First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15
 Sat 5 May Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15
 Sat 5 May Handbells in concert, St Neots Priory Centre, 3.00pm, see p14
Sun 6 May The Sixth Sunday of Easter
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
 Mon 7 May Bank Holiday Ramble, Church Barn, 2.30pm, see p9
 Tue 8 May Biddenham Women's Group, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p3
 Wed 9 May Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p13
 Thu 10 May Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15
Thu 10 May Ascension Day
 Said Communion, St James's, **7.00pm**
 Sat 12 May Bulky waste collection, Biddenham, see p1
Sun 13 May The Seventh Sunday of Easter
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**
 Sun 13 May Bulky waste collections, Great Denham & Biddenham, see p1
 Sun 13 May Christian Aid, Soup Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p6
 Tue 15 May Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p12
 Tue 15 May Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14
 Sat 19 May Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15
Sun 20 May Pentecost
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 Evening Prayer, St James's, **6.00pm**
 Tue 22 May Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p8
 Thu 24 May Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15
Sun 27 May Trinity Sunday
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,
 No evening service
 Sun 27 May Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, Kempston, 4.00-5.30pm, see p8

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
 Sun 10 Jun Red Cross Open Gardens, Biddenham
 Sun 10 Jun Pond Summer Splash Out, Church Barn, 3.30pm, see p5
 Tue 19 Jun Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p12
 Tue 19 Jun Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p8
 Sun 24 June Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, Kempston, 4.00-5.30pm, see p8

For cricket fixtures see page 7

For regular events listings see page 15

The Loop

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All **June** 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
Friday 18th May 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.