

# The Loop

September  
2018

£1.00

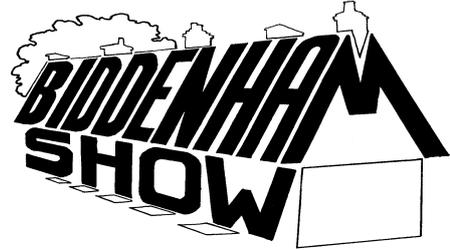
## Another successful year for Biddenham Cricket Club



The excellent weather (for cricket!) has meant matches have been played regularly, including two Bedfordshire County Under 11 matches.

The Saturday team have won promotion back to the top division and the other adult teams have been similarly successful.

A full report is on page 6.



**Sunday 9th September at  
St James' School field  
and Biddenham Village  
Hall**

**12 noon to 4.00 pm**

**Details on page 11**



*Richard Moxon's aerial photograph shows the trenches dug for the archaeological survey of land to the west of Gold Lane as part of the preparations for the Borough's consideration of the planning application.*

**'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](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com)

# St James's Church Biddenham

## Harvest Festival

7 October

All Age Service

9.00am

Donations of food taken for the  
Bedford Foodbank and  
local homeless shelters

Harvest Teas  
in the Church Barn  
3.00pm to 5.30pm

6 October

Please join us for  
the service,  
a cream tea  
and to see the  
wonderful harvest  
flowers!

Monetary donations  
towards the  
Bishop of St Albans'  
Harvest Appeal  
"Give Peas a Chance"  
Raising money to help  
farmers in Malawi turn  
peas into profit!

## Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Aesop's fables no longer exist. He wrote them around six hundred years before the birth of Christ and none of them survive. The collection of works we describe as Aesop's Fables, were not written by him at all. Perhaps, dare I suggest it, the same could be said of Shakespeare's plays. Just imagine for a moment that there actually was no Shakespeare, no Aesop, no Rembrandt or even no Leonardo. Suppose that all their works were instead produced by someone else.

Currently, on Sunday evening, there is a kind of real-life detective show in which Philip Mould and Fiona Bruce run around the world to try and evaluate whether somebody possesses a painting which is a genuine article, or whether it is a cynically produced fake.

The programme is called 'Fake or Fortune?', and last Sunday, they considered an image of a glass vase with some pears, which was supposedly painted by an artist called William Nicholson.

To me, the elephant in the room is that the question of whether or not it was actually a nice painting, was barely raised. The issue, instead, was the name attached to it, which should be irrelevant given that whoever painted it was clearly having an off day. Unfortunately, to the regret of the painting's owner, the authenticity of the artwork was rejected. This seemed to have little to do with the very compelling evidence in its favour.

This brings me to another elephant in the room. One of 'Aesop's Fables' which was also not actually written by Aesop, was called 'The Inquisitive Man,' and was written in 1814 by a Russian author, Ivan Andreevich Krylov. It told the story of an excited visitor to a museum of natural history, who told his friend about all the tiniest details of the wonders he had seen.

'When you visited the museum,' his friend asked him. 'Did you not see the elephant?'

'An elephant?' the visitor asked, 'I did not see one of those, so are you quite sure that it was there?'

When people visit our churches, I suppose they might wonder if this community of worshippers is for real. Is it fake or is it fortune?'

I think sometimes people go away from our churches disillusioned, because although the Church is a welcoming, friendly and active community, we have failed to really tell them about the elephant in the room.

At the back of Church on a Sunday, these lovely people will seldom talk about the one really compelling thing about that place. They worship the High King of Heaven, who loves us enough to send his Son to die for all of us on the cross.

So to my friends in Church; If you don't want people to come back, Shhhh! Don't tell them about our greatest fortune, keep the elephant a secret. Then, hopefully, people will not notice.

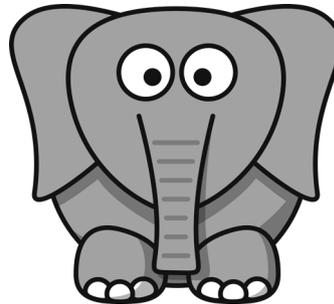
God bless,  
Eric



## 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
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Verger	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
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Pioneer Ministers	Suzette Maguire David Maguire	manorsuzette@btinternet.com hedgesplathog29@hotmail.com
	<a href="http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com">www.stjamesbiddenham.com</a>	



## Thanks for supporting the children of Soweto

I would like to thank everyone who has helped ship the clothes donated from so many generous people in Bedford.

I would like to thank the residents of Biddenham who came to the benefit lunch on 2nd June. I would also like to thank Tibbs Dementia foundation for helping to bridge the gap of the balance that was required to ship the clothes. This was done through selling raffle tickets.

I will deliver the clothes to Kenya personally and feedback the outcome.

June Kuria

**St James's Church  
Biddenham**

Please join us for  
**Harvest Teas**

6 October  
3.00pm to 5.30pm  
In the Church Barn  
and to see the Harvest Flowers  
in the Church

Donations towards the  
Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal  
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Tuesday 18 September  
Tuesday 23 October  
4.30pm - 6.00pm  
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 23 September  
Sunday 28 October  
4.00pm - 5.30pm  
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# Biddenham History Society

We had been hoping for a fine day for our Heritage Walk on 2nd July, but we did not expect the heat that we encountered! The Church Barn was pleasantly cool and it provided a welcome venue to discuss Biddenham 100 Years Ago and the men who died during the First World War. We also enjoyed refreshments there after our walk.

In 1918, Biddenham was a much smaller community (451 inhabitants in the 1911 census). The Church Barn was a real barn, part of a thriving farm, Church Farm, tenanted by Bobby Whitworth. The wheat and barley grown on the farm were stored in the barn and the barley was sent to Charles Wells brewery in Horne Lane, Bedford after it had been threshed. We know from Ted Pile's memoirs that he had been sent to the Saunderson Works in 1916 to learn how to drive and repair a tractor, and with the shortage of men and horses as a result of World War One, tractors were being used on Church Farm.

As we walked from the Barn to the Coffin Path, we noted that the new churchyard would not have been there in 1918. The Cedar of Lebanon trees in the main churchyard were much smaller and there was no vestry attached to the church. One member of our group remembered that his grandparents were married in the church in 1910.

The Coffin Path was there in 1918, as it was the main way of taking the coffins of the deceased from the cottages to the churchyard for burial. Looking across from the Coffin Path, there would have been more cottages near the church in 1918. Three cottages attached to 55, Church End, Church Cottage, were burnt down in 1959. We admired the view of 17, Church End, White Cottage, which was finished in 1909 and must have been very new and smart



*Robert Whitworth, tenant of Church Farm and Manor Farm, pictured in the Biddenham WI scrapbook, 1956. Courtesy: Bedfordshire Archives*

looking in 1918. Before we reached the pond, we noted that the dovecote would have been there in 1918 as well as the pond.

The area around the pond provided shade and seating and we decided to talk about the War Memorial area there, as there was no shade by the War Memorial. Dawn Cottage was home to the Shaw family. In 1918, Robert Shaw was serving with the Royal Veterinary Corps in the Middle East. His wife, Alice, was waiting for news of him, but he did return safely. The Davison family, who lived at the Smithy on the Green, were not so fortunate. The blacksmith, Bill Davison's son, John, died of wounds on 8th June 1918 whilst serving in France with the 6th battalion of the Machine Gun Corps.

1918 was a difficult year for those living in the village. There was uncertainty about those serving in the forces – would they come home? Some were prisoners of war and money was raised to get them adequate help. Private Ernest Smith was in hospital in Darmstadt, Germany with a bullet wound in his foot and ankle.

By the cessation of hostilities in November 1918, 9 men with Biddenham connections had been killed or died later of their wounds: Thomas Ridley, James Plain, Giles Havergal Shaw, Alfred Dudley, Wilfred Herring, Algermon Armstrong, Richard Wright, John Davison and Greville Shaw. A tenth man, Walter Rowney, was to die of his wounds in January, 1919, before he could come home. All these men had relatives who wanted their loved ones to be commemorated on the new War Memorial when it was unveiled in 1922.

Other men from Biddenham returned home as can be seen on the photograph taken in 1919 of those who had served in the forces. (*Biddenham Through the Ages*, page 40.) Several suffered from the effects of their wounds for the rest of their lives: Willie Dowler for example, lost his right arm and his right eye. Thomas Ridley's widow had to bring up three daughters and earn her living teaching at the Village School.

Before and during our walk, by looking at the buildings and through discussion, we realized how much Biddenham was affected by the First World War and the social and economic changes it brought about.

The next meeting of the Biddenham History Society will be on Monday 19th November 2018 at 8.00pm in the Church Barn. Amanda Goody who is one of the Bedford Town Guides will talk to us about Margery Fish – Cottage Garden. We have many lovely cottage gardens in Biddenham and this talk will give us their historical background and perhaps provide some inspiration! I hope you will be able to come.

Kathy Fricker

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\*Based on a lawn size of 40m<sup>2</sup>



## Update from the pond

### Meeting our objectives

One of our objectives is to provide an area available to educational and other organisations and to individuals for encouraging the study and preservation of the environment, particularly amongst the younger members of the community. We were very pleased therefore that in the early days of July we welcomed on visits to the pond two groups of young people: the 10th Bedford (Christ Church) Brownies, and Years 3 and 4 from our own village school, St James'.

Our wildlife expert, Chris Jones, led the visits, shared his extensive knowledge of the pond and its wildlife, and answered many questions from the young people. Both groups had enjoyable and informative visits and we look forward to welcoming them back in the future. The pond can be a source of inspiration for projects across the curriculum.

### Water, water, not everywhere

The unusually long hot dry spell continued through July but as the month drew to a close, remarkably there was still some water in the pond. The moorhens had continued to breed and another brood of tiny little chicks was exploring the pond.



Despite some rain in August and green grass starting slowly to reappear on our lawns, at the time of writing there is virtually no water left in the pond and it is very likely it will dry up completely.

This has happened before in this decade and in due course Mother Nature restored the balance. Let's hope she will do the same again this time with a lot of lovely rain!

### Autumn work morning

You're very welcome at our Autumn work morning at the pond on Saturday 10th November from 10.00 am to lunchtime. More details nearer the day.

The Pond Team

The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond  
[www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com](http://www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond](http://www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond)

# All Souls Service

## To remember our loved ones who have died



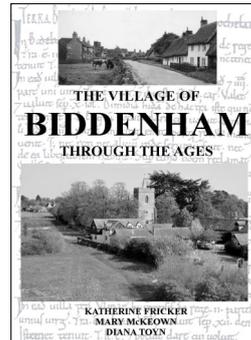
Sunday 4 November

3.00pm

St James's Church,  
Biddenham

Followed by  
coffee/refreshments

All welcome



### 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,

Mary 267678

[marypmckeown37@gmail.com](mailto:marypmckeown37@gmail.com)

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**[liz4watson@aol.com](mailto:liz4watson@aol.com)**



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## **Biddenham Cricket Club**



When this article is published the final match of the season will have been played and we will be able to reflect on an exceptional season both in terms of the weather – the driest many say since 1976 – and success on the field for the adult teams.

18th August saw the Saturday team win against Open University to ensure promotion back to the top division. The final match at Biddenham on 1st September against Luton Caribbean will determine which team ends the year in top spot. Congratulations to David Morrish and his team who brought a far more organised approach to the season both on and off the field, and featured some excellent individual performances.

In midweek Biddenham Casuals were able to win not only the Chiltern Travel Plate cup competition, but also their division by just one point from Elstow. Elstow were very unfortunate that our opposition for the final league match, Riseley, were unable to raise a side and conceded the match. This meant that Biddenham received maximum points whilst Elstow gained 2 points less in winning their final fixture. The midweek cricket provided some enjoyable matches and a chance for some of the youngsters to play in the adult teams.

The Sunday team in Division 2 of the Bedfordshire County League faced potentially the most difficult challenge this year. All the teams in this division proved to be very evenly matched with the game at Dunstable Town against their 2nd XI being a good example, Biddenham winning a very close game with just 2 wickets remaining. With three games to go we are still in with a chance of promotion which is a great achievement having achieved promotion in each of the past 3 years.

A report on the junior section's end of season event on 2nd September will appear in October's "Loop". Chris Spurgeon has already made presentations at the final training session in July to thank the many helpers who enable the junior section to operate.

August has also seen 2 junior county matches played at Biddenham by Bedfordshire's successful Under 11 team. Our visitors always comment on the excellent condition of our ground and this year was no exception.

Regular passers by the cricket field will have seen the transformation from green to brown during June and the contrast with the cricket square in the middle that required a lot of attention from David Watson to keep it safe for play. In fact the pitches have been very good indeed and the envy of many visiting teams who ask how we have achieved such a good playing surface during the extended hot and dry spell.

Finally, once again, a thank you to all the club's supporters in the village, including the Vice-Presidents and the Parish Council.

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

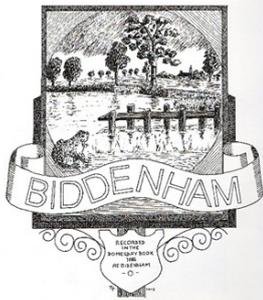
The 100 club provides the club with useful income and also raises its profile within the village amongst the residents for an annual fee of £12. If you would like to join the cricket club as a member, you will also gain automatic entry into the 100 club draw, which is held each month.

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

# The Biddenham Society



## **\*SAVE THE DATE\***

for the Biddenham Society's  
**54<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunch and AGM**  
on **SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2018**  
at **12.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Find out about all recent planning applications,  
decisions and appeals

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Lane development, local plan and any imminent  
threats to Biddenham.

***This is a friendly, informal, informative and  
popular occasion. Don't miss it!***

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ISSUE OF THE LOOP**

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gives us our piece for love; from Josquin we have *Mille  
Regretz* and from Eric Whitacre *Sleep*.

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## This month in the garden

This has been the most difficult gardening year that I can remember. After a fairly normal January and February, the Beast from the East hit us in March, and April continued wet and cold so that it was a long time before outdoor sowing could be started. Germination of my first crops of carrots, beetroot and spring onions and chard was very poor.

Then came the great drought and heatwave which still hasn't properly gone away. Writing in the middle of August we have just had a little bit of rain but the weather forecast for the rest of the month continues dry. We have certainly been a lot drier than much of the country and it has been a reminder of what a precious commodity water is. I remember the great drought of 1976 but I wasn't nearly as much involved in gardening then as I am now. There was a strict hosepipe ban then and we had fun syphoning water from the bath to use on the garden. At least we haven't had a hosepipe ban this year, but to keep the vegetables going and preserve the more important shrubs and plants has taken a lot of time, and I dread to think what the water bill will be like next time it is reviewed. Thank goodness for the solar panels that will give me some extra income to balance the cost of the water.

Now, you will be wondering how my new raspberries got on without netting, and the answer is "splendidly". It goes without saying that the canes needed watering but we had a generous crop of the biggest and best raspberries I have ever grown. The variety is Glen Cova. There were a few signs of bird damage but nothing to worry about. Good for us but, perhaps, a sad reflection on the drastic decline of the bird population. The other thing I mentioned last time was black cotton around the sweet corn to keep the pigeons off and that, too, worked well with no further damage. The plants aren't as magnificent as last year, though, and the cobs haven't swelled too well.

The main activity in the garden this month will be keeping things tidy. Dahlias and Michaelmas daisies can be the main providers of colour at this time of year and Dahlias in particular will repay attention to dead-heading and removing the smaller side buds that form alongside the main buds on a stem to get good sized flowers. If dahlia flowers are being damaged by earwigs you can control them by putting inverted flower pots filled with straw at the top of the stake supporting the plants. These need daily inspection and the removal of the earwigs you will find lurking there.



Annuals, roses and other later flowering perennials will continue to need dead-heading. In the vegetable garden there should still be plenty to harvest. Runner beans have been disappointing because of the hot weather but I hope things will now improve. My root crop vegetables, particularly carrot and beetroot, are still going strong after the late start and cabbages will be ready soon. I grew calabrese (a form of broccoli) for the first time and this was

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very successful with harvesting in August. There is not much to be done in the way of sowing at the moment but you can sow spring cabbage, spring onions and over-wintering lettuce.

Time to look ahead to next spring in other ways too, and to be thinking about spring bulbs. Bulbs will be in the shops now and the sooner you buy the better the choice even if you don't plant yet.



Daffodils can be planted now although tulips should be left until November. Tulips and daffodils aren't the only spring bulbs so look out for more unusual bulbs in catalogues and in the garden centres.

The Biddenham Show will be here shortly after you read this so do what you can to make the marquee attractive and interesting with your entries. Material for some classes may prove difficult because of the drought but find as much as you can. Entries for the flower-arranging classes were disappointing last year so, even if you haven't done it before, have a go.

Jeremy Arthern

## 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 2.00pm 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.

*Please note change of start time.*



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## Prayer of the month

Almighty God, from whom to turn is to fall,  
to whom to return is to rise again,  
in whom to abide is to stand secure:  
grant us in our duties your help,  
in our perplexities your guidance,  
in our dangers your protection,  
and in our sorrows your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Nick Sleep**  
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## ‘God’s Undertaker: Has Science buried God?’ by John Lennox

### A new book that is a must

Many people say “I do not believe in God. I have never seen any evidence at all for his existence”.

If you look for X-rays using a machine that only detects rays of visible light you will not find any X-rays. This does not mean there aren’t any but it means that you have used the wrong tool to find evidence.

The author of this book is professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and Fellow of Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton college Oxford. He has doctorates in Mathematics, Philosophy and also in Science and uses all these disciplines to look at the evidence.

The book is not an easy read because it is examining verifiable evidence but it is accessible to anybody of reasonable intelligence who wants to take a critical view on this evidence.

The book may not be to everybody’s taste, but it is incumbent on Atheists and Christians alike to know why they believe what they do believe, and what is the verifiable proof for what they believe.

Edwin Martin

## Biddenham Show Baking class 37 Yorkshire Parkin recipe

If you wish to enter this class at the Show please use this recipe.

200g butter  
1 large egg  
4 tbsp milk  
200g golden syrup  
85g treacle  
85g soft brown sugar  
100g medium oatmeal  
250g SR flour  
1 tbsp ground ginger

Grease a 22cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment.

Gently melt butter, syrup, treacle and sugar together until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat.

Mix oatmeal, flour and ginger together and stir into the syrup mixture.

Mix the egg and milk together and add to the mixture.

Pour into the tin and bake for 50 to 60 minutes at 160C/140C fan/gas mark 3 until cake feels firm and a little crisp on top.

Cool in the tin then wrap in more parchment and keep for 3 to 5 days until it gets softer and stickier before serving.

# Sue Ryder

St John’s  
Hospice

# starrlight hike

A night to remember

Join us for a walk under the stars, remembering loved ones and raising funds for St John’s hospice along our 5k or 10k routes.

Saturday 22nd September 2018  
Starting at Sue Ryder St John’s Hospice

To register go to  
[www.sueyder.org/stjohnsstarlighthike](http://www.sueyder.org/stjohnsstarlighthike)  
or call 01767 642 412

Twitter: @SueRyderStJohns  
Facebook: sueyder.stjohnshospice

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Sue Ryder registered charity England and Wales (1052076) Scotland (SC039578) Ref. No. 05978 March 2018



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Fun Book Club Films Pizza Friendship

Come along to our first group

Saturday 15 September

4.00-6.00pm

27 St Mellion Drive, Great Denham

St James’s Church, Biddenham

Call Jacqui/Jason on 356993 for more information  
It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand if possible  
All leaders are DBS checked



# Don't forget the Biddenham Show Sunday 9th September at St James' School field and Biddenham Village Hall 12 noon to 4.00 pm

Entry Fee £1.50 for adults, accompanied children under 12 free

## Lots to See and Do

- Children's Fancy Dress; this year's theme is 'Your favourite story-book character'
- Fun Dog Show
- Punch & Judy Show
- Balloon Modelling
- Bracelet Making
- Human Fruit Machine
- Circus Skills
- Toddlers Play Area
- Bouncy Castle
- Raffle
- Second Hand Book Stall
- BBQ
- Pizza
- Ice Cream & Candy Floss
- Beer, Cider & Pimms Tent
- Teas & Cakes
- Jazz DJ

## Important notice for craft and gardening entrants

- Entry forms are available online at [www.biddenhamshow.org](http://www.biddenhamshow.org) and in the brochure.
- **You must ensure that we receive your entry by Thursday 6th September so we can allocate sufficient space for exhibits.** Paper entries can be put through the letterbox at 32A Church End.
- Staging will take place **only** on Sunday morning between 8.15 and 9.45am You should come to the School hall in the first instance.
- Judging will commence promptly at 10.00am.

The Biddenham Show 2018 is once again sponsored by



*Thank you*

## Fun Dog Show

Supported by ARAS Dog Training Club, we are once again holding Biddenham's very own Dog Show, just for fun.

Take a look at the classes below, decide which your canine friend could win and come along on the day. Entry to one class is £2, you can enter 3 classes for £5. As well as the rosettes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place there will be a cup for the Best in Show.

Classes:

1. Prettiest Bitch
2. Handsomest Dog
3. Young Handler (Child 14 years or under)
4. Waggiest Tail
5. Cutest Puppy (under 1 year)
6. Golden Oldie (over 7 years)
7. Best Crossbreed
8. Dog & Owner Lookalike
9. Best in Show (Chosen from the class winners)

## Books wanted

Please sort out your books and bring any you don't want to the book stall at the village show



## Call for cakes.

Every year the Teashop makes a significant contribution to the funds available for local groups, societies and charities. Its success relies mostly on the contribution of cakes by Biddenham residents.

If you feel you can help us by providing an easy-to-cut cake, please let us know by contacting Val Fitzhugh on [valeriefitzhugh@gmail.com](mailto:valeriefitzhugh@gmail.com)



Thank you

All events are vulnerable to change by circumstances beyond our control.  
Keep up to date at [www.biddenhamshow.org](http://www.biddenhamshow.org)  
or search for Biddenham Show on Facebook

# Café B...

Tuesday 18th  
September



Biddenham Village Hall  
10.30 am - 12.00 noon

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

Next café 16th October

## Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 11th July 2018 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold, Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs, Terry Platt and Francia Slade. Clerk Lyn Lyman, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and one member of the public were also present. Councillors Krzys Osuch and Joe Warren sent their apologies.



The current most important issues we face are the proposal to build 250 houses west of Gold Lane, the current unsafe traffic conditions on Gold Lane itself, the expected closure of the Bromham Road railway bridge, and the prevalence of weeds in many of our gutters around the village.

These were all discussed at the July meeting. The outline planning application is currently with the Borough Council, who we believe are reviewing it; it's likely to surface again in the autumn. And the weeds will be dealt with! Of the other two concerns, please read on...

### Gold Lane

The traffic on Gold Lane is of great concern to us all, but particularly those who walk its length and/or who live in Thorpe Close and Hampden Court (which are side roads off it). We have had many suggestions of what to do to get traffic using Gold Lane to slow down, ranging from dividing the village in two using a rising bollard, a 20mph limit, humps, warnings and traffic islands with priority signage.

Whatever is done, the Borough Council have to agree it would be safe, appropriate and effective. To this end, we are commissioning a speed survey to establish the facts of how fast traffic truly goes. To ensure this is representative of normal conditions, we have asked for this to be carried out once the schools go back.

Our current view is that a 20mph zone might help. However, we know it will not be enforceable, and therefore will probably, over time, be flouted. We can be more confident that humps or pinch points with priority signs will *require* traffic to slow down. The recent near-demolition of the bridge in Village Road, Bromham, where a priority sign system has now been installed, is, along with the speed survey, going to give us the ammunition and evidence to be able to make proposals which will meet our objectives. Please be patient while we follow this course of action.

### Railway Bridge Closure

The Secretary of State for Transport has now received Network Rail's application for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). This is very likely to be granted in the coming weeks (or days, even), and will give Network Rail sweeping powers to compulsorily acquire land at and around the Bromham Road railway bridge. This will allow them to demolish and reconstruct it with more headroom for trains passing underneath it.

The project will take a whole year to complete, by a desired end date of December 2019. So we can expect the bridge to shut quite soon. Traffic will still be able to go via Queens Park and the Ford End Road bridge, but can you imagine what that'll be like?! I'm afraid it's going to be miserable, and there are no easy answers. At least there will be a temporary footbridge for pedestrians and cyclists, something which Mayor Dave Hodgson announced last week will be a permanent addition alongside the rebuilt road bridge.

For more information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/london-to-corby-transport-and->



## Quiz Night

**Saturday 6th October at 7.30 p.m.**

Teams of 8,

or come and make up a table with others

Two course supper

Bar for wines, beer and soft drinks

Tickets £12.50 from Liz Watson 345028

or [liz4watson@aol.com](mailto:liz4watson@aol.com)



Proceeds to Parkinson's Charity

works-act-order.

**Next meeting**

As the unusually nice summer we've had starts drawing to a close, we resume meetings from September for the rest of the year. There is never a meeting in August (and likewise December). So, after this short break, I would like to invite anyone reading this column to consider coming along to a Parish Council meeting at some point.

Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney. We very much welcome hearing from residents, and there is a special, early part of the agenda for anyone wanting to put forward any item for discussion. You don't have to let us know what you want to say in advance, just come along and let us know what's concerning you. Or please just come along and listen.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th September 2018 at 7.30pm

Peter Chase  
Chairman



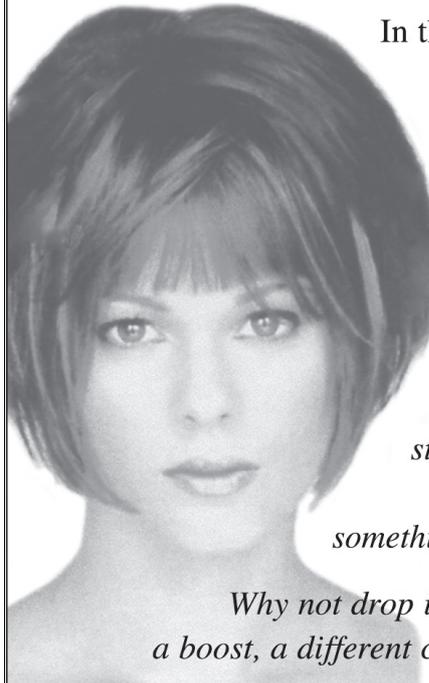
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# Biddenham Gardeners Association

The Biddenham Gardeners' AGM was held in the Village Hall on 17th July.

The Chair reported on another successful year with a good variety of outside speakers and two meetings presented by our own members. There were outings to Ascott House near Leighton Buzzard in April and Deene Park, Leicestershire, in July. Attendance at meetings was slightly down on last year and the Committee are arranging a leaflet drop advertising the BGA to go to all the houses in Biddenham, including the King's Field estate north of Bromham Road.

The Accounts for the 2017 financial year were presented by the treasurer, Ralph Harding and approved by the meeting. The bank balance on 31st December 2017 was £1,295.78.

Paul Fricker was elected as a new member of the Committee and all the current members of the committee were re-elected en bloc. The Committee now consists of: Jeremy Arthern (Chair), Paula Church (Secretary), Ralph Harding (Treasurer), Janet Bird (Programme Secretary), Linda Truscott (Membership Secretary), Marie Willis (Publicity), Liz Hurford (Biddenham Show Liaison), Ron Bessey (Web Site) and Paul Fricker.

Brian Cheyne was re-appointed as Accounts examiner and George Metcalf was re-appointed as Village Hall representative.

The Chair expressed thanks to all members of the committee and others involved in the running of the BGA; Brian Cheyne, George Metcalf, Susan Arthern and Liz Hurford (AGM and Christmas catering) Ann Manze and Ann Ebbs (Tea and Coffee rota).

The meeting was followed by a Gardeners' Question Time session chaired by Paul Fricker with Roger Skipper, Richard Callahan and Jeremy Arthern on the panel. The meeting concluded with a sumptuous buffet.

Our next meeting will be on 18th September at 7.30pm when Dr Ian Bedford will speak on "Garden Bugs".

Jeremy Arthern

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact **Linda Truscott** on 01234 270747 [www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk)

## Biddenham Women's Group

Our next event is a return visit from social historian, Helen Crabtree, who will be talking about The History of Telephone Kiosks at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 11th September.

Val Fitzhugh

## The Camel Race

After a while it became obvious why the chairs had been so uncomfortable

to sit on. They were for standing on. Everybody was doing it; that is those who didn't fall off. They were folding chairs. It would seem more logical for everybody to sit down, but everybody else was standing on the chairs so why not join them? Over on the left was a black veiled figure who looked like the lady Peta had just taken tea with. It was impossible to be sure, Arab ladies, veiled from head to foot look so similar. They had been very kind to Peta as we went by. She was beckoned to sit down on a rug between two trucks with five ladies and eight children, one of whom rapidly made herself comfortable on her lap. The ladies and Peta drank hot sweet tea and the older children drank Pepsi.

They are off; the camels that is! A roar comes from the crowd. The annual camel race, a sort of Arabian Ascot has begun. Dignitaries looking dignified, Arabs in their red head dresses, local Europeans with cameras a foot long jump up and down and get excited. They're running in the wrong direction. Chaos. Round them up and start again. Jeeps with flashing lights are everywhere, up goes a helicopter. An ambulance joins in the fun. How do you round up 4000 camels running in the wrong direction? After an hour they do; an hour of standing on a folding chair.

Off they go in the right direction. The camels with their riders run around the five mile course three times, apart from the one who sat down and decided to go to sleep. The king drives around the course in his luxury coach. It is difficult to decide if the king's coach is trying to keep up with the camels, or if the camels are trying not to overtake the king. Every time the king passes by the chair standing crowd in the enclosure he gets a bigger round of applause than the camels and a few people fall off. There is no doubt who is the favourite. Eventually they come to the end. Police cars drive up and down. Spectators jump up and down, and the winner wins. Great fun and a great sense of joining in and fellowship.

We all drive home in the big yellow hospital bus. A father and his son stand beside their car facing Mecca and say the prayers of Islam. A lasting image of piety.

Suddenly the fact that the bus driver has got fed up with the traffic and is driving up the central reservation of the motorway doesn't really matter. His liberal curses and comments on the family trees of all the other drivers just seem part of an overall picture of dust colour friendship and piety.

Edwin Martin



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£6.50 per class.  
£6 if you buy a block of 6.  
Email [fluidmatpilates@gmail.com](mailto:fluidmatpilates@gmail.com) to book



# First Friday

## Lunch

Soup, sandwich or baked potato, 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*  
**Friday, 7th September, 5th October**

To book: email [firstfridaylunch@outlook.com](mailto:firstfridaylunch@outlook.com)  
Or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

# 100 CLUB

## June draw

- |    |                  |     |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 1. | Peter Culverwell | 136 |
| 2. | Giles Cardwell   | 141 |
| 3. | Nish Narayanan   | 124 |

Drawn by John Aikman

## July draw

- |    |                 |     |
|----|-----------------|-----|
| 1. | Zain Charfare   | 148 |
| 2. | Richard O'Quinn | 125 |
| 3. | David Watson    | 153 |

Drawn by Ann Blood



**Welcome Packs for  
New Biddenham Residents**  
Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

# Hall Booking Details

## Biddenham 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](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)

## Church Barn

Contact the Booking Officer, Jan Burns on 344019 or [janburns@gmx.com](mailto: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](mailto:biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk) or Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

## Great Denham Community Hall

[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://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
7.00pm	Mat Pilates	Church Barn
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
2.00-4.30pm	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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# Mobile Library

## Great Denham Community Centre

Saturdays 8th, 22nd September

2.20pm-2.40pm

## Biddenham

Thursdays 13th, 27th September

Church End 10.00am-10.20am

Noddors Way 10.25am-10.50am

*Remember your library card!*



# 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

## September 2018

- Sun 2 Sep** **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**  
Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Fri 7 Sep First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
Sat 8 Sep Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20pm-2.40pm, see p15
- Sun 9 Sep** **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**
- Sun 9 Sep Biddenham Show, St James' School field & Biddenham Village Hall, 12-4.00pm, see p11  
Tue 11 Sep Biddenham Women's Group, 2.00pm, Church Barn, see p14  
Wed 13 Sep Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p13  
Thu 13 Sep Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15  
Sat 15 Sep Youth Group, 27 St Mellion Drive, 4.00-6.00pm, see p10  
Sat 15 Sep 'Seven Ages of Man', Bedford School Chapel, 7.30pm, see p7
- Sun 16 Sep** **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
Evening Prayer, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 18 Sep Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00noon, see p12  
Tue 18 Sep Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p3  
Tue 18 Sep Biddenham Gardeners Association. Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14  
Sat 22 Sep Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20pm-2.40pm, see p15  
Sat 22 Sep Starlight Hike, Sue Ryder Home, Moggerhanger, see p10
- Sun 23 Sep** **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
No evening service
- Sun 23 Sep Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, 4.00-5.30pm, see p3  
Thu 27 Sep Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15
- Sun 30 Sep** **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
No evening service

## October

- Fri 5 Oct First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
Fri 5 Oct Sue Ryder Quiz, Bedford Police HQ, 7.00pm, see p8  
Sat 6 Oct Harvest Tea, Church Barn, 3.00-5.30pm, see p3  
Sat 6 Oct Quiz Night, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p12
- Sun 7 Oct** **Harvest Sunday**  
All Age Harvest Festival Service, St James's, **9.00am**, see p2  
Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 16 Oct Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00noon, see p12  
Tue 23 Oct Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p3  
Sun 28 Oct Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, 4.00-5.30pm, see p3

For regular events listings see page 15

### The Loop

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All **October** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close ([cj.sugars@talktalk.net](mailto:cj.sugars@talktalk.net)) by **Thursday 20th September 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.*