

The Loop

November
2018

£1.00



Don't forget Remembrance Day

The service at Biddenham War Memorial will start at 10.50am on Sunday 11th November.

*Main Road will be closed
between 10.45am and
11.15am.*



Lest we forget: your stories from World War I

The response to our invitation for you to share stories of your relatives in World War I was tremendous, thank you.

You will find an edited version of all the stories in a special pull-out centre feature in this magazine and the stories will be shared at the service at St James's church at 9.00am on Remembrance Sunday.

Closing date for grant applications

Applications are invited from Biddenham good causes for grants from this year's Show proceeds.

We already have several, thank you. The closing date for any more is Friday 9th November 2018. Please email Stelios Mores on stelios.mores@btinternet.com or contact any member of the committee. We will be meeting to decide on the causes to support before the end of November.



Planning updates

Find out what's happening on planning issues from The Biddenham Society on page 6 and Biddenham Parish Council on page 20.

Coming soon : The Loop archive online

Starting with the February 2018 edition, copies of The Loop are to be posted on the Biddenham Parish Council website three months after their publication date. For example, the September edition will be posted at the beginning of December.

So, if you want to look back at events in the parish over the last year and have mislaid your copy of The Loop, you will soon be able to do so. I hope to have the February to July/August 2018 editions uploaded by the beginning of November.

Should you wish to look further back, there are bound copies of the parish magazine since 1966 which are held by the editor. Email loopeditor@gmail.com or call 349849 if you would like to see them. Alternatively, copies of the magazines are also held in Bedfordshire Archives.

Jean Gambold

'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

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

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

On 15th August 2016, I was asked to speak to a girls' school of 2,000 students in Tuticorin, in South India. It was a scorching hot day, and the ceremony was accompanied by an extraordinary display of Indian dance. The reason for the display was that this was Independence Day in India, and I was speaking at an event that celebrated English people, like myself, having to leave.



India achieved independence in 1948 because of the work of a devout Hindu, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who initiated a programme of non-violent resistance against British Rule. In his passionate care for social justice, Gandhi spoke about his admiration for the founder of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ. Sadly, he did not share the same admiration for Christ's ineffectual followers. I guess that this was largely to do with the oppression he experienced under British rule. Historically, however, Christianity has often been the driving force behind the struggle for social justice, and compassion for the marginalised.

The Evangelical Christian, William Wilberforce, for example, initiated a movement which resulted in the abolition of slavery on 25th March 1807. Equally, it was the Christian evangelist Martin Luther King who, on October 14th 1964, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in the civil rights movement in the United States.

Knowing the contribution of religious people to so many areas of social justice, be it human rights, health care, education and work for the poor, I find it ironic that people say to me that clergy should avoid commenting on politics.

People like Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce were very much guided by the principles expressed in the story of the Exodus. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and Moses was commanded by God to liberate these people from slavery. He then led these people from slavery, through the harsh wilderness of Sinai, until they were able to settle in the promised land.

This story was also the guiding narrative for the liberation theologians who fought for justice in South America in the 1960s and 1970s. The Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez gave name to this movement with his 1971 book, *A Theology of Liberation*, in which he declared that God has an unmistakable bias to the poor, and a desire for justice for those who are oppressed.

The idea of a promised land used in Exodus is reflected in Jesus' use of the term 'Kingdom of God' which is ultimately a state of justice and equity. Jesus himself declared that he had come to bring; 'good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' (Luke 4:16-20) God's kingdom, God's future, has its destination in Justice for the poor.

This statement lies at the heart of an immensely spiritual and political Gospel, so with this in mind, rather than keeping away from politics, it seems to me that a church which does not speak out on behalf of the poor is simply not doing its job properly.

Have a great month.

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
Readers	Christopher Dawe Paul Fricker	Tel 363890 Tel 342843
Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn Edwin Martin	Tel 364251 Tel 348718
Verger	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
Secretary	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Treasurer	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Organist/Choirmaster	Graham Weeks	Tel 07552 052840
Pioneer Ministers	Suzette Maguire David Maguire	manorsuzette@btinternet.com hedgesplathog29@hotmail.com
	www.stjamesbiddenham.com	

St James' CE VA Primary School



This term sees our first as a new primary school, following Bedford Borough Council's transition to a two-tier education system. As part of our development, we have new buildings, new uniform, a new logo, and our first Year 6 cohort have made a super start to the year.

Many of you will have seen our new buildings at the Biddenham Show. These were completed over the summer term, and finished just in time for the new school year. Our builders, governors and staff have worked extremely hard to create three beautiful classrooms in which children will learn over the coming years, and we're really very pleased with the outcome. Building three classrooms has allowed us to create space elsewhere and as a result, we've been able to re-site our library away from the office area to its own room. We're very grateful for the patience and support shown by our neighbours – thank you! Next up is to re-landscape the field,



as we have quite a lot of soil and rubble to deal with, plus a very damaged gazebo; we're working on this next phase of work now.

We have also re-designed our logo, following consultation with children. The new logo shows the shape of the scallop shell, which continues our link with St James, but we've coloured the different strands to reflect the rainbow, which is used in school as a sign of our promises to each other to love and care for one another. The cross reflects our Christian ethos and values, and the light which shines out from behind it reflects the lights that shine brightly inside us all. Along with the new logo, we have also changed our uniform from red to blue – again, blue reflects St James, as he was a fisherman.

In these times of challenging recruitment issues, we are very fortunate to have recruited outstanding teachers to the team here, to work with our new classes. Our results at the end of last year in English and maths were yet again very good, at least in line with national averages, and in many cases above the national. We have a great team here and we're very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Maria Soulsby
Head teacher



'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs

Tea for the children!

Tuesday 20 November
4.30pm - 6.00pm
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 25 November
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's Church Christmas Bazaar

**Biddenham Village Hall
Saturday 8 December**

2.00pm – 4.30pm

Entrance £1 (Children Free)

Decorations & Gifts
Food Stall
Jewellery
Bottle Stall
Raffle
Father Christmas
Planted Bulbs
Biddenham Momentoes
Fabric Crafts
Tea and Cake



The Arts Society is a leading arts education charity with a global network of 385 local Societies, which brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.

The Arts Society, Great Ouse Valley is a newly formed branch of the Arts Society, based in Sharnbrook providing nine evening lectures each year by highly acclaimed specialists, as well as visits to interesting and unusual places.

Membership is £45 per year and offers an enjoyable opportunity to discover and support the arts of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Some of our future lecture titles include the following
"Wigs, Waistcoats and Weepers - Power Dressing in the 18C."
"The Art of the Steal - Nazi Looting during WW2"

Lectures are held at 7.30pm at Sharnbrook Hotel. We are a friendly and welcoming society so please do get in touch.

Sara Tusting, Membership Secretary
greatousevalleymembers@gmail.com



Quiz-tastic!

This year's Biddenham Village Quiz night took place on 6th October with all proceeds being donated to Parkinson's UK Bedford branch. The evening raised a magnificent £930.50 for this important cause.

A heartfelt thanks to all involved in the organisation and to those who participated on the night.

Biddenham History Society

The Biddenham History Society will meet on Monday November 19th 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

Are you Struggling? Help is at Hand – Just Ask!

Have you heard about our Village Agent, who is here to help older people to access the services and support they might need? Her services are free of charge, and she will phone or visit you at home.

Things your Village Agent can help you with include:

- Blue Badge applications and renewals
- Assessing eligibility for Pension Credit
- Claiming Attendance Allowance if you need personal care
- Free home security checks
- Aids and adaptations for the home
- Support for carers

Do You Need Help with Filling in Forms? If you are struggling with paperwork, such as Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance applications, our Village Agent can help you.

Are You a Carer?

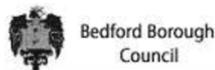
There are several excellent organisations who give support to carers in our area.

Carers in Bedfordshire offers a range of support services, and also offer grants to help carers keep well and alleviate stress. **Tibbs Dementia Foundation** offers a range of activities for people with dementia and their carers, including Cognitive Stimulation; Music 4 Memory, swimming, gardening, counselling, walking and walking football. **Respite at Home** provides a befriending service and will provide a volunteer to sit with someone with a life-limiting illness, to give their carer a break.

Help for Pensioners on Low Incomes – Are you receiving the basic state pension and struggling to manage? Your Village Agent can tell you if there is any help available. In addition to Pension Credit, you might get help with NHS costs, or a rebate on your energy bill, or a small quarterly gratuity from the St Johns Hospital Trust (if you have been living in Bedford for at least 15 years). Get in touch for a confidential review.



You can call your **Village Agent** on
Freephone 0800 039 1234



This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, & we will aim to call you back within 48 hours.



A quick reminder that it's our next work morning at the pond on Saturday 10th November from 10.00am to lunchtime, tidying up the site for Winter.

We hope to see you then, armed with stout shoes/boots, gardening gloves/gauntlets, and useful tools. Any child volunteers must be over the age of 14 and supervised by a responsible adult, who is a family member. For more details please contact Paul Godden on 344081.

Jane Knight
Treasurer

The Pond Team
The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond

www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond



Wrest Park Volunteer Open Day January 2019

The next Open Day will be held at Wrest Park in the Ante-Library of the Mansion House on Saturday 19th January from 12.00-2.00pm.

- Would you like to be a part of an outstanding team?
- Would you like to spend time in one of England's most prestigious and fascinating Gardens with a story that spans over 600 years?
- Would you like to share your enthusiasm and love of history?
- Would you like to meet like-minded people and try something new?

Then why not come and volunteer for English Heritage at Wrest Park?

Whether it is welcoming and chatting to visitors or telling the stories of our unique house and garden, there are plenty of ways to get involved here at Wrest Park.

Come along to our open day and find out more about what's involved and how you can help our visitors 'Step into England's Story'.

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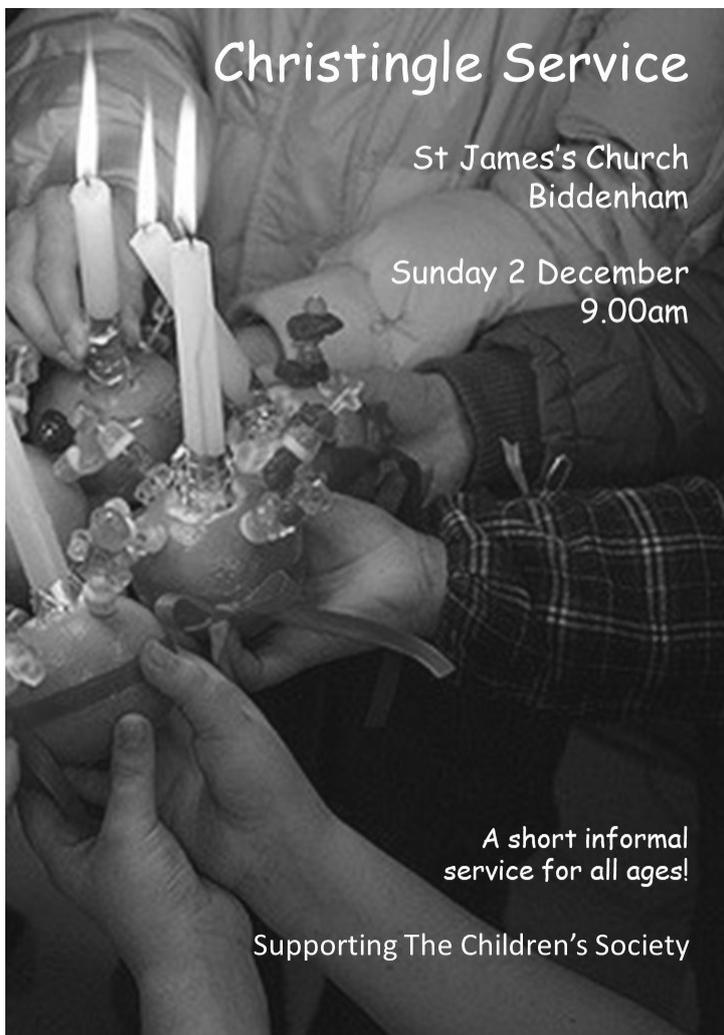
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Christingle Service

St James's Church
Biddenham

Sunday 2 December
9.00am

A short informal
service for all ages!

Supporting The Children's Society

Fine Italian Cuisine



Available for
 Private Hire & Conference
 Open all day Sunday
 Wedding Breakfasts & Evening Buffets
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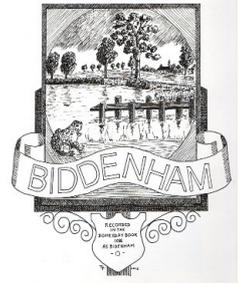
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ryangascoynephg@gmail.com



The Biddenham Society



I'm sure many of you will be pleased to hear that the Planning Team at Bedford Borough Council will be recommending that the Planning Committee refuse the application for the Gold Lane Development when it meets on 29th October. They advise that the development would undermine the development plan objective of preserving the urban open space and gap which exists between Biddenham and Bromham in order to protect the character, setting and identity of the two settlements. In particular the development would impact on views across to the open countryside and would physically and visually erode the clear identity and visual break between the settlements of Bromham and Biddenham. This would be harmful to the character and appearance of the area and would compromise the integrity and purpose of the urban open space and gap designation.

They also advise that the application breaches a wide range of policies which I won't bore you with now. So Round 1 to us and well done and many thanks to those of you who mobilised yourselves and actively voiced your concerns.

More centrally to the village, an application (18/02589/FUL) has been submitted to construct a two storey property and garage on the site behind the war memorial and immediately to the west of Lavender Lodge, Main Road, with access to the road across the wide grass verge.

The initial impression is that such a development will detract from the ambience of this important part of the village, surrounded as it is with a number of historic and listed buildings. Closing date for responses is 14th November 2018.

This application and all other planning matters affecting the village will be discussed at the Biddenham Society's AGM and Lunch on 4th November 2018. Please contact Garry at gfitzhugh5@gmail.com for tickets.



W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

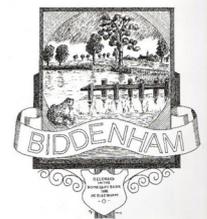
Auction Advice?

If you have an individual item or a collection that you are thinking of selling, we would be delighted to provide complimentary valuation advice.

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The Biddenham Society



54th Annual Lunch and AGM

SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2018, 12.30 pm, Village Hall

Tickets: Adults £7 Children £3 from Garry Fitzhugh, 69 Church End, tel: 07778 004749. Late bookings can be accepted by telephone up to noon on Thursday 1st November on a 'pay on the day' basis.

Find out about new planning applications, decisions and appeals relating to the village. Receive an up-to-date briefing on the proposed huge housing development west of Gold Lane, the current status of the borough's local plan, and any imminent threats to Biddenham.

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

New residents are especially welcome.

*******A FEW PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE, BUT BOOK QUICKLY*******

Celebrating and preserving Biddenham's beauty and heritage

Christmas Tree Festival

This will be the 18th year that the Festival has taken place in the centre of Bedford in support of St Paul's Church and the Bedford Hospital Charity.

Many see this as their start to Christmas, to see our historic and beautiful St Paul's Church lit by over 60 trees decorated by so many community groups, schools and firms. This year we are building on this tradition of community involvement by reflecting our diverse cultural identity in the 2018 theme *Christmas Around the World*.

If you wish to book a tree to decorate please ring 340163. The cost is £15 to decorate a tree or £30 to decorate it and take it home after the event.

There will be a photography competition and choirs of all ages singing throughout each day adding to the magical Christmas atmosphere. On Saturday 8th December at 10.30am you can see the Biddenham Handbell ringers.

On Friday evening at 7.30pm we will be holding the much enjoyed Festival Concert.

Further details are available at www.facebook.com/bedfordchristmastreefestival.

Ann Collett-White

A solitary life

Nearly two thousand years ago in an obscure village, a child was born of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village where He worked as a carpenter until he was thirty. Then for three years He became an itinerant preacher.

This Man never went to college or seminary. He never wrote a book. He never held a public office. He never had a family nor owned a home. He never put His foot inside a big city nor travelled even 200 miles from His birthplace. And though he never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness, throngs of people followed Him. He had no credentials but Himself.

While He was still young, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His followers ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was sentenced to death on a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, the simple coat He had worn. His body was laid in a borrowed grave provided by a compassionate friend.

But three days later this Man arose from the dead; living proof that He was, as He had claimed, the Saviour whom God had sent, the Incarnate Son of God.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure of the human race. On our calendars His birth divides history in two eras. One day of every week is set aside in remembrance of Him. And our two most important holidays celebrate His birth and resurrection. On church steeples around the world His cross has become the symbol of victory over sin and death.

This one Man's life has furnished the theme for more songs, books, poems and paintings than any other person or event in history. Thousands of colleges, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions have been founded in honour of this One who gave His life for us.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned have not changed the course of history as much as this One Solitary Life.

Over the centuries millions have found a new life of forgiveness from sins and peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Today He offers this life to all who will believe in Him. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus said, "no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 14:6, 5:24).

Attributed to James Allan Francis 1926



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

5 to 9 December 2018

ST PAUL'S CHURCH ST PAUL'S SQUARE, BEDFORD MK40 1SQ

Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th December	10.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 9th December	12noon - 4.00pm

Admission: £2.50 Children under 16 free entry

Daily Concerts by Community Groups

'Philharmonia Chamber Players' Concert
Friday 7th December at 7.30pm

Photography Competition 

More information: www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk
01234 340163 www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

Like us on  **Bedford Christmas Tree Festival**



Charity no. 299250



Charity no. 113461



Philharmonia Chamber Players

THE FESTIVAL CONCERT ON FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
ST PAUL'S SQUARE, BEDFORD MK40 2SQ

TICKETS £16 INCLUDES MULLED WINE & A MINCE PIE

The Philharmonia Chamber Players are a unique feature of the Philharmonia Orchestra.

It showcases a rich variety of repertoire for smaller ensemble formed from within the Orchestra.

The six string players will delight the Christmas Tree Festival Concert audience with a performance of the Brahms String Sextet No.2 in G major op.36, followed by a selection from Piazzola, Gershwin and Cole Porter.




Bedford Hospitals Charity



St Paul's Church

More information: **01234 783181** www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk
01234 340163 www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk



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- 30 hour funded places available

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DROP INS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NURSERY IN ACTION, PLEASE COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR DROP IN SESSIONS:

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER (10-11AM)
FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER (1-2PM)

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www.stjosephsandstgregorys.com

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Extensive Bar Menu available 12-6 every day

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

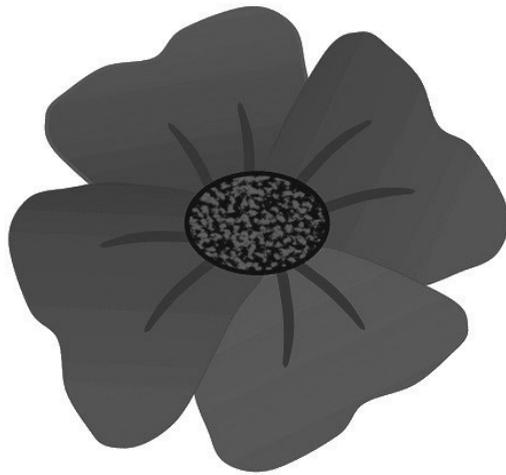
Home cooked children's meals

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

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





1914-1918

**What World War I means to the people of
the parish of St James**

To mark the centenary of the end of World War I, St James's Church and The Loop have been collecting the stories of both the men recorded on the village war memorial and the stories of the men related to current residents. We've been overwhelmed by the stories readers have sent in. We are now exploring a plan for a formal book of remembrance which will include the dead of both world wars but for now we remember the men who served in that World War I.

There are tales of great bravery and fortitude but also frequently tales of survivors reluctant to talk at all about their traumatic experiences. At least four signed up under-age. You needed to be 19 to serve overseas. Two were killed whilst still teenagers, and two other teenagers survived, one with terrible injuries. Other, older men signed up knowing full well the scale of the danger they faced, leaving behind young wives and small children. One spent most of the year injured in a prisoner of war camp. Another was one of the first victims of a gas attack. Many died in action. Those who returned were often shattered men. The impact on both the survivors and the bereaved families back home was immense and lasting. We start with the details we have about the men listed on the village war memorial and then move on to the relatives of current residents.

The Men on the Biddenham War Memorial who died in the Great War

Algernon Armstrong lived in Ford End. He joined the East Kent Regiment as a private. He was killed in France and Flanders on Friday 10th August 1917.



John Davison was born in Biddenham and lived here till he joined the Machine Gun Corps. He became a Lance Corporal. He was terribly injured in battle and died of his wounds on 8th June 1918.

Alfred Dudley was born in Haynes but lived in Biddenham. He was one of many who volunteered when war broke out in 1914. He served in the Bedfordshire Regiment as a Private and fought in the battles of Festubert, Loos and Arras. He was killed in action at Vimy Ridge. Had

he lived he would have been awarded three separate medals.

Wilfred Herring was born in Essex but lived in Fairmead in Biddenham with his parents William and Henrietta. He became a rifleman in the Royal Irish Rifles. He was terribly injured in battle. He died of his wounds on Wednesday 15th February 1917. He was 24.

James Plain lived in Bedford and served as a private in the Northamptonshire Regiment. He was killed in action on Sunday 20th August 1916. He was just 29 and had a wife called Mary.

Thomas Riddy lived with his wife in Avenue Cottage, Biddenham. His parents lived in Stagsden. He became a Lance Corporal in the East Anglian Division. He was sent home and died, we assume of his injuries, on 24th June 1915 aged 33. He is buried in Stagsden.



Walter Rowney lived with his wife Emily in Church End. His parents lived in Stevington. He became a Private in the Labour Corps. He died of his injuries three months after the war ended and is buried in Belgrade. He was 28.

It's not clear whether **Greville Havergal Shaw** and **Giles Havergal Shaw** were brothers or cousins. Giles served as a Lieutenant in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was killed in action in the battle of Arras on 11th April 1917. Greville meanwhile became a Major in the Canadian Engineers who were used to repair roads, dismantle booby trap bombs and many other dangerous tasks. On 3rd November 1918 Greville went off on a motorbike at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to scout out the roads ahead before his company advanced. That was the last time his comrades saw him alive. He is buried in France. He was 28.



Richard Wright was born in Kempston and lived in Duck End Lane with his parents Frederick and

Eliza. He knew both the Shaws and Thomas Riddy. According to family memory, Richard was one of many boys who managed to sign up under age. He became a private in the Bedfordshire Regiment and ended up fighting in the Battle of Passchendaele where he was killed on 30th October 1917. Official records say he was 19 when he died but the family believe he was actually just 18. His name is recorded at the Tyne Cot cemetery near Passchendaele. Richard's great niece Rhoda Brooks still lives in Duck End Lane. When her grandson tried to find out, as part of a school project, where exactly the teenager was buried, the War Graves Commission told the 13-year-old schoolboy that there was no known grave and that Richard's body would still 'be in the mud'. Rhoda's grandfather **Percy Callaby**, who married Richard's sister, also served in the war, working with the horses. He survived.



Relatives of current residents

Both of Hugh Clifton's grandfathers served in World War 1.

Lieut. Colonel Harry Arthur Clifton, Scottish Horse, served at Gallipoli and Salonika while **Lieutenant Alan Hermitage Self**, Royal Garrison Artillery, served at Passchendaele where Richard Wright

of Biddenham was killed. Hugh doesn't remember his grandfathers but does remember his Great-Uncle **Brigadier-General Lewis Pugh Evans**, of the Black Watch & Lincolnshire Regiment who probably stayed in Biddenham as the regiment was temporarily based in the village in 1914. Pugh Evans later became commanding officer of the Lincolnshire Regiment.



On 4th October 1917, at Zonnebeke, Belgium, he won the Victoria Cross. The citation for his VC describes how while leading his men across no-man's-land, 'through a terrific enemy barrage', he rushed at an enemy machine gun emplacement 'and by firing his revolver through the loophole forced the garrison to capitulate.' Despite being badly wounded, he refused to be bandaged, 'and again led his battalion forward.' Finally he was wounded again and 'collapsed from loss of blood'. Perhaps the most moving comment is that 'as there were numerous casualties, he refused assistance, and by his own efforts ultimately reached the Dressing Station.'

Charles Duchenne's father, **Charles Emile Eugene Duchenne**, born 20th March 1889 in Paris, fought in the French army during World War I, first of all as a stretcher bearer (*brancadier*) and then as a corporal in the 417th Infantry regiment, ending his time in the army at the battle of the Somme where shortly before that battle began a shell exploded near him and injured his right arm so that it had to be amputated at the shoulder.

He was awarded the Legion d'honneur, the Croix de Guerre avec Palmes, and the Medaille Militaire. During World War II, he joined General de Gaulle's army on the day the General made his appeal to the French in England to join his forces, and served as an interpreter until 1944. He and Charles' mother lived

in England after the war and he died, in Ware, Hertfordshire, on 8th November 1961.

Heather Marks' great uncle, **Sergeant Arthur Oliver** sailed from New Zealand in June 1915 with the Otago Infantry Regiment. He was 22 years old, one of a family of seven sons and two daughters whose parents had immigrated to Dunedin in 1876. He fought at Gallipoli, in France and Belgium. Arthur was injured four times, each time being nursed back to health in England before being returned to the trenches. He was killed close to Polygon Wood, 24th November 1917, near to Ypres and lies in the Buttes New British Cemetery. His death had a devastating effect on his family in New Zealand.

Peter Marks' grandfather **Harry Marks** was called up in 1917 and enlisted as a private with the Honourable Artillery Company. The War was going badly at this stage and conscription was extended to include married men under 41. Harry, 37, was a bootmaker and outfitter, living with his wife Kate and their two children, Mary, aged seven, and John, six, above the shop, in Bedford. He left for France knowing full well the scale of the slaughter he was joining and the risk that he would never return. Mercifully, he survived and did return to his family.



All three of the Wilmott men sent to fight in France survived the war - **Billy Wilmott** and **Sammy Wilmott**, both from Hitchin and **Cecil Wilmott** from Muswell Hill, London.

Billy (seen above with his dog) was a trained carpenter and served with the Royal Field Artillery as a wheeler, responsible for repairing and maintaining the gun carriages. He became an officer and transferred to the Royal Artillery.

Cecil served with the Honourable Artillery Company and also served as an officer. Sammy is believed to have served with the Herts & Beds. He was injured, left unable to use his left arm properly and awarded a pension of 10 shillings a week. Trissa Wilmott's aunt served as a nurse at the Hatfield Hospital in Hertfordshire, treating the injured.

Two great uncles of Kathy Fricker were killed in the war. **Robert Young** served as a Gunner with the 298th Siege Battery of the Royal Artillery Garrison. They dealt with the largest guns and howitzers. He was killed in action on 24th April 1918 (the time of the Ludendorff Offensive). He is buried in Godewaersvelde Cemetery in Nord, France, near to Cassel and 2 kilometres from the Belgian border. He was 30 years old and left a widow and young son in London. **William Ramsay Dalziel** came from North Shields, Tyneside and served in the Cameronians, 1st Battalion, Scottish Rifles. He was killed in action on 24th October 1918 during the final fighting around St Quentin in N. France when the Armistice was already being negotiated. He is buried in the Inchy Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France along with over 50 other WW1 casualties who all fell in October 1918. He was 34 years old and left a widow and young daughter at home. He is also commemorated on the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.



Part of the Scottish National War Memorial

Richard Church's grandfather **Robert Shaw** worked as a groomsmen and coachman at Cranfield Court before moving to take up a position at the Biddenham Manor. He married Alice and lived at Dawn Cottage. Although he was forty, married with three children he felt it was his duty to serve his country at the outbreak of the war. He volunteered in September 1914 and became a sergeant in the Army Veterinary Corps, serving throughout the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. He was then drafted to Egypt where he saw action at Magdhaba. Later he was sent to Palestine and played a prominent part during engagements in Gaza, Damascus and Jerusalem under General Allenby's Offensive in 1918. Fortunately, he returned home in one piece

Anne Church's father **John Leonard Garland**, the ninth and youngest child of a farming family, volunteered to serve at the outbreak of war. Despite being under age - he was just 16 - he was enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders. He was posted to Bedford for training before serving in France and Italy. John survived but never mentioned his traumatic experiences of the war. His elder brother James was killed in action in France aged 29.

Julia Johnson's grandfather **Percy Hughes** was already a serving soldier before war broke out. The family have photographs of him with five colleagues on horseback which they think was taken in France. Percy was mentioned in a dispatch on 30th April 1916 by General Sir Douglas Haig. He survived the War but it left him profoundly deaf; nevertheless he was a very proud member of the 'Old Contemptibles'.

Madeline Fone's grandfather **Charles Hearsom** signed up aged 18. During six months service in Africa, rations were so short that his weight dropped from c11 stone to c7 stone and a half. He was then sent back to Europe, served in the Ypres area and fought at Passchendaele, experiencing the first gas attacks. During the Battle of the Somme he was captured in a trench with four comrades and was blown up by a German shell. Of the five soldiers, two were killed and Charles was only saved by his leg twitching when the burial party came. He remembered nothing from the explosion until he 'came to' 9 days later on Birmingham Snow Hill railway station feeling



Thiepval France

perishingly cold. He was sent back to France and was in Peronne when the war ended. He continued to vomit from the side effects of the gas for at least seven years after the war ended. Charles had four brothers, including **Samuel Hearsom** who served in Russia and **Temple Hearsom** who was hit by shrapnel and had pieces lodged in his body. Madeline's father remembers Temple coughing so badly as if trying to cough it up. Temple could not be operated on and eventually died from the wounds (stomach and lungs) in early 1928, aged 34. The brothers' cousin **Albert Hearsom** served in 10th Battalion Essex Regiment and died on 8th August 1918. He is buried at Dive Copse British Cemetery Sailly-Le-Sec, in the Somme.

Joyce Ellis's father, and Clare Sugar's grandfather **John Frederick Strong**, volunteered to join the Royal Engineers in 1914. During the course of one of the battles the men in his charge were having great difficulty in maintaining communications under the very heavy German shell-fire. The first soldier he deputed to repair the cable was killed, and was replaced by a

second one. Shortly afterwards he was also shot down. John decided not to risk the life of a third man. Instead he himself took on the repairs task, despite the danger, and managed to renew and maintain communications until the battle was over. In September 1915 he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. In March 1918 he was badly gassed during military operations and was invalided out of the army. Medics advised him that to return to Leeds, a smoggy industrial city, was the last thing his lungs required. Instead he and his wife settled in Biggleswade and had three children. He lived there happily until his death aged 84.

Jan Page's great great uncle Private **Thomas Meadows**, Army Number: 24393 of the 8th Gloucestershire Regiment enlisted during August 1915. His first - and last experience of combat was during the Battle of the Somme. He went into the line on 3rd July 1916 and was killed the same day aged 38. He left behind a wife and four children. According to historical records: 'Thomas Meadows' body was found lying in a captured German trench (which

presumably he helped capture) however it was lost in subsequent fighting and he has no known grave'. His sacrifice in 'the war to end all wars' is commemorated on three war memorials: Thiepval France (shown opposite) Podington Church and Wotton-Under-Edge.

Cliff Page's great uncle was 3389 Private **George Herbert Emons** 2/7 - 1/7 Middlesex Regiment, known to his family as Dunlop. "Dunlop" was of French Huguenot descent and joined a pals' regiment in Hornsey London during 1914 and was demobilised in 1918. He fought against the Turks at the Suez Canal, Gallipoli and Dardanelles before being posted to France where he was in action against the Germans at the Battles of the Somme, Arras, Ypres Cabricia and the Western Front. His name is on a medal entitlement list of twelve men, eight of whom were killed. There is no mention of any injured. Dunlop returned home physically well but mentally destroyed. He lived out the rest of his life as a recluse in the attic of Cliff's widowed grandmother's house (her husband died of Spanish flu shortly after the end of the war). To quote her 'Dunlop didn't eat enough to keep a canary alive but survived on whisky and cigarettes'. He occasionally ventured downstairs to read newspapers and always when Cliff and his mother visited which seemed to cheer him up. He never spoke about the war or the hate, horror, death and destruction he had witnessed. His name does not



William Culverwell, who joined up aged 19, with fellow recruits in Devon. William is third from left with cloth cap on

appear on any war memorials or military rolls of honour, he died a broken man who had given his life away in all but name for his and our country.

Peter Culverwell's father **William Norman Culverwell**, joined up in 1914, aged 19, in a Devonshire Regiment and served most of the war in what is now Iraq, guarding oil wells.

Peter's grandfather **William Evelyn Alston**, joined the R.A.M.E in 1914 aged 46, and served in France in the Base Hospital in Le Havre. The family still have his regimental sword and campaign medals.

Peter's great uncle **Ernest Alfred Alston**, had already served in the South African War with the Northampton Regiment. He was sent to France in 1915 and was killed on 11th August 1917 as a major in command of the 10th Battalion of the D.C.L.I aged 39.

Glenys Culverwell's father **William**



William Alston



William Davies

Henry Davies joined up in 1914, also as a teenager, served in the trenches and it's believed he never spoke of his experiences.

The father of Glenys' cousin Margaret, **Thomas Reece Wild**, enlisted in Carmarthen and was killed in action in Flanders on 13th April 1918. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal 'for conspicuous gallantry and initiative during an attack. Seeing an enemy machine gun causing heavy casualties, this man collected a few men and rushed the gun, capturing it and killing the team. Later he bayoneted two enemy snipers who were causing casualties to his company crossing a canal. He showed splendid courage.' Thomas is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium.

Diana Shooter's grandfather **John (Jack) West** joined up at the start of the war, aged 25. As he had driven the lorry for the family business, he was first deployed as a driver before ending up fighting in the trenches. He became sick and was examined by a doctor (Jack would say the doctor was the first black man he had ever met). The doctor told him he had three separate illnesses and needed to be discharged. Despite returning home, Jack re-enlisted as a machine gunner, a role with a high mortality rate. He was issued with two sets of buttons - one brass set emblazoned with the picture of a machine gun and a plain set he was supposed to swap them for if he was about to be captured because the enemy would kill machine gunners rather than take them alive. Jack used to wait for the bagpipes to play when an attack was launched, spot the source of the enemy fire which would then be unleashed in the direction of the bagpipes and then train his own

machine gun on the enemy guns. His family believe he survived because he was already an accomplished hunter and marksman before the war. He rarely talked about his experiences.

Ann Manze's grandparents, who were of German descent, sent two sons to fight for the British in World War I. Both were killed in their twenties. The eldest, **Herbert Schneider** was posted as a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers to the West African Frontier Force almost immediately after the war broke out. He fought in the conflict on the border of the German colony of Kamerun where he was killed just three months later, aged 26, on 5th December 1914. As the war progressed, the family chose to change their name from the German Schneider because of the difficult circumstances of the war. Herbert's younger brother was therefore called **Walter Forestier**. In 1916, Walter was serving with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in France with the rank of Captain when he was awarded the MC. In early 1918 he was part of General Allenby's expeditionary force fighting the Turks in the Middle East, and was killed at Tel Asur on 12th March 1918, aged 28.

Herbert and Walter's great nephew Andrew, Chief Conductor of an orchestra in Hanover and Deputy Chief Conductor of the RLPO, is conducting the Britten War Requiem in Hanover on 3rd November and again in Liverpool Cathedral on 10th. Half the musicians and choristers from both Hanover and Liverpool will be performing on each occasion. It was Andrew's idea to get the nationalities together at this time and worth noting that there is almost no recognition of the Armistice in Germany, quite understandably.

Clive Sugar's great uncle **Malam (Max) Brothers**, a solicitor, enlisted with the 2nd/4th Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment as soon as war broke out in September 1914, even though he had a wife and a child. The battalion was stationed in Colchester but was sent to France in 2017 to hold the front line (1,200 yards in length) at Cambrin near the La Basse canal. The front-line consisted of a line of lookout posts with patrols along a broken down trench. The posts were connected by tunnels and the two companies which held the front-line lived in

dugouts in these tunnels. At 4.30am on Whit Monday, the day before they were due to be relieved, Max was shot through the head by a sniper and died immediately. He was buried in the Cambrin Military Cemetery, Row J, Grave No.47. The cemetery is situated 8 km east of Bethune on the road to La Basse. He is also commemorated on his parents' grave in Balderstone Churchyard, nr Blackburn, Lancs, and on the memorial in the Chapel of Clare College Cambridge shown below.

Peter Applewhite's father's cousin **William Edgar Applewhite** enlisted in November 1916, aged 18. He served as a Private in the 9th and 17th Battalions, City of London Regiment, the Royal Fusiliers. He was killed in action, aged just 19, on 3rd May 1917 on the Western Front during the Battle of Arras, which cost more casualties per day on average than either the Battle of the Somme or Third Battle of Ypres, and is buried in Canadian Cemetery No 2, Neuville St Vaast, Pas de Calais, France in the shadow of Vimy Ridge. William's name is recorded on the War Memorial in the city of Lincoln. He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Patricia Applewhite's grandfather **James Edward Elliott** was already a serving soldier when war broke out so was among the first troops to be sent to France on 12th August 1914, just eight days after war was declared. He was shot in the left hand and the chest on 1st September 1914 during



the James Elliott

fierce fighting in the retreat from Mons. He was captured and held as a prisoner of war until June 1918. He reached England in October 1918, was treated in hospital and discharged on medical grounds. He was subsequently awarded the 1914 Star Medal, the Victory Medal and the British War 1914-19 Medal. He was a member of the Old Contemptibles, an association of all ranks who had fought in France and Flanders within the range of enemy artillery between 5th August and 22nd November 1914 and who had been dubbed "a contemptible little army" by the German Kaiser. Patricia's other grandfather, **James Horace Robinson** served in the Army during the Great War,





James Robinson

probably from some point in the second half of 1915: it hasn't been possible to date to find his Service Record, many having been destroyed by enemy action in the Second World War. From the Medal Roll and his Medal Card we know James first served in the Lincolnshire Regiment and subsequently in the South Wales Borderers, he is wearing the insignia of that regiment in the photo above.

He fought at Passchendaele, and is believed to have been mentioned in despatches. At the conclusion of the war, James served in the Rhineland Army of Occupation in Cologne and returned home in 1919. James was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

David Slark's grandfather **Herbert Chiles** joined the Royal West Kent regiment and embarked for France just two days after the birth of his daughter Lilian (David's mother). He was killed on 5th May 1915 in one of the first gas attacks on Hill 60, a notorious area near Ypres which was fought over several times. Herbert's early death had a devastating effect on David's grandmother who was left a widow with two young children. She never married again and worked as a waitress to make ends meet.

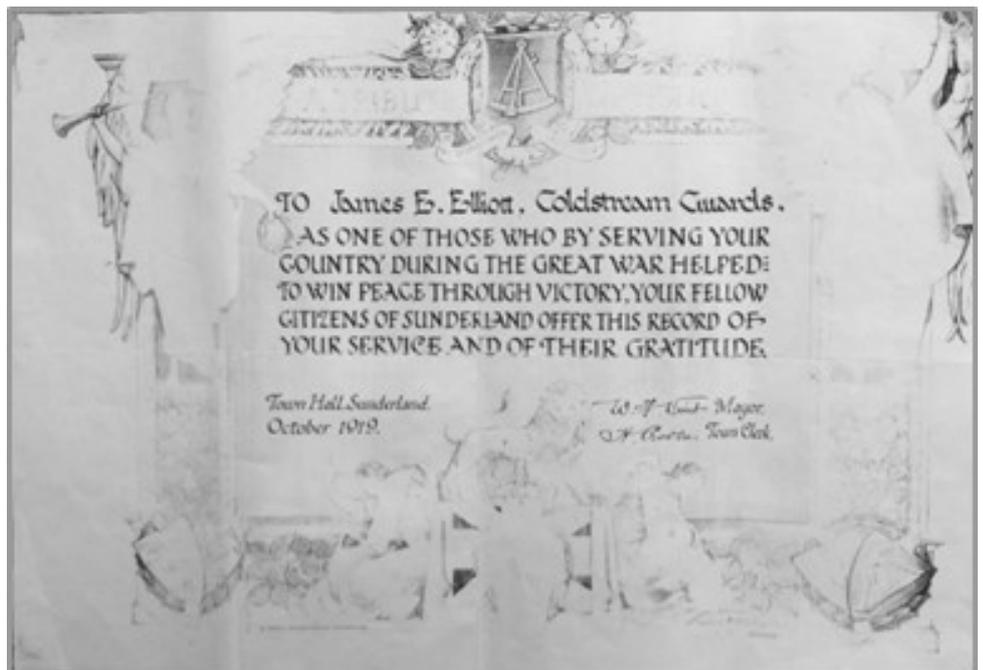
Francia Slade's grandfather **Henry William Kent** was a plumber's journeyman when called up for World War 1. No dentists were sent with the troops and dental hygiene

was somewhat lacking with toothache a constant misery. It was not long before "Harry" became in great demand as he was experienced at using pliers. The men claimed an extraction was almost painless when performed by him. His skill was recognised by the army and he received a case of dental instruments. When he left the army he set up a successful dental practice in Norwich with a branch at Holt, Norfolk – probably one of the few who gained a qualification and success from World War 1.

Kate Smith's great grandmother, another Kate always considered herself lucky. She waved all three of her sons off to the war and only lost **Cyril Marsden**, who was killed in Flanders aged just 21. Kate Marsden had friends who lost much more. At least two of her sons returned but both **Arthur Marsden** and **George Marsden** were changed men. Arthur had served in the Royal Navy, survived being torpedoed and returned a traumatised man. He was cared for, for the rest of his life, by his sister. George was another boy who signed up under age, at just 17. He would go on to win the Military Cross for defending a post and holding off the enemy single-handedly. He also went behind enemy lines to save two of his friends who had got trapped. George developed tuberculosis in the trenches, which left him with life long ill health and lost his hearing in

one ear. He never spoke of his experiences apart from once letting slip that he had to eat meals in the mud surrounded by bodies. Kate Smith's great great uncle **Jack Taylor** ran away and joined up under age, either 15 or 16. He was shot in the head after jumping into an enemy trench. He survived, was rescued by his comrades, treated and discharged home to his parents. There was little understanding then of the mental impact of such injuries. His father, a vicar, tried to keep him occupied, giving him work as the organist in church but Jack became an alcoholic and died a convicted thief in Strangeways Prison. His sisters and nieces always gave money to the Salvation Army. They said they were the only people who ever tried to help.

Jean Gambold and Valerie Blacknell's grandfather, **Gilbert Cooper**, served as a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps in France. He was invalided home suffering from pneumonia and ended the war working in a munitions factory in Lancashire. This doesn't seem like ideal convalescence but he went on to marry and have two sons both of whom served in the second world war.



In October 1919 James Elliott was awarded a Tribute of Honour parchment certificate, presented by the Mayor of Sunderland at a reception at the Town Hall for Wearside survivors of the Great War and families of the deceased.



Prayer of the month

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in love, gave himself up for the sake of the world,
bring to mind the cost of hatred, prejudice and conflict,
that our hearts,
in penitence,
may be guided in the way of peace,
Through Christ our redeemer,
Amen

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It must be autumn again

The nuts are falling from the trees in our fields, being collected by hand and cracked. The kernels are then squirrelled (!) away for the winter. The trees which are too old or who are no longer fruitful are felled. Very biblical I am sure, but I am glad that I am not a tree. Jean-Luc turns up with some of the last of his tomato crop plus a kilo of this autumn's honey from his hives. A flock of 800 sheep from the cause (the plateau on the top of the hill) are brought down to our valley to eat what is left after the fields have been harvested. They are clearly good Catholic sheep, because every day they all baa together at about Angelus time for 5 solid minutes. 800 sheep baaing together make a dickens of a noise, but apparently they were telling the Good Lord that He was the very best baa none. They disappeared yesterday back up to the Causse de Vers, the village on the top of the hill. Of course, they went by road. A flock of sheep goes at about 1 kilometre per hour and Le Causse de Vers is 2 kilometres away. There is no other road. Too bad if you have an important appointment in the village and you are behind the flock. The wood stack is being cut into stove sized bits. It's 27 celsius outside, there's a storm forecast for tonight and in 4 days the maximum temperature will be 13 celsius.

What's next? Probably Christmas and after that the Alpha course.

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This month in the garden

After weeks of being passed by when most of the country was getting some rain we have, at last, had a significant amount of rain. The water butts have been filled up and my pond water level is where it should be. The rain comes too late to make a lot of difference to the immediate appearance of the garden but let's hope it's the beginning of normal rainfall to prepare for next year's gardening, and that is really the main gardening theme for this time of year; looking ahead, preparing and planning for next year.

Uppermost in my mind is the state of the lawns. A day's rain some while ago led to some recovery but there are still many large bare patches of dead grass which have left the lawns looking very unsightly. I have wondered about re-sowing these patches but they make up a big area and I have decided to wait till next spring to see what recovers naturally. Scarifying and aerating lawns will help recovery. Small areas can be done with a fork and rake but larger areas are best done by hiring the necessary tools or using one of the professional lawn care companies.

In the garden generally, many plants will have been left stressed by heat and lack of water and they will need attention to get them back into good shape. Dead stems and foliage can be cut down now or left until February to keep seed heads to feed the birds or to enjoy the look of uncut stems on a frosty morning. Where you have seed heads of plants that self-sow prolifically it's a good idea to cut the seeds off before they spread but it is probably a bit late for this now. Clear away competition from weeds where these have been brought on by the rain and then provide frost protection and subsequent nourishment and keep moisture in the soil by mulching. The addition of fertiliser is best left until spring when plants come into growth.

We can't tell whether we shall have a hard or a mild winter but it is best to be prepared for the worst. Perhaps I should say "the best" because hard frosts break up the soil and reduce pest infestations. I like the seasons to do what, traditionally, they are supposed to do; be cold in the winter and warm (not too hot) in the summer with times of great beauty in between for spring and autumn. The warm autumn may have tempted you to leave tender plants growing outside but they do need to be brought inside or wrapped up. Horticultural fleece is the best thing to use for covering shrubs and can be used in single or double layers. It is cheapest to buy this in bulk in a roll on-line or by mail order from a catalogue. You can tie it on with garden twine or clip it with clothes pegs; either to the shrub itself or gathered sections of the fleece. Plants, such as overwintering lettuce or spring cabbage, can be protected with glass or plastic cloches.

November is a good time for planting roses, trees and

deciduous shrubs, fruit bushes and summer fruiting raspberry canes and these are all cheaper if bought bare rooted rather than in a container. The general rule is to plant at the same depth as the soil level revealed on the stem. As you dig the hole lay a stick or bamboo across hole and check that when the roots of the new plant are spread out on the bottom of the hole the soil level on the plant stem is level with the stick. Back fill with a mixture of soil and compost. Water well and keep new trees and shrubs watered weekly. Newly planted trees need staking, either vertically close to the trunk or at an angle with the stake driven in a couple of feet from the stem. If planting vertically drive the stake in before planting the tree to avoid damaging the roots. One exception to level planting is clematis which should be planted two or three inches below their original soil level. This is a valuable protection from the plant dying from clematis wilt. Wilt may still occur but, against all expectations, the clematis may well start shooting again. I have a clematis which did just that and it flowered late but well and it is still doing so.

Remember that November is the best time for planting tulips to keep them disease free. Broad beans and garlic can be started in the vegetable patch now.

Jeremy Arthern



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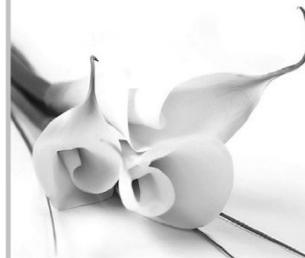
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Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th November
8pm
Biddenham Village Hall

Do you have any ideas on how the Village Hall could be improved or new ways that it could be used?

The Committee is open to hearing ideas about ways to improve the Hall. The Village Hall "belongs" to you, the residents of Biddenham, and the short AGM gives you a chance to hear about the management of the Hall and give your views. Please come along. If you can't make the meeting but have some bright ideas please contact any of the Committee or leave a message on the website.

Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee
www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk

Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 10th October 2018 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion.

Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold, Chris Gee, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Clerk Lyn Lyman, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and about eight members of the public were also present. Councillors Krzys Osuch, Alan Jacobs and Terry Platt sent their apologies.

Gold Lane

As I have previously recorded here, the traffic on Gold Lane is of great concern to us all. Preparatory to taking some sort of traffic calming measures, we have asked the Borough Council to carry out a speed survey. This is due to take place imminently, and will be completed by 12th November at the latest.

Houses west of Gold Lane

Councillor Gambold updated us about the outline planning application for 250 houses on the land west of Gold Lane. This is nearing the time when it will be deliberated by the Borough Council. As you may recall, the Borough had considered this application within the context of its 'Local Plan' for development across the borough between 2021 and 2035. This Local Plan has now been curtailed to run to 2030, and in the process delayed its adoption.

As such, Policy 19 within the Local Plan, which proposed allowing some (but not all) of these houses to be built, has not yet been ratified. Given the number of objections the good residents of Biddenham made to it, we are hoping it never will be. The sole protection therefore covering this land are existing policies (called AD42 and AD43) which are there to preserve the green belt between Biddenham and Bromham. This is nice and straightforward! Anyone in their right mind can surely see that the application conflicts with these protections.

Since the meeting, Borough have announced the application is to be determined on 29th October. The Borough's officers have recommended it be refused. This is very good news, and is mainly down to an officers' report which did indeed take the view that AD42/43 was contravened by the application. Another factor is the lack of available school places locally.

The Parish Council will continue to oppose this application, in its entirety, and any appeal or revised application. If you cannot attend our meetings, please keep an eye on this column for further updates.

Main Road footpath

We were all taken by surprise by the recent works to connect a domestic sewer to the 'Biddenham drain' which runs along Main Road. Some of you may recall we were going to have the footpath resurfaced over the summer, but the contractor let us down. Maybe they knew something we didn't; if it had been re-done, it would now have been dug up again!

Nearby, we have the unsightly fence alongside Lavender Lodge which was exposed by overgrown vegetation being removed late last year. Our meeting approved £500 to plant a new hedge here, which Chris Haydn Jones has kindly volunteered to organise. He hopes to have volunteers to help him, and to source new plants from a variety of places to keep costs low.

Since the meeting, the owner of Lavender Lodge has said they are prepared to pay for this hedge. The reason is they want to build a new house behind the fence, and have its access on to Main Road. The house will be set fairly well back, behind existing mature trees, and a hedge is part of the plan too. So the house will be well screened and, ultimately, I think we will see a pleasant frontage return to this part of the village centre. We intend to



proceed with the planting as planned, but with account taken of where the driveway will be.

Bromham Road resurfacing

A quick note unrelated to our meeting... In town, the Borough are resurfacing Bromham Road, all the way from just past the Ashburnham/Shakespeare junction to the heart of town. This is well under way, and should all be done by 9th November. It's being done in three phases: Shakespeare to Conduit, then on to Greyfriars, and then on to Dame Alice St. Almost all the work is happening at night, but with the road open during the day.

I'm sure we all look forward to a nice, smooth new road surface (all paid for from our council taxes). It certainly needs doing.

Our next meeting

We meet every second Wednesday of most months at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney, and very much welcome hearing from residents. There is a public 'open session' near the start for anyone wanting to say something. Please come along and let us know anything that's concerning you about our village, or just come and listen. The next meeting is on Wednesday 14th November.

Peter Chase
Chairman



Bedford
National Trust
Association



David
Butler

From Left to Right; Torch Bearer, This is Your Life!, With his daughter and grandson, with Dario Franchitti, Castle Combe 12th July

Tuesday 20th November 2018
2.30 at the Addison Centre

Our speaker was just 11 when a horrendous accident changed his life and future prospects dramatically.

He went on to;

- Head a \$750million division of an international company.
- He forced rule changes for the disabled in motor racing both Nationally and internationally.
- David was awarded an MBE in the 2010 New Year's Honour List for years of service to Disability Sport.
- He was an Olympic Torch Bearer and took part in the Paralympics Opening Ceremony.

I want you to hear how he coped with challenges in life and business with determination and a sense of humour.



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Biddenham Women's Group

The History of Telephone Kiosks

This is the report held over from last month.

The most iconic telephone kiosk is the red K6, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V in 1935 and every village that had a post office had one. That amounted to 8,000.

Our speaker for September, Helen Crabtree, taught in Walsall and when she and a fellow colleague were driving in the countryside and they passed an unusual post box her friend asked her to stop. They were doing a project and she had to have a photograph of the said post box. This made Helen look at all the post boxes she passed and it soon became a hobby and then an obsession. She was soon invited to speak to various groups and amassed a large collection of artefacts and among the red 'boxes' there was a different type of box; a red telephone kiosk, and there began another tale.

We learned something about the history of telephone kiosks from K1 to K8, the invention of mobile phones and the possible demise of phone boxes. (K9 appears in Dr Who!)

With Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone in 1876 came exchanges, 'offices', licences for companies and in 1884 the Telephone Service and a variety of telephone boxes. Helen showed us many examples of different structures, made of wood and metal, and the different colours they were painted. Some became quite elaborate and luxurious with electric light, chairs, clocks, note-pads, pencils etc and were too attractive to itinerants or vandals. One design was needed for the whole country. There was a delay, due to World War 1, but in 1921 Summerville and Co. produced K1, a red and white structure, some of which were thatched. Two of these still exist; one on the Isle of Wight and one in Dorset.

In 1923 a competition was organised to do K2 and was won by Giles Gilbert Scott, who came from a family of designers. These phone boxes were made of cast iron with a teak door and concrete or wooden bases and cost £40. They had to be painted bright red. Scott much preferred silver! Any of these that remain are listed buildings. There are two outside Burlington House.

K3 appeared in 1929. There were 12,000 made at a cost of £11 each. Four survive and you will find one near the Parrot House in London Zoo. 'Hello, hello!' can often be heard in the vicinity. K4, the Vermillion Giant, contained a post box and stamp machine on the side. Fifty of these were made and cost just over £50. K5, made of steel and plywood, could be purchased for special events.

The voice of Ethel Cain became well known in 1936 as the Speaking Clock and could be obtained by ringing 846 TIM – precisely!

The GPO wanted a new design, which saw the prototype form of K7 only. The jump to modernisation came in 1959 when Neville Conder was commissioned to design a new box, K8, which was mostly glass and at £100 each cost a lot to replace if vandalised. British Telecom announced that they would begin scrapping the red phone boxes in 1985 and it was then that a conservation group was set up to record and rescue as many as they could.

Helen had many pictures of these different kiosks to show us and artefacts from ear-rings to money boxes, models, table cloths and bags....

.....and if you want to 'bag a place' at one of our meetings, you will be most welcome. If the subject interests you, do come along. For £4.00 you can listen to our speaker, meet other people, have some refreshments and the chance to win a raffle prize.

The History of Hallmarking

Andrew Waite, the proprietor of Festoon UK, spoke to our group about the properties of amber two or three years ago and returned in October to talk about hallmarking.

Over 700 years ago, as an old form of consumer protection, jewellers and precious metal workers marked their work with personal stamps but in 1773 King Edward 1 introduced the first assay office. There are now four in Britain but several others around the world.

Birmingham, has an assay office mark of an anchor, Sheffield uses a rose, London a lion or leopard's head and Edinburgh a castle.

Along with the maker's mark, the assay mark, date mark and sponsor's mark may be a number signifying the parts per thousand of silver, gold or platinum.

Sterling silver has to contain 92.5% precious metal and includes a hard metal, such as nickel, to make it more durable. Britannic silver contains 958 parts to 1,000.

Gold is measured in karats as follows;

375 = 9 karat

585 = 14

750 = 18

916 = 22

99 = 24

Platinum has to contain 850 – 999 (parts out of a thousand).

Testing is done in a variety of ways. It may be done simply by using nitric acid or by using an XRF machine, which can measure the percentage of precious metal. Plasma optical machines are used for testing platinum.

Gold and silver are not magnetic so you can always try a simple test yourselves! Beware though for 'all that glitters is not gold'. (1596 edition of The Merchant of Venice). Jewellers can of course send your items to an assay office for verification. Since the Hallmarking Act of 2007 it is illegal to sell items as gold, silver or platinum unless they bear a hallmark.

We also learned about plating and gilding and, to whet our appetites for the next talk in the series, something about gemstones, which Andrew sources from places such as Australia, Brazil and Mexico. His jewellery was on sale at the end of the talk.

For more information go to <http://theassayoffice.co.uk/heritagehub/date-letters> and Andrew's website www.festoonuk.com.

On 13th November, at 2.00pm in the Church Barn, Kevin Varty will be telling stories about Joyce Grenfell in his talk entitled 'Dancing Bust to Bust'. Our meetings are open to all. Come and join us!

The name of the group will change in the New Year and will become THE BARN GROUP, which we feel is more inclusive.

Val Fitzhugh



London 1893

Nick Sleep
Proprietor

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Biddenham Gardeners Association A Zest for Herbs



The speaker at our meeting on 16th October was Caroline Holmes. Caroline is a well-known gardening author and lecturer who has written eleven books including works on garden history, studies of water lilies, herbs and dung, and books of general gardening advice. She has travelled widely giving lectures and speaking on cruises and giving tutorials.

Caroline started by giving us an opportunity to handle and smell a number of herbs with examples of myrtle, rosemary, lemon-scented geranium, golden bay, rue, fennel, lemon verbena, lavender and thyme. She spoke about their culinary uses, often with unusual examples such as rosemary used in biscuits or fennel seeds used for dieting because eating them makes you feel full very quickly. Lemon-scented geranium can be used in sponges or custard and rue is valuable as a laxative. Most of these herbs can be propagated by taking heel cuttings at this time of year. Trim a lot of the leaves off and plant in pots in compost with between a third and a half of the stem buried. Cover the pot with a plastic bag.

Caroline continued her talk with illustrations on the screen. There were illustrations of more herbs, with further culinary and quirky examples of the way they can be used, together with several instances of places where there are particularly good herb gardens which are practical as well as attractive and which demonstrate that, in the words of a seventeenth century garden writer, herbs are 'fit for use and delight'. Two such places easily accessible from Bedford are Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire and Woburn Abbey garden. Caroline also showed pictures of some fine French gardens beautifully laid out in a variety of formal patterns. One garden that Caroline designed for a client with a passion for cooking has separate beds for meat, fish and lemon-scented herbs. At Yalding in Kent Caroline designed a herb garden with three separate sections illustrating the evolution of herb gardens from the medieval apothecary's garden to the Tudor knot garden. A knot garden should look as if it has three threads with neither beginning nor end and can use different coloured plants for contrast.

We then saw some examples of massed planting of one kind of herb. One used chamomile as a seat so that the scent is released when the leaves are crushed and at Sulgrave Manor there is a planting of thyme on a raised bed where sitting on the prickly thyme is avoided by having an edge of flag stones built up on railway sleepers. At Woburn Abbey there is an attractive chamomile bed by the Folly.

Some of the finer-leaved herbs, known as Fines herbs, such as parsley, chervil, chives and French tarragon are best used chopped and folded into omelettes or salads rather than used for long cooking. The stalks of parsley and chervil can be used in bouquet garni and leek leaves can be used to make an envelope in which the bouquet garni herbs are wrapped. Amongst the many herbs that Caroline talked about were some unusual ones such as red orache which is best used just for its looks in salads or Tulbaghia used for its garlic/onion flavor.

Caroline continued her talk showing some examples of herbs used for topiary. Rosemary can be cut as a hedge. Myrtle can be used for topiary in place of box which has been destroyed by box blight and even lavender can be trimmed into a conical shape. She concluded by showing how herbs can be used in salads with a particular reference to fennel and salad rocket.

In a question and answer session Caroline spoke about preserving herbs. She thinks the best way is to freeze good sized stems or heads of herbs and break them off as needed. Mint jelly is another way and mint can also be used in apple or gooseberry jelly.

Our next meeting will be on 20th November when Simon White, Garden Centre manager at Beales Roses will speak on an A to Z of roses.

Jeremy Arthern

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

Café B helping others

You might be interested to know that the monthly Café B events are now regularly attended by up to 30 people and, although this is certainly not our objective, after expenses (Hall hire and supplies) we regularly make a surplus. We are delighted to have been able to make donations to a range of charities both local and national as follows:

2017 - £140

Save The Children	£40
Kings Arms Project	£50
Headway	£50

2018 - £150

Bedford Day Care Hospice	£50
Parkinson's	£50
Tibbs Dementia Foundation	£50

So we'd like to say a big thank you to our Café B regulars for their support and if you haven't been before, why not join us this month for coffee and homemade cake? We'd love to see you!

Judith O'Quinn

Café B...



*Tuesday 20th
November*

*Biddenham Village Hall
10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

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

Next café 18th December

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, 2nd November, 7th December

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

100 CLUB

September draw

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 1. | John Watson | 41 |
| 2. | Peter Culverwell | 175 |
| 3. | Glenn Taylor | 138 |

Drawn by Maggie Wilkinson



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

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

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

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 Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

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
7.00pm	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 3rd, 17th November

2.20pm-2.40pm

Biddenham

Thursdays 8th, 22nd November

Church End 10.00am-10.20am

Nodders Way 10.25am-10.50am

Remember your library card!



Welcome Packs for

New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

November

- Fri 2 Nov First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p23
 Sat 3 Nov Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20-2-40pm, see p23
Sun 4 Nov Fourth Sunday before Advent
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
 All Souls Service, St James's, **3.00pm**, see p2
 No evening service
 Sun 4 Nov Biddenham Society AGM & Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p6
 Tue 6 Nov Biddenham Village Hall AGM, 8.00pm, see p19
 Thu 8 Nov Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p23
 Sat 10 Nov Pond Autumn Work Morning, 10.00am, see p4
Sun 11 Nov Remembrance Sunday, Third Sunday before Advent
 Parish Communion at St James's with World War One stories, **9.00am**, see pp1, 9-16
 Service at Biddenham War Memorial, **10.50am**, see p1
 Evening Prayer at All Saints, **6.00pm**
 Tue 13 Nov Biddenham Women's Group, Chiurch Barn, 2.00pm, see p21
 Tue 13 Nov Cantamus, St Owen's Church, Bromham, 7.45pm, see p18
 Wed 14 Nov Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p20
 Fri 16 Nov Drop in session, St Joseph's & St Gregory's Nursery School, 10.00-11.00am, see p8
 Sat 17 Nov Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20-2-40pm, see p23
Sun 18 Nov Second Sunday before Advent
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
 Evensong, St James's, **6.00pm**
 Mon 19 Nov Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 8.00pm, see p4
 Tue 20 Nov Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p22
 Tue 20 Nov Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p3
 Tue 20 Nov Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.30pm, see p20
 Tue 20 Nov Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p22
 Thu 22 Nov Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p23
 Fri 23 Nov Drop in session, St Joseph's & St Gregory's Nursery School, 1.00-2.00pm, see p8
 Sat 24 Nov Red Cross Christmas Fair, Bedford School Great Hall, 10.00am-4.00pm, see p17
 Sat 24 Nov Youth Group, 27 St Mellion Drive, 4.00-6.00pm, see p17
Sun 25 Nov Sunday next before Advent, Christ the King
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
 No evening service
 Sun 25 Nov Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, 4.00-5.30pm, see p3

December

- Sun 2 Dec First Sunday of Advent**
 All Age Service, with Christingle St James's, **9.00am**, see p5
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
 5-9 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's church, Bedford, see p7
 Fri 7 Dec First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p23
 Fri 7 Dec Philharmonia Chamber Players, St Paul's church, Bedford, 7.30pm see p7
 Sat 8 Dec St James's Church Christmas Bazaar, Biddenham Village Hall, 2.00-4.30pm, see p3
 Tue 18 Dec Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p22
 Sun 23 Dec Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, St James's Church, 6.30pm, see p17
 Mon 24 Dec Carols in the Churchyard, St James's Church, 4.00pm, see p17

The Loop

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All **December/January** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to loopeditor@gmail.com or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close (cj.sugars@talktalk.net) by **Thursday 22nd November 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.

Contributors please note; the next edition of The Loop will cover both December and January.

For regular events listings see page 23