

The Loop

Dec 2018/
Jan 2019

£1.00

Centenary Remembrance

The efforts that went into marking this year's Remembrance Day in Biddenham and at St James's Church were much appreciated in the village.

'Tommy Atkins' (the silhouette soldier) took up his station at the War Memorial on 9th November and formed a natural part of the crowd at the well-attended service.

An edited version of the World War 1 memories published in last month's Loop was presented by young people at St James's church service. It was especially poignant as many of the presenters were of similar ages to those who fought. Details of the lives of Biddenham residents who fell in World War 1 were also read at the War Memorial.

Paul Fricker lead the service at the War Memorial, John Daniels lowered the flag, Joseph Mummery returned from his university studies in Sheffield to play the Last Post and the wreaths were laid by Peter Culverwell and Terry Platt.

There was also a display of Remembrance artwork by artists in Biddenham, Cranfield and the Rothsay Education Centre produced under the tutelage of David Lewry.

You will find more pictures inside on page 6.



We are grateful to St James' Primary School pupils for their Christmas drawings.

This one is by Ruby who is in Year 6.

You will find more pictures throughout the magazine.

Peter's Picturehouse
proudly presents



Date: Tuesday 4th December

Bar Open: 7:00pm

Film Showing Starts: 7:30pm

Location: Biddenham Village Hall

Come and join us at the **launch party** of Peter's Picturehouse for a **free** showing of the film of the story of Jane and Stephen Hawking starring **Eddie Redmayne** and **Felicity Jones**.

Wine, coffee, tea for sale along with ice creams

Next month:



To recover from NYE!

On: **Tuesday 1st January 2019**

At: **5.30pm in Biddenham Village Hall**

Normal ticket price: **£5**

Any questions: 07710288933; marihelen@btinternet.com

2019 Loop subscriptions now due Form enclosed

Your annual subscription to The Loop is now due. The price for the ten issues in 2019 will be £10 (minimum). Any profits go to the church funds so if you can manage to donate more, please do.

Please make cheques payable to Biddenham PCC.

Subscriptions should be delivered to Richard Harris, 6 Noddors Way or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive by 31st January please.

For more details about Peter's Picturehouse, see page 5.

'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



‘The Annunciation’

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

It is rare to find a picture so filled with light. It stands a little over two metres high in a shadowy corner of the Tate Britain, and it is a painting that I often visit. It was created by Arthur Hacker in 1892, and shows an almost Eden-like garden with a water ewer standing in the lower, left-hand corner. Centre stage is a solitary young girl, barely a woman, standing barefoot and meeting us directly with her gaze. Her head is covered and her gossamer clothes are draped before her, over a stone step. There are no obvious shadows in the image, except beneath her eyes, and a transparent, ghostlike angel hovers on her left, whispering in her ear. The title of the painting is ‘The Annunciation’ and it represents an angel disclosing to Mary that she will give birth to the Christ-child.

What must this young girl be feeling?

A room away, in the same building, is a sculpture of the naked Eve which Sir Thomas Brock had created just two years earlier. The journey between the two artworks is just a few short steps, yet it represents the journey of humanity from our fall into the abyss of sin in the Garden of Eden, to the new creation born into the world through the Christ-child.

It is the ancient representative story of humanity’s disobedience against God. Adam and Eve occupy the perfect garden and are simply commanded, by God, not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge. The serpent persuades Eve just to taste the sweet fruit that hangs from the tree. Eve gives into temptation, and then persuades Adam to follow. They are cast out from the Garden and everything is lost and hopeless. Lost and naked, Brock’s Eve bows her head with shame beneath her hair; in contrast to the detail of her body, her face is almost featureless. The figure expresses vulnerability and commands pity and not condemnation. Feminists are quick to remind us of the weakness of this. Women have, throughout history, been blamed for the fall of humanity, yet it is often man that has demonstrated the evil and cruelty of sin, and women who have had to pay the price.

Humanist philosophers have rejected the idea of the intrinsic failure of humanity, pointing to the strides we have made in medicines and technology. In addition to this, however, we now see the transparent greed of Black Friday, the demonstrative re-emergence of Nationalism and anti-Semitism. Even at the one hundred anniversary of the first world war there are no signs of the end of hatred and conflict. It is undeniable that the human heart is a broken commodity and social entropy reigns supreme.

Hacker’s Mary, in The Annunciation, bears the same shame as Eve but she has been given the advent assurance that she will be the vessel of light in the world. After almost an eternity of human despair, her face is unsure but the light of hope is ignited within her.

In the bible she speaks out loud the song of hope; My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for he has looked with mercy on his lowly servant. He will bring down the mighty from their thrones, and, has exalted the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with Good things, and sent the rich away, empty. This is done according to his promise made to Abraham, and God’s people forever.

In the picture Mary seems to glow with promise and hope, the promise of the fulfilment of God’s promises, the promise of Christmas.

Have a wonderful Advent, Christmas, and a very hopeful new year.

God bless,

Eric



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



We recently celebrated 'Friendship Week', a time to consider the relationships we enjoy with one another and celebrate the fact that despite all our differences, we are all part of one big family both in and beyond the school walls.

St James' is known for its caring and friendly atmosphere, which is underpinned by our Christian values of love, forgiveness, patience and koinonia; koinonia comes from the Greek and means coming together in fellowship and unity, and it's really important to us that we enjoy our time together and share all our gifts.



During Friendship Week, our Pupil Governors organised a number of events: they set up two fund raising events to support Cancer Research and Children in Need. We know it's important to show our love and friendship to strangers, as well as to each other. We also opened up 'St James' University': children across the school signed up to take courses not usually available at school, which

meant we were able to work with children from other year groups. Courses available included origami, cross stitching, friendship bracelet making, STEM (science technology maths), speedstackers, teambuilding, and yoga. Finally, we're running a 'St James' has Got Talent' event, with the finals due to take place shortly. This gives us a chance to highlight all the special gifts and talents which are present in our school.

Our Year 5 children thought really carefully about what it means to be friends with each other and with people we don't yet know. They collaborated to draft this poem, which was written in response to some of the really difficult issues raised recently in the media, both locally, nationally and internationally. I think there are definitely some adults who could learn a thing or two from our children!

Tear the walls down

By Peacock Class, St James' Primary School

Friends come together,

They don't break each other's hearts.

Other people have feelings too.

Never judge people by their skin colour.

Treat people the same way as you would like to be treated.

Never judge a book by its cover.

We are friends forever no matter what goes on.

Don't let judgement stop your friendships.

Let people celebrate your difference.

Let's make the world a more united place.

No matter where you come from or who you are,

You are still my friend, where ever you go.

So what? We are all God's children. So let's come together.

It doesn't matter what you are on the outside,

It only matters what you are on the inside.

You are born to stand out.

Get to know the person before you judge them.

Everyone is the same on the inside.

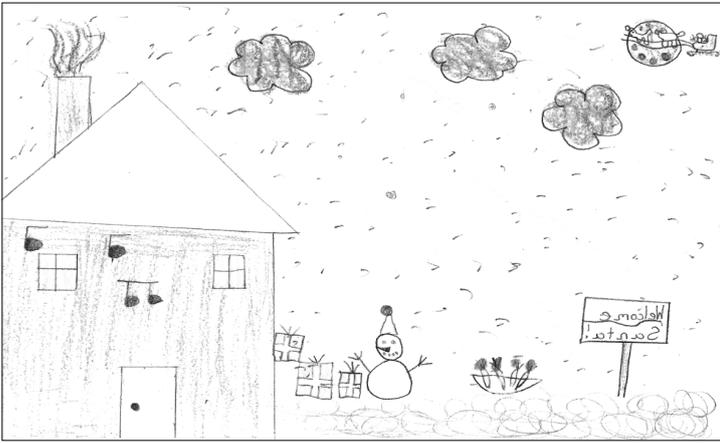
No matter how high the walls are built, they will still be

Broken down by us and our love.

Maria Soulsby
Head teacher



Ferdy, year 6



Cairon, Year 4



Church maintenance completed

At the last inspection of the church building a host of structural problems were identified. None was major but all of them would have got worse if left. During this summer work has been carried out on the roof, the tower, the walls and various other places. The work is now complete and the church is now in excellent structural health.

The cost was in excess of £20,000 and we were very grateful to receive a cheque from the Friends of St James to cover £10,000 of this. We are very privileged in St James's Church in having an active Friends association which both adds to the community life of the village with the activities it arranges and helps to maintain the church and churchyard as a beautiful and peaceful part of the village.

The photo shows Peter Leverkus, the secretary of the Friends association handing over the cheque for £10,000 to Laurie Hurn, a churchwarden.

Christingle Service
 St James's Church
 Biddenham
 Sunday 2 December
 9.00am

A short informal service for all ages!

Supporting The Children's Society

All time top 5 Christmas Carols in the UK

This is according to the listeners of Classic FM

1. O Holy Night
2. Silent Night
3. In the Bleak Mid Winter
4. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
5. O Come All Ye Faithful

No doubt you have your own favourites.

LOGS
 est. 1981
 Well Seasoned Hardwood
 Quality Split Firewood
 Delivered by the Load

Mob: 07929 793361 Sourced from
 Tel: 01234 721086 sustainable woodland

MJP Garden Care and Home Maintenance

All aspects of garden and home maintenance catered for, including:
 Lawn maintenance, Hedge/Shrub trimming/pruning, Fencing, Paving and Patio Maintenance, Planting, Pond Maintenance. Internal and external decorating. Flat Pack Assembly. Local and reliable individual
 No Job too small. Full Liability Insurance. Free Estimates.

Personal care for your Garden and Home

Tel: 01234 300683 Mob: 07790 493801
 Email: mjp_gardenandhomecare@yahoo.com

Coming soon: Peter's Picturehouse at Biddenham Village Hall

We are excited to announce our launch party on Tuesday 4th December, when we would like to welcome you to the showing of our first film, 'The Theory of Everything' (Certificate 12) in Peter's Picturehouse in Biddenham Village Hall at 7.30pm. This is the story of Jane and Stephen Hawking, the eminent Physicist who died earlier this year. The normal charge for tickets will be £5, payable on the door, but our launch party film showing is free!

Please do join us to experience the film on our large screen, bringing a cushion if you wish to bolster the comfort of our (already padded) chairs. We will be selling coffee, tea, wine and ice cream from 7.00pm and hope that you will want to join us again on the first Tuesday of each month when we plan to show a popular film.

Next month, our Peter's Picturehouse showing will be on Tuesday 1st January 2019, when we will show 'Mamma Mia! Here we go again.' (Certificate PG). Come and recover from New Year's Eve by watching this optimistic and jolly film! In view of the date, we will open at 5.30pm. Suitable refreshments, especially ice cream, will be on sale before the film starts at 6.00pm. The first Tuesday in February is Tuesday 5th February, when we plan to show, starting at 7.30pm, the Oscar winning film, 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri' (Certificate 15), a crime-drama starring Frances McDormand.

If you have any questions about Peter's Picturehouse, please contact Marihelen on: 07710288933 or marihelen@btinternet.com



Kitty, Year 3

Nick Sleep
Proprietor

N.A.Sleap Plumbing & Heating
7 Ison Close
Biddenham,
Beds MK40 4BH

Tel: 01234 959472
Mob: 07990 598154
Email: nicksleap@live.co.uk



BIDDENHAM CRICKET CLUB SEEKS THE SERVICES OF A SCORER FOR THEIR SUNDAY LEAGUE MATCHES IN THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE IN 2019

- ⇒ 16 MATCHES FROM MAY TO AUGUST
- ⇒ MATCHES ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
- ⇒ FREE TEA PLUS AGREED FEE PAYABLE
- ⇒ PRE SEASON TRAINING AVAILABLE

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
RICHARD FONE (07818 678697)

SIMPLY TREE SERVICES



ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE
TREE REMOVAL
ALL HEDGE WORK UNDERTAKEN
GARDEN CLEARANCE / MAINTENANCE

For a free estimate please call to arrange a visit
Call **01234 330796 / 07866 554673**
email info@simplytreeservices.co.uk



Fully NPTC qualified staff and all work is covered by comprehensive public liability insurance



www.simplytreeservices.co.uk

Fine Italian Cuisine



Bellini's
RESTAURANT

Available for
Private Hire & Conference
Open all day Sunday
Wedding Breakfasts & Evening Buffets
Party Buffets | Charitable Events & Galas
Private Parties & Functions
A La Carte Menu always available
up to 220 seats | FREE Car Park
Outside Buffets also available

Home Deliveries Available

CATERING SERVICES
All venues considered
All occasions - All budgets
Restaurant venue
Available for 200 guests
Contact Don or Emma for more details!



44-46 High St Clapham Bedford MK41 6EG
Tel : 01234 219888 / Mobile : 07801 385 737
E-mail : doncormano@hotmail.com
www.bellinis-restaurant.com



Remembrance Day remembered



The Last Post



The wreath layers



Remembrance artwork



'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs

Tea for the children!

Tuesday 18 December
4.30pm - 6.00pm
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 16 December
4.00pm - 5.30pm
All Saints Church Hall, Kempston

Dates for 2019 will be announced shortly
Follow us on Facebook to be kept up to date!
(Messy Church; Biddenham, Great Denham and Kempston Rural)

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



Presenters of the WW1 stories: from left to right: Daisy, Evelyn, Charles, Keiran, Catriona, Tabitha, Adam, Abigail, Liam and Ben

Biddenham History Society

Now that the days are getting shorter and we are putting our gardens to bed for the winter, we start to think of how we might change and develop our gardens in the Spring. Amanda Goody's fascinating and very well researched talk on Margery Fish at the meeting on November 19th gave us some inspiration as to how we might revamp our gardens for the New Year.

It was reassuring to learn that Margery only became a serious gardener when she was 60, after the death of her husband, Walter Fish, a former editor of the Daily Mail. Margery had not responded to her parents' desire for help in the garden when she was a girl. She had attended secretarial college and focused on a career as a top secretary in London. When her husband decided that they should move out of London in the late 1930s, because he feared that they would not be safe if another war broke out, they found East Lambrook Manor in South Petherton, Somerset.

At first, it was Margery's husband who controlled the development of the garden. He organised the clearing of heaps of rubbish that had been dumped in the garden of what was an empty property. Margery had to help with this task and go along with his master plan for structure and order. Amanda described Walter as a micromanager! Paths were constructed and trees planted. Margery gradually began to rebel and infiltrate her own taste. She acquired some clematis of her own choice in addition to those selected by her husband. She neglected the watering of his dahlias, which she hated, in favour of nurturing the cottage plants which were her passion. Walter was older than her and he gradually became less and less able to direct the gardening. After his death from a heart attack in 1947,

Margery went through a period of grieving, when the garden got neglected. She did travel to America though, and got inspiration from the gardens she saw there, and the designers she met.

Eventually, when she was 60, Margery was back in England and she put all her energy into developing her garden. She was gardening until a week before her death in 1969, and her family remembers her going out to garden in her evening dress, so obsessed was she with her plants. Amanda was not suggesting that we copy this approach, but some of Margery's other ideas are more transferable to our gardens! She loved snowdrops and cultivated over 200 varieties. She also liked other spring and late winter plants such as hellebores. Summer planting included aquilegias and astrantias. She wanted every space filled in the borders and even in the cracks and crevices in walls and paths.

Margery was very friendly and sociable, so she rapidly made good relations with the owners of nearby properties in Somerset like Brympton d'Evercy and Tintinhull as well as famous garden designers from further afield such as Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter and Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst. Margery copied the use of silver, white and soft colours from Sissinghurst. By the end of the talk, we had plenty to inspire us in our gardens and several of us would like to visit East Lambrook Manor.

The next meeting of the History Society will be on Monday 21st January 2019, at 8.00pm in the Church Barn. Our speaker will be Dr Anne Daye who is an expert on historical dance. She will talk about Dance as an Entertainment 1750-1850 as, before modern media, it would have been a popular entertainment in Biddenham. This should be a lively and interesting talk and may contain some practical elements! I hope you will be able to come. I will have the programme cards for 2019-2020 available at this meeting.

Kathy Fricker



Margery Fish



Cece, year 1



Safe for now ... land to the west of Gold Lane. Thanks to Richard Moxon for this picture taken in the autumn sunshine.



Elijah



W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

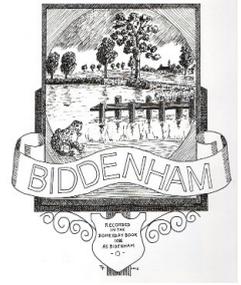
Auction Advice?

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

Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE
info@peacockauction.co.uk

01234 266 366
peacockauction.co.uk

The Biddenham Society 2018 AGM and Lunch



The 2018 AGM and Lunch on 4th November was attended by 68 residents. Secretary Mark Philips summarised the minutes of the 2017 AGM, and Treasurer Garry Fitzhugh presented the accounts. Both were approved.

In presenting his annual report, the Chairman Dr Tony Wood first reviewed the domestic planning applications submitted for the village over the last twelve months. There were 21 of these, of which only two gave cause for concern. The first, an application to construct a rear extension, a 2-storey annexe and undertake a range of alterations and repairs to 'White Cottage', Day's Lane, an important listed Arts and Crafts house, was opposed by the society. A revised application addressing the issues raised was subsequently supported. The second was a current application to build on the garden plot adjoining Lavender Lodge, Main Road, situated in the conservation area and immediately behind the war memorial. The chairman explained why the society would be opposing this development, and encouraged those present to consider doing likewise.

He then moved on to brief the meeting on developments involving multiple house building. The proposal to demolish Biddenham House and replace it with 8 dwellings had been successfully opposed, a decision currently being appealed. The application to build up to 249 properties on land west of Gold Lane had also been widely opposed by residents, and just recently been turned down by the borough's planning committee. Peter Chase attended on behalf of the village, and he described the meeting and his presentation. Cllr Jon Gambold then updated residents on the borough's draft new local plan, which currently contains clauses which could facilitate large scale house development in Biddenham in the future. It was agreed the village must do all it can to have these clauses removed, and whilst many opposing responses had already been submitted, we must all be prepared to take further action if and when necessary. The presentations by both speakers were warmly received for their clarity and information value.

Following a short presentation by Chris Haydn-Jones on the restoration of Cowslip Meadow and other related activities, the following committee was elected for 2018-2019: Tony Wood, Will Jenkin, Mark Phillips, Garry Fitzhugh, Monica Knight, Peter Leverkus, Jeremy Reynolds, and Chris Haydn-Jones. In closing the meeting, the chairman thanked the committee and helpers for their hard preparatory work for the AGM, and in particular Will Jenkin and Jeremy Reynolds for masterminding the lunch.

The 2019 AGM will be held on Sunday 3rd November. Miss it at your peril!

Tony Wood

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



Bea, Year 1

R J GASCOYNE THE PLUMBING, HEATING AND GAS COMPANY

Boiler changes, system upgrades, bathrooms, fault finding, servicing, maintenance, gas safety & landlord certificates, repairs, all heating, plumbing, drainage and gas work undertaken.

All from a friendly, reliable, trustworthy and professional engineer.

Contact Ryan on
TEL: 07980 209587
or EMAIL

ryangascoynephg@gmail.com



FARM SHOP
Manor Farm, High Street, Stagsden, Beds
(01234) 822330
www.brownsfstagsden.co.uk

HOME REARED & LOCALLY PRODUCED
MEAT, POULTRY, GAME, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, EGGS & MILK.
HOMEMADE PREMIUM QUALITY BURGERS & SAUSAGES
REGIONAL CHEESES, HAM, PIES, JAMS, SAUCES, OILS & MORE
Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 6pm and Sat 9am - 4pm

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.

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

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**

The Three Tuns, Biddenham

Open every day 9.00am to 11.00pm

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

Extensive Bar Menu available 12-6 every day

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

Home cooked children's meals

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

**Bookings:
01234 354847**

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



Thank you to
all our
volunteers

On a sunny morning after a very wet night, nine very willing volunteers, including some new faces, gathered at the pond on Saturday 10th November for the Autumn work morning.

Some good work had already been done the day before, with a large bonfire removing the pile of branches and other scrub that had been gathering in the triangle. At the same time the farmer had kindly included the pond hedge amongst the hedges he was trimming, opening up views to the fields and church beyond.

The volunteers on Saturday improved that view further, crown lifting the trees in the triangle and cutting back brambles and branches overhanging the path from Gold Lane, thus giving a view of the pond and beyond much earlier than before, as you walk down the path.

The reeds previously cut were removed from the pond, which has a little more water in it now, and other trimming and pruning was completed to leave the site looking much tidier as winter approaches. Now we just need more water!

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work on the day, the kind lady who brought us some excellent brownies and the Manor Hospital for the most welcome drinks and biscuits.

We are also pleased to be able to say that our request for new committee members has generated some positive interest which we will be following up over the next couple of months, and all being well we will have good news to report in the next edition.

We hope you all enjoy your winter walks by the pond.

The Pond Team

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

Andrew Charles

HAIRDRESSING LTD

In the heart of Bedford

Andrew Charles offers a high level of hair expertise and creativity.

Apart from our cutting expertise, the salon enjoys a long standing, strong reputation for colouring, which is something we are proud of.

Why not drop in and give yourself a boost, a different cut or a new colour.

**105A HIGH STREET, BEDFORD
TEL: 01234 325938**



Lazzaro, Year 3

When 'Girl Power' came to Biddenham

More than 100 years ago, in 1915, Bedford's Girl Guides held their first camp in a field in Biddenham from Saturday 4th to Monday 6th September.

This was six years after a group of girls had appeared at a Boy Scout Rally in 1909 declaring themselves Girl Scouts. Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, decided there should be a movement for girls, and Guiding was introduced that same year. Groups of Girl Guides sprang up around the world and a year later the Girl Guide Association was officially established.



A group of Girl Guides c1915. From Bedfordshire at War: news from the Home Front

Due to the war conditions in 1915, it was decided that the Bedford Girl Guides on their first camp should march out and back each day rather than sleep out overnight. It was a small camp with just 17 girls and 3 officers. The weather was good for all three days and the girls thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor life. They had a daily timetable beginning with a parade in Bedford at 7.00am. They marched then to camp and, at 7.30am, six cooks prepared breakfast with the rest putting up tents.

After breakfast, when the cooks had washed up and the rest had tidied the camp, there was drill, and then a trip into the village to fetch provisions. Lunch followed at 10.55am, and then Ambulance and signalling before dinner at 1.00 pm. Open air and exercise must have generated a healthy appetite!

After dinner the girls rested for 45 minutes, then more signalling, an inspection by the Commissioner, games, and by then they were ready for tea at 4.30pm. Afterwards, it was time to clear up the camp, have another rest before porridge and milk at 6.00pm, and the march home at 6.30pm.

On the Sunday the programme was changed to include a Church parade and an afternoon bathing. The Bedfordshire Standard reported an incident on their march home that showed the need for explanation of the usefulness of the Guides' training. A well dressed woman passed the Guides on the Bromham Road, stopped and said loudly "Did you ever see such fools?" Not only were the girls offended by this remark, they were also astonished that anyone could be so ignorant of what their uniform stood for and of the work they did.

The newspaper said the numbers for the camp were small due to the short notice but now that a beginning had been made to Guide camps in Bedford it was hoped that a large scale camp would take place the next summer, with the 150 Bedford Guides joined by girls from the surrounding villages where Guide companies were being started.

And sure enough, the Guides returned to camp in Biddenham again the next year, from Saturday 5th to Wednesday 9th August, in a field lent by Mr Robert Whitworth, the tenant of Church Farm.

The earlier months of 1916 had already brought boisterous and busy times to Biddenham. In March the Great Blizzard had raged over the county. Biddenham felt the full force of the gale, watercourses overflowed, houses flooded and many trees were blown down, including one of two elms next to the school, just missing the playground, so it was no school that day for the village children.

Three months later, on Thursday 8th June, Lord French had reviewed the Welsh troops in training in Bedford, his saluting base situated on Bromham Road between the two Biddenham turns.



Mr Whitworth, with the cap, fourth from the left From the Bedfordshire Times and Independent



From Luton Reporter

The very same day women on the land demonstrations and competitions by women in agriculture were taking place in Biddenham, on Mr Chibnall's homestead, Grove Farm, for which Mr Whitworth had lent horses and cattle.

The number of girls at the Guide camp in August varied from 35 to 70. The field was an ideal spot, with shade from good trees, flat space for drill, and undulating slopes to the river, a great attraction being bathing parades on hot afternoons when the more serious morning work was done.

The Guides cooked, fetched water, washed up, made and kept ovens going. Different Companies were detailed day by day for the work to avoid monotony and let all have the training. A sentry on the gate was part of the routine, and even at night it was necessary for one or two Guides with an officer to keep watch as the cows were apt to be awkwardly inquisitive about the tents and their contents.

There was a Church parade on the Sunday for which the Vicar had kindly reserved special seats for 75 Guides and their officers for the 11.00am service. At the parade in the afternoon, attended by some relations and friends, badges won since the Guides' parade on Easter Monday were presented, chiefly Ambulance and Signalling badges but also one Interpreter badge for French. The Commissioner, Mrs Trustram Eve, addressed the parade on loyalty to God and the King, and the Guide promise, explaining that true loyalty meant something much more than just words, and the Guide movement was to make them better citizens and able to help their country then and in the future. The parade ended with a march past, the salute and the singing of the National Anthem.

(The Commissioner's husband, then Mr H Trustram Eve, was Hon Secretary for men of the County War Agricultural Committee for men and women, under the auspices of which the agricultural demonstrations had taken place in the village in June, and who later was responsible for the restoration in 1932 of the dovecote then standing by the Biddenham village pond.)

There was a camp inspection on Monday, and an Ambulance display on Tuesday, most Guides seeming to know how to treat the accidents which fell to their share. On Wednesday the kitchens and cooking were inspected and later the dinners laid out ready to eat. All looked appetising and well cooked, and were neatly laid out and served. Grateful acknowledgement was given to Mr Dudeney for his kindness in lending and putting up a delightful canvas hut which served as the officers' mess and rest room, and at night for the sleeping quarters of those who were remaining on guard. And thanks were also due to those who sent vegetables and fruit.

Well done, Biddenham!

Peter Applewhite

Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 14th November 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, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Clerk Lyn Lyman, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and about ten members of the public were also present. Councillor Krzys Osuch sent his apologies.

Tommy

Have you noticed our new chap, Tommy? If you were part of the huge turnout for this year's ceremony of remembrance at the war memorial, then surely you will. For he is the outline of the soldier that now stands in front of the memorial, head down, holding his rifle. I hadn't really expected the effect he creates to be so ethereal, but you only see him as the light catches his outline. At night, that seems particularly effective. It's as if to say "I am here, but not here; you only see me for a moment, but really I am gone". Very poignant.

Many weighty matters are put before the Parish Council, and in Tommy's case the question has been asked how long should he be on display? It was quickly agreed that he should disappear at the same time the poppy wreaths are removed from the memorial. Traditionally, this is at Easter. I thought that a surprisingly long time, but it seems appropriate given how spring suggests life renewed (and being made of plastic, the wreaths do last).

A concrete base is going to be made for Tommy – something Councillor Gambold is going to sort out (he always seems to know the right people).



So Tommy will stand guard until April. We have a safe place for him to spend the summer months. Then he'll be back next November.

Houses west of Gold Lane

Mere days after the last meeting we were informed the Borough Council would be making their decision about the outline planning application for 250 houses on the land west of Gold Lane on 29th October. As you may have heard, that decision was an outright rejection of the proposal. The developer's pleaded for time to negotiate changes which (in their view) might make it acceptable, but these cut no ice.

Thank you to all who wrote in; the tally of 599 objections lent enormous weight to the argument that the separation of Biddenham from Bromham is extremely important. Even though the capacity of local schools and roads were also of great concern, it was this separation of our villages, over all else, that swayed the decision.

42 Main Road, Lavender Lodge

Further to my words last month about the unsightly fence alongside Lavender Lodge on Main Road, Mr Newton, who owns the fence and land behind it, has kindly agreed to replace it with a proper hedge of mixed holly and yew tree bushes. He is doing this at his own expense. The hedge will be allowed to grow to the same height as the fence, i.e. about two metres, and will undoubtedly improve the visual appearance of this part of the village centre.

I also wrote last month about the planning application Mr Newton has made to build a house behind the fence. Some felt I spoke favourably of this application, and indeed Mr Newton has taken trouble to consult the Borough Council at length about what might make his application acceptable. Since then, however, the Borough's Tree Officer has written of her deep concerns that the construction of the house may damage or even kill several substantial trees on the plot, or that a future house owner might lop bits off them to get more light. These trees are very mature, and an important part of our village's central scene. It was no surprise, therefore, that as the Parish Council we decided to object to this application.

Please note, however, that Mr Newton has undertaken to install the hedge to replace the fence regardless of the outcome of his proposed development.

Our next meeting

We meet on the second Wednesday of most months (but December isn't one of them) 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 9th January.

Peter Chase
Chairman

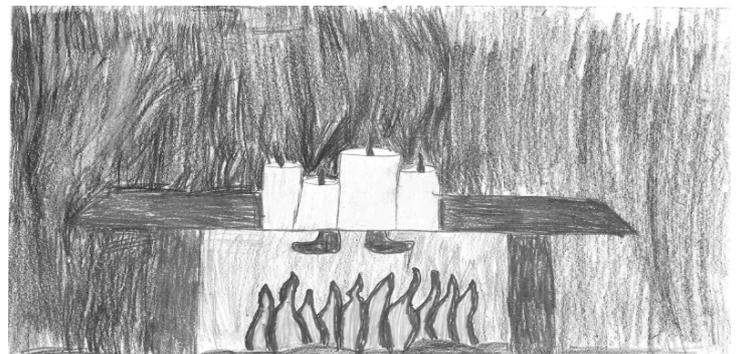
CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT

Wed 19th Dec 7:30pm
Bedford School Chapel

Tickets: £15 (<18 £5)
visit gaude.org.uk

gaude
Bedford's Professional
Chamber Choir



Harrison Year 6

News from Biddenham Village Hall

Here is an update from our Annual General Meeting that was held in November.



As in previous years, I'm pleased to be able to report that the Hall continues to be well utilised, well maintained and is on a sound financial footing. As a reminder, the Village Hall is run by unpaid volunteers who either take on specific jobs, for example the Booking Officer, or represent a group of regular users, like the Gardening Society. This year we had a couple of changes to the Committee, Yvonne Gee and Jenny Williams have stepped down, many thanks to them for their contributions, Liz Hurford has joined, and Pat Edmunds has taken on the job of booking officer full time. Over the year, we held six meetings when an average of 10 members attended. Our aim is to maintain the Village Hall to be a first rate place for the use of Biddenham residents and the surrounding community. In addition to individuals doing their regular jobs to support the continuous smooth running of the Hall, we all carry out regular inspections and take part in an annual maintenance morning, when the volunteers blitz some of the routine maintenance jobs.

The Hall users are our customers and much of the week is taken up with regular, long-standing bookings. If you are interested in booking please check availability on the Village Hall website. Last year the number of one off bookings was fewer and this resulted in a reduced income, down nearly 13% on the previous bumper year. At this level we made a surplus and we continue to keep sufficient funds in reserve to cover our planned works with a contingency for unforeseen events.

Every year we make repairs and improvements and in 2018 we repointed the external barn wall next to the main road, replaced two sets of fire doors and made a number of internal alterations that had been recommended by the recent Fire Risk Review. As usual, there were a range of other smaller repairs and replacements necessary to keep the hall and its equipment in good working order.

Health and Safety is always on our agenda and I'm pleased to report that no accidents were reported this year. The programme of regular monthly inspections continued and all necessary repairs were completed.

The Hall is in great condition and whilst we have no major works planned for the next 12 months, we will of course continue with the regular maintenance regime to keep everything in top condition. Our website has recently been revamped and the recent changes have resolved the intermittent issues that had crept in.

Thanks to the hard work of the organisers the annual quiz was a success and a good night for all involved. As was the case last year, it had been decided that any net proceeds from the night would be donated to a charity. The charity to support 'Parkinson's' received £900.

This year was a special year for Georgina and Nino, who, for the past 25 years have done a great job in keeping our hall spotless. A big thank you, and a gift, to them from all the Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Hall users, Committee members and the people of the village for their support during the past twelve months.

Philip Inness
Chairman

Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee

Biddenham Tennis Club

New members are always welcome at Biddenham Tennis Club. We have three all weather courts and the cost of membership is reasonable and great value for money.

Under 18's	£8 per year
Adults	£18 per year
Family membership	£40 per year

The club year runs from 1st April to 31st March, but you can join at any time.

If your tennis is a little rusty, we have qualified coaches you can hire. Details of how to join are available from our Secretary, Karyn Claridge, email address claridge@talktalk.net or on the Parish Council website.



After many years of devoted service to tennis, Ed Kemp has decided to resign as Chairman, as of the AGM at the end of March 2019. Margaret Hakim, a Committee member since the club's inception, has gamely volunteered to try to fill his shoes. We wish them both well and urge more tennis club members to join the Committee to ensure a healthy and active future for the club.

GreenThumb LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

PRICES FROM
£5*
PER MONTH



bringing lawns to life

Our wonderful customers like our service so much, that over 40% of new customers joined us through their recommendation which, if you think about it, that's a recommendation in itself.

If you've been thinking about enjoying a great lawn this year - green, lush and weed-free, why not contact us today and let us bring your lawn to life.

Simply call: 01234 709345 or
visit: greenthumb.co.uk



*Based on a lawn size of 40m²



A new law firm run by Paul Hillier, a very experienced and responsive solicitor now working from his home office in Biddenham, offering a personal service for individuals and businesses on *any* legal issues.

Call 01234 860856
or email: info@ovallaw.co.uk

Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority No. 613473

www.ovallaw.co.uk



Polly, Year 4

Bedford National Trust Association



**15th Jan 2019
Flight research at the
Royal Aircraft Establishment,
Bedford**

**a talk by Barry Tomlinson
The meeting takes place in the
Addison Centre, Kempston, at 2,30
There will be a small entry charge.**



**Everyone welcome. For more information
call Betty Thomas on 01480 869421**

A L & G ABBOTT
Funeral Directors
~ Established 1832 ~

WITH YOU WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

A small and independently owned funeral directors who are proud to have served the local community for over 180 years and will continue to do so with the highest standards of care, respect and dignity.

A L & G Abbott is run with family values at the very heart of the business.

- 24 Hour Personal Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Funeral Plans
- Home Arrangements



T: 01234 843222

150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 8BH
www.abbott-funerals.co.uk support@abbott-funerals.co.uk

**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/)

This month in the garden

What can a gardener do in December and January except sit indoors in the warm and think of Spring? That idea has its attractions but they are not very profitable ones when there is a lot you can do which will make Spring, when it comes, more rewarding.

To start with you can say goodbye to Autumn by clearing up any leaves that are still lying about. Particularly on the lawn, leaves are not just unsightly but will damage the grass. As I have often said, it is much better to bag them up in a black plastic sack than put them in the green bin. Make sure the leaves are wet, pack them tight, tie the bag and stab it many times with a fork to aerate the leaves and put it somewhere where it can be forgotten for a couple of years. I have just had the pleasure of clearing summer bedding from a flower border and digging in three sacks full of lovely leafmould. To be honest, I didn't do the digging. I have just recognised the onward march of time by having some professional help in the garden.

I hope you have already recognized the onset of winter by bringing tender plants indoors or under glass and, if it's not too late already, do something about it. Dahlias which are cut back can be stored in compost in the dark but plants with leaves need to be kept in the light and given water occasionally. I generally prune fuchsias and geraniums fairly hard so that they shoot again in Spring but, at the moment, most of them are still flowering and looking better than they have done all summer (glad to feel the end of the heat) so I shall leave them alone for the time being.

Plants that are susceptible to frost damage but are too big to bring under cover are best wrapped in horticultural fleece. This can make the garden look unsightly and an alternative is to keep the fleece handy and cover the plant when frost is threatened but that does mean listening carefully to weather forecasts. I am going to try that this year with my camellias. The yellow choiysa 'Sundance' is worth treating like this.

This is the best time for moving deciduous shrubs and fruit bushes that could be in a better place. Start by digging a hole in the new position big enough to accommodate the plant to be moved. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole and incorporate compost or manure. Dig a trench all round the bush at the edge of its branch structure then dig under the bush until you can move it. It may be necessary to cut some roots to do this. Pull and lever the bush onto a sheet of plastic put as far as possible under the root ball and then slide the bush to its new position. Back fill the hole. Tread

in firmly and water.

Apples and pears should be pruned now and through to February. On established trees the main job is to cut back at least two thirds of new growth. Sizeable straight shoots can be kept for marking vegetable sowings, tying with black cotton to keep birds off vulnerable plants or holding back straggly growth that can damage a lawn. The aim is to keep the centre of the tree open and avoid crossing branches so this may need some cutting back of thicker branches.

Deciduous ornamental shrubs may need pruning to reduce size or retain a good structure. Cut out any dead, damaged or diseased branches and encourage new growth by cutting out up to a third of old branches at ground level. When reducing the size of a shrub always cut back to a branch rather than just chopping back generally.

If you sowed sweet peas in October these will need watering occasionally and the first strong shoot should be nipped out after six leaves or so to promote strong growth.

On a wet or cold day you can still use the time profitably by washing pots and seed trays so that you are ready for the next sowing season. When the urge to stay indoors gets really strong, use some time to plan things for next year. Check seed packets to see if they can still be used and order or buy new ones. Order plants from nurseries and remember that bare root roses ordered now from a nursery are a much better buy than container plants bought at a garden centre.

Keep out of the garden over Christmas itself and have a good time.

Jeremy Arthern



A note for your diary:

Huntingdon Male Voice Choir

will perform on Saturday 9th February at 7.00pm

at Bromham Baptist Church in aid of

St Owen's Church, Bromham

building extension project,

Further information in due course at

www.bromhambenefice.org

Home Instead
SENIOR CARE®

To us, it's personal.



Would you like to make a difference?

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

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

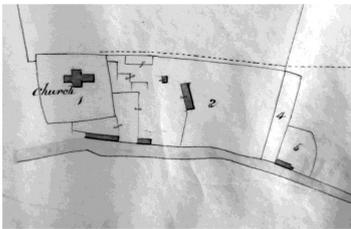
Please call 01234 868820 for more information.

Chalk & Cheese - a tale of two brothers

Little did I realise when I visited St James's Church on a High School trip nearly sixty years ago, and a few years later to rub the Faldo family brasses in the church, that my family is deeply rooted in Biddenham.

I walked into the church yard completely oblivious to the first grave some twenty yards from the entrance. It lies on the left hand side of the path, marked only by a small foot stone with the initials U.J. and the date 1858. Immediately to the right stood, but now lies, the headstone of Elizabeth, wife of Uriah Johnson. I wonder if Uriah wrote the touching epitaph which appears on Elizabeth's grave stone:

*Beneath this stone lies buried here,
a lover of her children dear.
It pleases God to take her hence,
to render her on recompence
His sincere friend summoned to her peaceful
end.
Her husband mourns for her e'en
But hopes to meet in Heaven*



Uriah's plot 5 map courtesy Bedford Archives P74/27/1

Uriah Johnson, a labourer, unlike many of his peers, had 'tenements and lands' in the form of a 17th Century cottage and a small piece of land. The cottage was in Church End as shown in contemporary documents and maps, and near to the church itself. It was probably located where numbers 26 and 28 stand today. It was destroyed by fire in 1929. Images of it do, however, survive as it was featured on early postcards of the village and the subject of several



Watercolour by H Webb 1897

watercolours by H. Webb painted in 1897.

I imagine Uriah had some local notoriety as in 1832 he wrote to advise the Lord Bishop of Lincoln that he was 'intending to use his dwelling house as a place of religious worship by an assembly or congregation of Protestants' and requiring the Bishop 'to register and record the same' under the provisions of an Act of Parliament granted in the 52nd year of King George III's reign which allowed non-conformist worship outside the established church. Uriah was serious about his faith as his property was still being used 20 years later according to the Return of Certified Places of Worship of 1852.

I have no concrete proof of which denomination Uriah belonged to but it was at the time of the growth of Primitive Methodism. I do know that Uriah's eldest daughter, Ann, married a James Hulatt of Oakley who was a well known preacher in the Primitive Methodist (or Ranter) Circuit and one can imagine he would have preached at his father-in-law's cottage. Primitive Methodist records document the baptism of Uriah's granddaughter in Clapham. My imagination paints a picture of loud singing and worship emanating from

Uriah's cottage assailing the ears of the Reverend Thomas Grimshawe, the then incumbent, as he walked past the cottage on his way to the church!

John Reynolds Johnson, a younger brother of Uriah, made his first court appearance on 1st August 1828, charged with being a Rogue and Vagabond and committed to Bedford Old House of Correction for six week's hard labour for being 'an idle and disorderly person'. Unchastened, he continued his downwards spiral and was again committed to the HoC for one calendar month's hard labour the following year, this time for leaving his family chargeable to the parish. He was described as being 'a person being able to work and thereby maintain his family has refused and neglected to do so'. John was also married to an Elizabeth and at this time they had four children.

Times were hard in the 1830s and I felt sympathy for John when I found he was convicted of stealing beans on 5th March 1832 and was committed to Bedford County Gaol for three calendar months and whipped. This seemed harsh punishment to me as I imagined he was endeavouring to feed his ever growing family.

Sadly on 19th October 1836 he was again committed to the County Gaol and sentenced to seven year's transportation for stealing wood. My sympathy increased as I imagined he was only trying to keep his family warm. However on reading the transcripts of the court case my sympathy was tested. John had stolen 10 faggots belonging to The Hon Rice Trevor, taken them by cart into Bedford where a local beer house landlady took them in exchange for half a gallon of beer!

Leaving his wife and by now 8 children behind in Biddenham, John was transferred from the gaol to the prison hulk Justitia, moored in the Thames at Woolwich, along with six other men from Bedford to await transportation.

There a blacksmith would have riveted leg irons onto him and he would have been set to work unloading barges and scraping rust off shot and shells in the arsenal amongst other tasks. He left England on 7th October 1837 bound for Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) on the Neptune III from Sheerness with 350 other prisoners for a voyage lasting 103 days. John Johnson's name is the first to appear on the ship's manifest followed by three other Bedford men.

On arrival he was assigned to a Felix Wakefield, a Launceston surveyor, brother of one of New Zealand's founding fathers. Employed by Wakefield he would have enjoyed a job, board and lodging but sadly John again failed to redeem himself and took little time before returning to his old ways, receiving 36 lashes for drunkenness a few months after his arrival and in due course the authorities transferred him to work with the notorious road building gangs. His misdemeanours continued, from drunkenness to disobedience and at one time attempting to steal food from his fellow prisoners. The result was the feckless John served his full seven years. The Hobart Colonial Times of 9th January 1844 carries a notice from the Colonial Secretary's Office a few days earlier declaring that on 2nd January John Johnson was granted his Certificate of Freedom. He never returned to England and his family.

Researching my Biddenham roots I discover that both Uriah and John Johnson are my great, great, great grandfathers though, as a person of faith, I hope I share more of Uriah's genes. But that's another story!

Neptune
350 V.D.L. 4 October 1837

Name	When committed	When	From
John Johnson			
John Green			
Thomas Smith	Bedford Gaol 19th October 1837		Seven Years
Joseph Martin			

Detail from ship's manifest courtesy National Archives HO 11

Penelope Ann Eldridge (née Johnson)

Biddenham Women's Group

Dancing Bust to Bust

Our talk began with a 1951 copy of Illustrated Magazine, containing an article on Joyce Grenfell, a picture of her on screen and a rendition of her theme song, 'I'm going to see you today', which was written by her in 1942.



We learnt from our speaker, Kevin Varty, that Joyce's mother was an American socialite, Nora Langhorne, and her father was Paul Phipps, an architect. Her aunt was Nancy Astor and she lived a very privileged life at Cliveden. She was one of the bridesmaids at the wedding of Lady Curzon and Oswald Moseley and, unfortunately, one of her stockings fell

down. She turned to a gentleman standing by and asked if he could find her a safety pin. He duly did so and helped her to fix the problem. As they progressed one of the other bridesmaids asked her how she knew the king, to whom she had just waved acknowledgement. Just one example of how naïve Joyce could be.

She met Reggie Grenfell in 1927, came out as a debutante in 1928 and married him in 1929. They went to many parties together and it was at one such party that she was introduced to an Observer rep who invited her to become a columnist with the newspaper.

By 1959 she had become well known as a singer, comic, writer of monologues and an actress with many celebrity friends of that time such as Noel Coward, Flanders and Swann and Norman Wisdom. She appeared in many London theatres but would only turn up just before she was due on. Joyce also entertained the troops on a couple of occasions, which she found rewarding but hard work. It was after this that she started working in cinema

and appeared in 24 productions, three of them being the St. Trinians films.

Joyce Grenfell was a Christian Scientist who did not believe in medical intervention. She sadly died of a brain tumour in 1979.

Happily, we finished on a high note. The talk was interspersed with many of her songs, including the one about the dance class where there were too few gentlemen and some of the ladies had to dance together; hence the title, Dancing Bust to Bust, when a lady is not a gentleman but maybe a bosom friend!

This is but a brief synopsis of our entertaining afternoon.

If you would like to join us for our Christmas Countdown on 11th December at 2.00pm please contact me by phone 01234 210622 or by email valeriefitzhugh@gmail.com.

A women's group was set up in Biddenham in 1943 and has since then undergone many name changes.

In an effort to become more inclusive we will become barn@2 in January, 2019, and welcome all-comers.

Our new programme will be available at our first meeting on 8th January, in the Church Barn at 2.00pm when Marilyn Freeman will speak about Life Story Books.

Val Fitzhugh



Katie, Year 3

St James's Church Christmas Bazaar

Biddenham Village Hall
Saturday 8 December
2.00pm – 4.30pm
Entrance £1 (Children Free)

- Decorations
- Food Stall
- Jewellery
- Bottle Stall
- Raffle
- Father Christmas
- Planted Bulbs
- Biddenham Mementoes
- Fabric Crafts
- Tea and Cake



Nyasha, Age 9

The almighty god Bert

For many people I have met, the world we live in seems to be like a great big mountain. On the top of the mountain sits an all-powerful almighty God. Let's call him (or her) Bert.

The great god Bert has an extremely powerful megaphone with which he (or she) shouts out all his commandments for the way that people should live. If they live in this way and do all the good things he commands then when they die, he will open the door of heaven and let them in. If they don't obey his commands then either they will be reincarnated as a worm or burn in hell fire for ever.

The rest of the ordinary people, like you and me, live around the base of the mountain. The majority of these peoples are not really bad people. They try to do all the good things they are supposed to do according to the great god Bert, but being ordinary people they, from time to time, envy or get angry with their neighbours. They may even sleep with their neighbours' wives and husbands when they take a bit of time off from earning a whole load of money, or practising just a tad of arrogance. It has been known for them to tell the odd lie (always white ones of course). Naturally, in all this they have the best of intentions, but it does make the task of doing all those good things so that they can get near the great god Bert difficult or even impossible.

Happily, that is not the god or the faith I hold to. In my faith, there is a mighty god in heaven who does in fact lay down the ground rules to live a life of loving god and also one's neighbours. However, seeing humans totally unable to keep those rules he comes down from high heaven to join the, at times, aggressive, arrogant, uncaring, grasping, jealous throng. He is called Jesus rather than Bert. A bit of a risk coming down like that one might think, they might turn their attention on him, which is of course what happened when he tried to show them how life should be lived. He was not in the least surprised by this, this was all part of his plan to give this motley crowd, us, freedom. If they couldn't do what is right by themselves, he would take the consequences of their self-centred behaviour when he allowed them to kill him dying in their place. He then offered to stay long term with them by his spirit, if that's what they wanted, to help them do what they couldn't do for themselves.

On reflection all this seems a bit different from almighty god Bert and his megaphone sitting on the top of his mountain. With the new regime there don't seem to be too many reincarnated worms around and nobody who accepts this help need fear being somewhat too hot during eternity.

Edwin Martin



The Children's Society Boxes

A very big thank you to all the Society's box holders. The sum of £568.02 was raised, from 30 box holders, for this very good cause. Please continue to give your support.

If anyone else would like to help, by becoming a box holder, please ring me on 356497.

Many thanks again.

Eloise Carter

Biddenham Gardeners Association

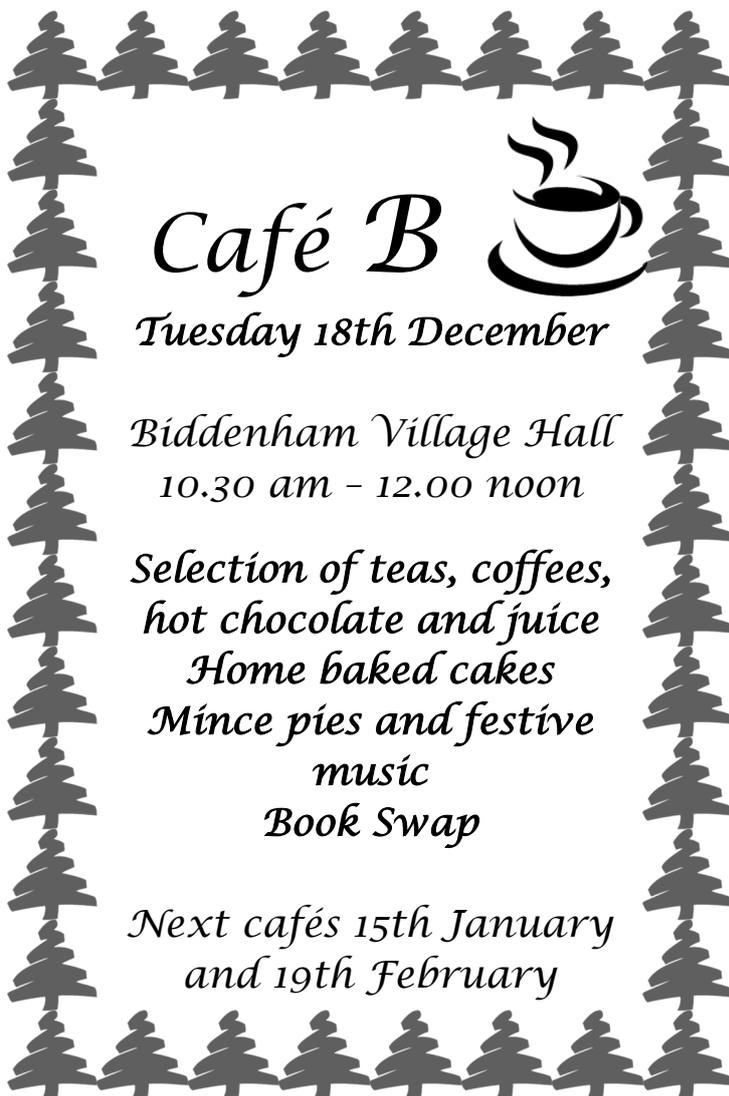
Unfortunately our reporter was unable to attend the November meeting so we have no report this month.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Party on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm and members and guests (£5 entry) will be very welcome.

The January meeting will be on the 15th. "My Garden. BGA members". Liz Hurford and Rosemary Harris will talk about their gardens.

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

www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk



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 December, 4th January, 1st February

To book: email firstfridaylunch@outlook.com

100 CLUB

October draw

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----|
| 1. | S. Butt | 113 |
| 2. | F. Ayyub | 45 |
| 3. | D. Burgess | 22 |

Drawn by Debbie Clifton



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
---------------	-----------	-------------

Mobile Library

Great Denham Community Centre

Saturdays 1st, 15th, 29th December

2.20pm-2.40pm

Biddenham

Thursdays 6th, 20th December

Church End 10.00am-10.20am

Noddors Way 10.25am-10.50am



Remember your library card!
Sorry, the January dates were not available as we went to press.

Welcome Packs for

New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

December

- Sat 1 Dec Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19
- Sun 2 Dec** All Age Service, with Christingle St James's, **9.00am**, see p4
Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 4 Dec Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p5
- 5-9 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's church, Bedford, see p9
- Thu 6 Dec Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19
- Fri 7 Dec First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19
- Fri 7 Dec Philharmonia Chamber Players, St Paul's Church, Bedford, 7.30pm see p9
- Sat 8 Dec St James's Church Christmas Bazaar, Biddenham Village Hall, 2.00-4.30pm, see p17
- Sun 9 Dec** Parish Communion, St James's. **9.00am**
Evening Prayer at all Saints, **6.00pm**
- Tue 11 Dec Biddenham Women's Group, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p17
- Sat 15 Dec Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19
- Sun 16 Dec** All Age Service with Nativity Play, St James's, **9.00am**
Evening Prayer at St James's, **6.00pm**
- Sun 16 Dec Messy Church, All Saints Church Hall, 4.00pm, see p6
- Tue 18 Dec Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p18
- Tue 18 Dec Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30pm, see p6
- Tue 18 Dec Biddenham Gardeners Association Christmas Party, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Wed 19 Dec Carols by Candlelight, Bedford School Chapel, 7.30pm, see p12
- Thu 20 Dec Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19
- Sun 23 Dec Said Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, St James's, **6.30pm**
- Mon 24 Dec** Carols in the Churchyard, St James's, **4.00pm**
Midnight Mass, St James's, 11.30pm
- Tue 25 Dec** Short Family Service followed by Communion for anyone who wishes to stay, **10.00am**
- Sat 29 Dec Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19
- Sun 30 Dec** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
No evening service

January

- Tue 1 Jan Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 5.30pm, see p5
- Fri 4 Jan First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19
- Sun 6 Jan** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
barn@2, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p17
- Tue 8 Jan Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p12
- Wed 9 Jan Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
Evening Prayer at All Saints, **6.00pm**
- Tue 15 Jan Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p18
- Tue 15 Jan Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.30pm, see p14
- Tue 15 Jan Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Sun 20 Jan** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
Evening Prayer, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Mon 21 Jan Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 8.00pm, see p7
- Sun 27 Jan** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**
No evening service
- Thu 31 Jan Loop subscriptions due

February

- Fri 1Feb First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19
- Sun 3 Feb** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,
Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 5 Feb Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p5
- Sat 9 Feb Huntingdon Male Voice Choir, Bromham Baptist Church, 7.00pm, see p15

The Loop

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

All **February** 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 **Tuesday 22nd January 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.

For regular events listings see page 19