

# The Loop

February  
2019

£1.00



*Chris Jones' evocative picture of birds over the Gold Lane site showing St James's church in the background.*

## St James's Church electoral roll

This year we are required to complete a new Electoral Roll. This means that everyone needs to apply to be on the Electoral Roll, even if you have already been on it in previous years!

Forms will be available in church from the beginning of February. If you would like to be on the Electoral Roll please complete a form and return it to the folder in church, hand it to a Church Warden (Laurie Hurn or Edwin Martin) or deliver/post it to Jacqui Piper at 27 St Mellion Drive, Great Denham, MK40 4BF.

**Completed forms must be received by 16th March at the latest.**

The church Electoral Roll is open to anyone who has been baptised and is resident within the Biddenham parish, or who lives outside the parish but who habitually worships at St James's. It is a record of those who are involved in the life of the church.

If you have any queries, please contact me on [jacqui.piper@btinternet.com](mailto:jacqui.piper@btinternet.com) or 356993.

Jacqui Piper  
Electoral Roll Officer

## Gold Lane objections now top 850

In this month's Loop you will see various references to the plan to build 160 houses on land west of Gold Lane, quoting different numbers of people who have objected to the application. This is due to differences in the timing of articles being written.

As The Loop goes to press the Borough website is showing comments from 525 addresses. This represents over 850 individuals; this number has been confirmed by the Borough officers.

This is a splendid response from concerned residents and friends.

The closing date for comments is 30th January.

Jon Gambold

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

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IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT  
RICHARD FONE (07818 678697)

## 2019 Loop subscriptions now overdue

Your annual subscription to The Loop was due on 31st January. 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.

If you have mislaid your form, please put your subscription in an envelope bearing your name and address and deliver it to Richard Harris, 6 Nodders Way or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive as soon as you can please.

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

# BACH MOTETS

BY CANDLELIGHT



Sat 2nd March 7:30pm  
Bedford School Chapel

Tickets: £15 (<18 £5) at [gaude.org.uk](http://gaude.org.uk)

*gaude*  
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## Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

In the last few weeks most of us have been shocked by the comedy of errors that has taken place in the House of Commons. It has been said that the Brexit vote in 2016 unleashed the genie of social conflict and division in our country. The politicians who uncorked the bottle have clearly been unable to harness this beast, and the nation is now in chaos.

I am no fan of Brexit and see this as just another indicator of more fragmentation in an already broken world. In my view this is not the time for party politics, as there is healing to be done, but from a Christian perspective the enemy is not kept away by defending our borders.

Division is not here as a result of Brexit, it is, unfortunately, part of our DNA. Just under thirty years ago, as a fairly young Church Army Student, I was sent to the village of Keresley in Coventry to spend three months with the local Industrial Chaplain. I was fascinated by this community because my grandfather had himself been a miner. In Keresley, I was invited to spend a week at the pit face. This coal mine ran for over a quarter of a mile. The tunnel ceilings were low, and the ground uneven. Most of the men who worked down there wore very little because it was so warm, and at the face there were vast rotary cutters pouring coal onto long conveyor belts. For weeks after I was coughing and sneezing black dust, and wondered what this must have done to my grandfather's lungs.

I remember there was a sense of brotherhood amongst the miners. Fatalities and injuries were not uncommon, and the pressures of this work brought families together. This sense of brotherhood was shattered in 1985, in a dispute between the National Union of Miners and the then Conservative government. Major industrial action was followed by often violent confrontations with the police, and then by divisions in the community itself. For some, the economic impact of the industrial action was just too hard, so the sense of brotherhood was broken by those who felt the need to go back to work against the wishes of their friends.

I remember being asked round for Sunday lunch to one family. The industrial action had long since ended, and I was sitting round a table with a father, his wife, his son and his daughter. Very quickly, at the end of the meal, the younger man, who had not spoken, got up from his chair and left the room. The older man watched his son leave, then said to me 'He's a scab, a blackleg.' This was a reference to a necrotic limb that needed to be amputated. In this father's eyes, his son was no longer a member of his family, because he had worked while his brothers had maintained strike. A divided family.

There have always been ripples of division beneath the surface of our nation, and this has little to do with membership of the EU. We do not need to gaze at Europe, but rather at ourselves. The heart of the problem is literally the problem of the human heart. We are moving soon towards Lent, and then Easter, and during this time we will celebrate the solution, to be found in Jesus Christ. We are broken, and it is our brokenness that makes the world broken.

The solution really is love and forgiveness, and that found meaning in a God who was prepared to be broken for us. Come and see!

God bless,

Eric



## Don't forget the Foodbank

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

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



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

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax ericjohnlomax64@aol.com	Tel: 852241
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
	<a href="http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com">www.stjamesbiddenham.com</a>	

# Peter's Picturehouse: Biddenham Village hall

After the songs in 'Mamma Mia, Here We Go Again!' which cheered us up on New Year's Day, our February showing features the award winning film 'The Imitation Game' (Certificate 12) starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, released in 2014. The story of Alan Turing's struggle to solve the 'unbreakable' codes of the German Enigma machine is fascinating and the film reveals some of the work that took place at Bletchley Park during World War II which shortened the length of the war.

In March, we have gone for the romantic comedy, 'Finding Your Feet' (Certificate 12) with many of your favourite stars, including Joanna Lumley, Timothy Spall, David Hayman, Celia Imrie and Imelda Staunton. Please come along and support Peter's Picturehouse as we show our next film, which was released in 2017. It tells of a colourful, if unexpected, start to retirement.

Each film is being shown in Biddenham Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, with tickets priced at £5 and available on the door. Doors open at 7.00pm, ready for the 7.30pm start, so that you can get comfy and buy drinks and ice cream.

If you have any questions, please email: [marihelen@btinternet.com](mailto:marihelen@btinternet.com)

We look forward to welcoming you, do put the dates in your diary:

Tuesday 5th February 'The Imitation Game'  
 Tuesday 5th March 'Finding Your Feet'

# Moyra Peacock and Liz Daniels

We are sorry to report the deaths, during January, of Moyra Peacock and Liz Daniels, both of Day's Lane. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

# Biddenham Show donations 2018



A total of £955 has been donated to village good causes as follows:

Cricket Club	£200
St James' School	£200
Barn@2	£50
Biddenham Under Fives	£100
Peter's Picturehouse	£155
St James's Church:	
Flowers	£100
Messy Church	£100
Tea & Talk	£50

Thanks to all our helpers and visitors for enabling us to support Biddenham groups again this year.

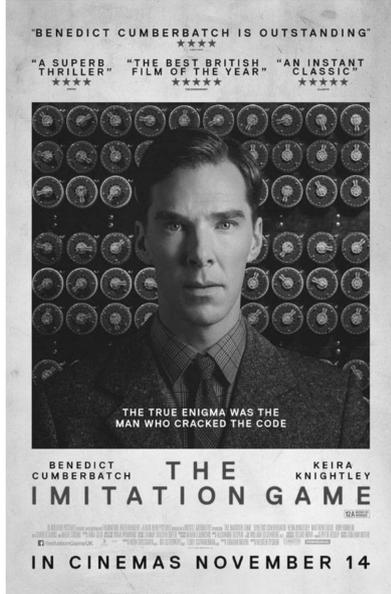
Planning for the 2019 Show will start in February.



**Peter's Picturehouse**  
*proudly presents*

Date: Tuesday 5th February 2019      Ticket price: £5  
 Bar Open: 7:00pm, film start 7:30pm

Location: **Biddenham Village Hall**        
 Any questions: [marihelen@btinternet.com](mailto:marihelen@btinternet.com)



Certificate: 12

The Imitation Game © 2014 StudioCanal. All Rights Reserved.

**Peter's Picturehouse**      On: **Tuesday 5th March 2019**  
*In March:* Finding Your Feet      Bar open: 7.00 pm, film showing starts 7:30pm

# Blunham Giant Book Sale

Saturday 16th February  
 10:00am to 3:00pm

Come to our Browse and Buy Second Hand Giant Book Sale at Blunham Parish Church,

Selection of second hand/ nearly new books

Homemade cakes, teas and coffees, homemade soup

Raffle.

St Edmunds or St James, Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NQ

All proceeds to Blunham Church Fabric Fund



# Biddenham represented on winning yacht down under



Biddenham's Francesca Leverkus was a crew member of the double trophy-winning yacht *Wax Lyrical* in the 2018 Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race. Renowned as one of the toughest ocean yacht races in the world, the non-stop, 628 nautical mile race took *Wax Lyrical* 3½ days to complete, starting in Sydney harbour at 1.00pm on Boxing Day. Francesca's role was a technical position operating the jib and spinnaker sails at the bow. The eleven crew members operated shifts of 3 hours on duty and, if there was no sail change on her 3 hours off, Francesca could try to rest.

Francesca, who now lives in Sydney, grew up in Biddenham Turn and visits her parents (Carol and Peter) who live in Church End. She was over for her brother's wedding at St James's church on 22nd December, so it was then a mad dash back to Sydney to board the boat on time, exhausted from the start!

When interviewed by her employer, the Property Department of the New South Wales Government, she said 'The most rewarding and exciting part is the sense of achievement getting out of the many tricky positions. I also love being on the water, the sense of space and the amazing nature; dolphins, whales, birds, flying fish, phosphorescent plankton and incredible sunrises and sunsets'.



The race achieved notoriety twenty years ago when, due to unexpected bad weather with Force 12 winds, only 44 yachts completed the race out of 115 starters. Twelve boats sank or were abandoned, others retired and worst of all six crew members died. This year 85 yachts started the race with 79 making it to Hobart, the capital of Tasmania.

*Wax Lyrical* was placed 48th out of the 79 finishers, a great improvement on previous years. But the boats that are first across the line don't necessarily win all the trophies! After taking handicaps into account, *Wax Lyrical* was classified *first* out of 10 finishers in the Performance Handicap System category and *third* out of 20 in the Corinthian category, hence winning 2 trophies. In addition, the 10 other crew on *Wax Lyrical* voted Francesca "best on board", despite her jet lag! A very touching accolade for her first Sydney-Hobart race.

The boat is a Danish-designed X50 class racing yacht, measuring 15m (50ft) overall length. The owner and skipper, Les Goodridge, is keen to encourage young people into yacht racing and seeks to include a higher proportion of female crew members. This year, *Wax Lyrical's* crew comprised 7 men and 4 women, including of course Francesca. She also regularly races on two smaller yachts in Sydney.

Carol and Peter Leverkus

# Letter to the Editor Removal of 100 year old hedge in Conservation Area

Over one year ago, the Parish Council commissioned the pruning of a substantial length of hedge in Main Road in the heart of the Conservation Area in front of the boundary fence of what previously formed the grounds of Lavender Lodge (42, Main Road). This established hedge, dating back well over 100 years, formed a dense screen between the village and the new-builds beyond. It also formed a very fitting backdrop to the village war memorial. The commissioned works, coordinated with the land agent Bidwells, unfortunately went unmonitored by the Parish Council and as a result, the entire hedge was removed, exposing the housing developments beyond and a substantial run of dilapidated fence along Main Road.

Around the time of that event, the owner of Lavender Lodge sectioned off a portion of garden immediately behind the now-exposed fence. Lavender Lodge was then sold off and the owner (having retained ownership of the garden), applied for planning permission to build a 5-bedroom property on the site. For a number of reasons, but predominantly due to the potential loss of 150-year old, 'A'-grade trees, planning permission was recently denied. The issue now facing the village is that of the urgent reinstatement of a suitable replacement hedge.

Towards the end of 2018, the Parish Council indicated that an agreement had been reached with the owner of the garden that, regardless of whether planning permission was granted, the owner would pay to reinstate the hedge. So far, nothing has happened. The run-down fence remains with no sign of a replacement hedge. In the meantime, the owner has reapplied for planning permission. The Parish Council has been contacted numerous times regarding the issue. The response has so far been very disappointing. Concern has been raised to them regarding the removal of the hedge and the time it is now taking to reinstate a replacement. The consensus among some is that the Parish presided over the hedge's removal, so it should take full responsibility for its reinstatement. The advantage of this is that the village would have full control over the timescale and type of planting implemented, both very important factors. It is envisaged that Biddenham residents would want these works carried out at the earliest, opportunity and to a suitably high standard.



The images show before and after the removal of the hedge. An additional image shows the hedge pre-World War One, circa 1910.



I urge all villagers who are interested in ensuring the unique beauty of the Biddenham Conservation area is preserved to contact the Parish Council to speed up the reinstatement process.

E-mail address: [clerk@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenham.org.uk)  
For commenting on planning applications:  
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/search-plans-page/> ref:019/00051FUL

Rick Cordes



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# How to hide Jesus

There are people after Jesus,  
they have seen the signs.  
Quick! Let's hide Him.  
Let's think; carpenter,  
fisherman's friend,  
disturber of religious com-  
fort.  
Let's award Him a degree in  
theology,  
a purple cassock,  
and a position of respect.  
They'll never think of looking here.  
Let's think:  
His dialect may betray him,  
His tongue is of the masses.  
Let's teach Him Latin  
and seventeenth century English,  
they'll never think of listening in.  
Let's think:  
humble,  
Man of Sorrows,  
nowhere to lay His head.  
We'll build a house for Him,  
somewhere away from the poor.  
We'll fill it with brass and silence.  
It's sure to throw them off.



There are people after Jesus.  
Quick; let's hide Him.

Steve Turner

## Bedford National Trust Association

19th February 2019

Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.30

# CPRE

## The Bedfordshire Countryside and Local Plans



**a talk by Gerry Sansom**  
**Chairman of the Council for the**  
**Preservation of Rural England,**  
**Bedfordshire.**

**Everyone welcome**

**For more details ring**  
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*For further info contact...*

Evelyn Sutherland - Mobile: 07974 742552  
evsutherlandmusic@hotmail.co.uk  
[www.unisong.weebly.com](http://www.unisong.weebly.com)

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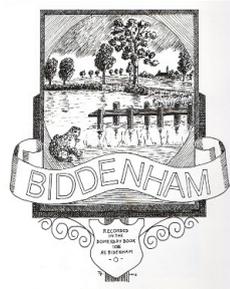
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# The Biddenham Society



## “Dr Livingstone from the Royal Society of London I presume?” “No mate! Mr Lettman from Stanton Road, Luton”.

But more later. First, full marks if you were one of the 397 (at the time of writing) residents who recently objected to the plan for 160 new dwellings on farmland west of Gold Lane. This will be a tough one to win, but the strength of feeling shown by the community can only be helpful to the cause. So, you can now settle back in your chair having done your bit to help look after the village in which you are privileged to live can't you? Sorry! I am afraid not.

Most of us can see how large-scale developments would significantly affect the village and our lives. It is, however, a cause of regret that few have much interest in recognising how the continuous erosion of small patches of greenfield can, over a relatively short period of time, have an equally cancerous effect in changing our environment for the worse, for ever. A new building on a vacant plot, a small paddock, or in a large garden at the far end of the village, may seem irrelevant and unimportant. But next door to one's own property it becomes an outrage; a major threat to your quality of life and that of numerous other residents, and someone must do something to stop it!

A cynical view? Perhaps, but founded on twelve years and 400 local planning applications as chairman of the Biddenham Society. Don't believe me? Then try working through the Borough's planning applications website and note the tiny number of responses from the public to even the most outrageous applications, and how most of these originate from near-neighbours. But hey! Your chance to make amends is at hand. So, consider the two current proposals below. Chase up the paperwork, and if you then share the Society's view that for the greater good of the village both should be rejected, pay your penance and act!

### **Application 19/00051/FUL (Land adjacent to) Lavender Lodge, 42 Main Road** **Erection of new dwelling with associated garage and access**

The plot is immediately behind the war memorial, with a proposed access drive to Main Road across the wide grass verge by the memorial itself. This is the second application (the first was recently turned down) and it attempts to address the reasons for rejection. However, the counter-arguments are not convincing, and in our view this development should still not be permitted. The site is in the conservation area, close to several historic buildings amongst which a new dwelling, clearly visible from Main Road, would not sit comfortably and would detract from the character of this picturesque part of the village. The plot contains numerous trees (all without Tree Preservation Orders) which form an attractive and appropriate backdrop to the memorial. It is unlikely these would survive very long against a future occupant's wish to admit more natural light to the property. The Society is therefore again urging rejection of the application.

### **Application 18/03253/FUL Sewage Pumping Station, Bromham Road**

#### **Demolition of the existing pumping station to erect a five bedroom contemporary style house**

Surprised that Biddenham has a defunct sewage pumping station? Although in a popular spot, few will have noticed it as nature has virtually reclaimed the territory. But in true explorer tradition, the determined Mr Lettman from Luton must have donned his hat and mosquito net and battled through the undergrowth to uncover Biddenham's hidden treasure. He now wants to build an unusual 5 bedroom house on the plot. Should we let him? Most definitely not.

First question - where is it? Just off Bromham Road, by the bridge, close to the kissing gate entrance to the river valley park, and behind the heritage trail notice board and the small 'fishermen's car park'. Despite being within the flood plain, many would see this as a highly desirable spot for a house, but to approve the application would indeed be a travesty. There are no existing properties on the south side of this lengthy section of Bromham Road, and once off the road the walker is surrounded on all sides by delightful open countryside and the panorama of the river valley. The area is of significant heritage and archaeological interest, as emphasised by its inclusion on the Biddenham Heritage Trail which passes along the western boundary of the site, and the proximity of the historic Bromham Bridge. A new property in such an outstanding area of amenity would be a visual aberration, and anathema to the rural setting. Access from the site is extremely dangerous, producing a major blind spot for all traffic travelling east from the bridge. The Society is therefore recommending rejection.



**To view plans:** go to [www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans) and click the link 'To view and comment on planning applications'. Enter the planning application number, and click Search – Documents – View associated documents. Inspect hard copies by visiting the Borough's Customer Service Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford.

**To submit comments:** register on the above site and submit on the internet, or send by e-mail as a pdf attachment to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk) quoting the reference and your full name and address. Postal submissions should be sent to the Planning Department at Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

**Closing date for responses:** 11th February 2019 for both the above applications.

Tony Wood  
Chairman  
[tony.wood@redrobin.me.uk](mailto:tony.wood@redrobin.me.uk)

*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.*

# Biddenham History Society

The January meeting of the Biddenham History Society was both informative and fun. Our speaker, Dr Anne Daye, is an expert on historical dance. She began by giving us an overview of aspects of dance as a source of entertainment as it would have been in a village like Biddenham from about 1750 to about 1850. Dances were one of the main means of meeting new people or renewing social connections. Dances were held in private houses, floor space was cleared, and in public venues, Assembly Rooms. There were Assembly Rooms in Bedford in 1834.

The style of dancing changed considerably during this period. In the late eighteenth century, the minuet was still in vogue. Attention was focused on the performing couple: others stood around and watched. Gradually other dances were introduced that involved all those present. These were country dances with their long sets and most shocking of all, the waltz, which necessitated close contact with a partner.

The new dances required instruction as it was too difficult to learn them at the ball. Dancing masters, they were generally men, were employed by wealthy families.



Anne told us about Queen Victoria's dancing master who travelled to Windsor and Balmoral when required. He sometimes taught the ladies-in-waiting and other times, the young royals. If there was no need for his services that day, he went fishing.

In Bedford, the dancing masters were based in The Crescent and taught families like the Russells and St Johns.

Once we had the background information,

Anne took on the role of dancing master, so that we could try out a couple of the Country Dances. One of them was regularly danced by a 14 year old girl in the nineteenth century, but we soon realized that the young can learn moves and remember them faster than older people! We did try valiantly to remember where to go and when and Anne was very patient with us. We had plenty of laughter as well as gentle exercise! Thank you Anne for being such a good teacher as well as lecturer!

After the meeting, we looked at an aerial photograph of the village taken in about 1960, that belongs to the Gardeners Association. Paula had brought it along for everyone to see. Three ponds were clearly visible in the centre of the village as well as the old farm buildings for Grove Farm.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Monday 29th April at 8.00pm in the Church Barn. Our speaker will be Jean Fullerton who will tell us about Victorian Medicine. Jean has been a nurse and lecturer in nursing. She is now a published novelist and a regular lecturer on cruise ships. I hope you will be able to come and hear her.

Kathy Fricker



*The Assembly Rooms in Midland Road came to a sad fate, bombed together with the County Theatre on 23rd July 1942. Picture is courtesy of Bedfordshire Archives.*

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Tuesday: lunch only

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**ThreeTunsBiddenham**

## Calling all bards, writers, artists, photographers, etc.

At a recent Thursday morning Tea and Talk gathering (aka coffee morning) in Great Denham, I mentioned our Phoenix Book Club's latest challenge, the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy, the Poet Laureate, and discovered that Suzette Maguire, the Pioneer Minister, is also keen on poetry.

Not only is she partial to poetry, she is also a writer and has recently won a competition. Congratulations Suzette! How many other potential poets do we have in Biddenham and Great Denham?

Marilyn Freeman, who recently spoke at a barn@2 meeting, wondered if we would be interested in putting a book together with people's stories, poems, memories, paintings and photographs or indeed, anything creative. Spellbrooktales, the company which she runs with her husband, would be happy to publish the book for us at a discounted rate. After basic costs, the proceeds could be used for various local community groups or a named charity.

If you are interested in contributing items or happy to help me collate such a project please contact me personally or via email at [valeriefitzhugh@gmail.com](mailto:valeriefitzhugh@gmail.com). If all we produce is a calendar, that would be a start.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Val Fitzhugh

## Albino squirrel seen on Biddenham Turn

Just before Christmas, Pete and Heather Marks spotted a pure white squirrel at King's Corner. Complete with pink eyes, it seems we have a resident albino squirrel.



*To be truthful, this isn't 'our' squirrel but I thought the report deserved a picture! (Ed)*

## Andrew Charles

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## Update from the Pond Team

After our very successful autumn work morning, further work was carried out between Christmas and New Year by David and Will to construct a firm base on the bank to prolong the life of the eastern jetty, which had been replanked a while ago. We thank them for an excellent job.

After a very dry summer, this winter is so far following the same pattern, and so the pond is only slowly regaining its status as a pond! This however does not worry our wildlife too much in that the vertebrates (ie. newts and toads) are in hibernation and do not need the water for breeding at the moment. The invertebrate population of water skaters and pond scorpions are all happily surviving in the mud or on the fringes. The mallard ducks may have gone away, but they will return and the moorhens are in hiding.

We hope to be able to make an announcement soon about a new committee member, but we still need a couple more people to help us. If you value the village pond and have some time to spare – we meet in the evening 4 times a year. Please, please get in touch by contacting Jane Knight 01234 330173, Paul Godden 01234 344081 or Chris Jones 01234 211759.

Like many villagers, the committee has formally responded on behalf of the Friends to the revised planning application for 160 houses to be built on the fields to the west of Gold Lane. Our objections have focused on the detrimental impact to the pond which, while not itself included in the land earmarked for development, will be directly and adversely affected by the proposed development.

In summary these are that;

- The pond is fed by run-off from nearby fields and that over the last 30 years the average water level has been decreasing as the pond has been affected by the housing development that has already taken place. The proposed development only exacerbates the problem and in the longer term lack of natural water run-off will affect the ecology of the pond and its surrounding area.
- The pond has historical significance being once the carp pond for the Manor House in Biddenham and is

located in the surviving rural part of the village on the ancient causeway known as Coffin Path, which historically linked the village to the church.

- After a review in 2016 the pond and Coffin Path were included in an extended Biddenham Conservation Area, the ancient rural setting of which will be destroyed if the development proceeds.
- The digging of new ponds as part of the new development will not benefit our pond as the available water resource will be diverted elsewhere.
- It is a fallacy to assume that the wildlife currently sustained by the village pond will transfer to the new balance ponds.
- The village pond is home to the protected Great Crested newt, and any change to the delicate ecology of the pond and the surrounding area, will affect this protected species.
- The village pond is part of the community, providing a recreational and educational resource, having been looked after by the community since 1986.

Do come and visit and enjoy the pond.

The Pond Team

Forthcoming dates:

Spring work morning Saturday 6th April 10.00am to noon

Frog foray - Friday 12th April 9.00pm

AGM and tea - Sunday 9th June 3.30pm

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

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



**'Church' with a difference!**

Dates for 2019  
4.30pm - 6.00pm  
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

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Tuesday 19 February  
Tuesday 19 March  
Tuesday 23 April  
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Tuesday 16 July  
Tuesday 17 September  
Tuesday 15 October  
Tuesday 19 November  
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## **barn@2** **Your life's story: a precious legacy**

Marilyn Freeman and her husband Barry run a company called Spellbrooktales and she came to talk to us about how their company can create books from your pictures, memories, poems etc. to pass on to family members.

It all began with Marilyn editing and proof-reading the books which Barry wrote when he retired. I discovered this incredible service on finding a very mouse-munched photograph album in a box in our barn and, wondering what I could do to rescue it, found their advert in a local magazine.

Marilyn had been brought up in a shop in Hollinwood, on a busy Manchester main road. It was when her mother died in 2010 that she began setting down her childhood memories, partly in tribute to her parents and also as a way to help deal with her grief. She wanted her children and grandchildren to know something of her life growing up among the red-brick terraces and smoky cotton mills. She also described in wonderful detail the annual trip the family made, by coach or train, to the coast at Blackpool or resorts on the north coast of Wales. Her poems, included in her book, were so poignant and got us all thinking of our past lives and how different they were from the lives of children today.

A good place to start, perhaps, if you want to leave a written legacy for your own family? There are self-publishing sites online but they require a certain level of skill and an ability to proof-read, not to mention the time and effort it might take to perfect those skills.

Marilyn gave us many good suggestions for ideas of what to include and various themes to work towards, remembering to include thoughts, feelings and references to all five senses. She has produced a small booklet for anyone wishing to embark upon their own 'book of memories'. Further information can be found at [www.spellbrooktales.com](http://www.spellbrooktales.com)

This was our first meeting as **barn@2**, our all-inclusive group but.....where were you all? We did have a couple of newcomers but the audience remained gender specific!

Our new programme is available with a membership fee of £5. Members' fees for meetings are £3 and for non-members it's £5 for which you get a talk, refreshments and a chance to win a prize in the raffle. Our talks are advertised so if you see something which appeals, do come along and join us. You will be most welcome and if you have a talk you can give, or know someone who could contribute to our programme for 2020, do get in touch.

Many thanks and a Happy Friendly New Year!

Val Fitzhugh

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**barn@2**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**CHURCH BARN @ 2**



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*Tuesday 19th  
February*



*Biddenham Village Hall*

*10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

*Selection of teas, coffees,  
hot chocolate and juice*

*Home baked cakes*

*Book Swap*

*Next café 19th March*

# Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting took place on Wednesday 9th January 2019 in the upstairs room at the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Joe Warren (Vice Chairman) Jon Gambold, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt, Chris Gee; Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and Clerk Lyn Lyman. Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Alan Jacobs and Francia Slade sent their apologies. Nine members of the public were also present.

## Gold Lane

During the public session, a concerned resident wanted to know what the latest situation was regarding the traffic survey for Gold Lane. The Borough Council recently sent the Parish Council a traffic survey report. The report states that cars generally do less than 30 miles an hour when using the road. There are no speed issues with the Lane, so the Borough Council have closed the issue. Various discussions took place about alternative ways to alleviate the problems on Gold Lane. It was decided to look at mobile speed indicators which would be put up on posts and moved around from time to time as it was felt traffic should move much slower given the narrow nature of the road. Roger Rigby will look at the possibility of borrowing Bromham's speed indicator. If a successful trial were to take place the Parish Council could look at the possibility of buying one.

## Land West of Gold Land

The deadline for comments on the development has been extended to 30th January 2019. There are currently 261 objections in the Council Portal with 65 Doorstep challenge letters pending. The question was asked why don't the Borough Council count household signatures separately. Jon Gambold has had a discussion with the Borough Council and they have agreed that they will retrospectively make an adjustment to reflect separate individuals. This will be done in the next couple of weeks.

The Borough Council are a few days behind with the processing of the signatures. Rest assured they are on top of the case, updates will appear during the next couple of weeks. Please check the Bedford Borough Council Portal to see if your name has been registered.

The Parish Council urges the community to use all avenues possible to get objections in, whether it is by the [www.have-a-say.co.uk/goldlane/contact-responsive.php](http://www.have-a-say.co.uk/goldlane/contact-responsive.php) link, the Borough Council Portal or the Doorstep Challenge.

There are a couple of individuals in the local community who have excelled at collecting many signatures using both the Doorstep challenge and getting signatures from their work places. If we can get 20 or 30 people to do this then that would equate to 200 to 300 more signatures.

For the latest information regarding the Gold Lane Development, please refer to the Parish Council Website.

## Pavilion use in a public emergency:

A request has been made by the Borough Council to put the pavilion on their list for public emergency use. All Councillors present supported this request.

## The 2019/2020 Precept

The precept for the next financial year will stay the same. That is there will be no increase. The precept for those people unaware of its significance, is the Parish Council grant given to it to run its affairs for the financial year by the Borough Council via the council tax system.

## Bromham Road Railway Bridge

Building will start for the Bromham Road Railway Bridge in March 2019. It is envisaged that the work will take 12 months. Before work begins a footbridge will be installed to provide access for bikes and pedestrians.



## Transporting Bedford 2020

The 2020 project around Sainsbury's Roundabout will be delayed until after the Bromham Railway Bridge has been completed. The Borough Council does not want two sets of major works taking place at the same time.

## Bromham Bridge

A consultation will occur in February 2019 to discuss options on how traffic should use it.

## Deep Spinney Roundabout

When the roundabout was put in place, it was built to accommodate a capacity of 16,000 cars a day. It now takes 31,000 cars. Rodger Rigby will engage with the Borough Council to see if anything can be done to formally increase the capacity. It was generally agreed that there is a problem at this roundabout especially with lots of new houses being built in the locality.

## Automation of Pavilion Hall payments

The Parish Council gave the go ahead to upgrade the website to include bookings by date for the pavilion. This will make it easier for people to view the bookings on the web rather than call the Pavilion Manager. More details will follow.

## Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th February 2019. Please come along if you have anything you would like to raise.

**Joe Warren**  
Vice Chairman

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## Carols in the churchyard

There's something odd down the village.

They're queuing halfway down Church End. There are men and women and kids and grandpas and grandmas and dogs, but no cats. They are sitting under the hedge scratching their heads and wondering what these weird people of Biddenham and Great Denham are up to this time. So, what are they queuing for? There's no branch of John Lewis or Primark down there with 50% off the price (just after they put it up by 50%).

There's something different here. There's a look of wonder. The children have it most, but even in the adults it sneaks out even when they are trying to be terribly adult and cynical and correct. It is as though it had struck all of them that perhaps, just perhaps, Brexit would not be an absolute disaster particularly for the poor people, or perhaps, just perhaps, the Saudis would soon stop dropping wonderfully designed British bombs on towns in Yemen which do exactly what they were designed to do, kill children, hundreds of them. This particular look of wonder was because they realised that when Almighty God came down to live with us and start sorting things out, He really did come as a homeless child born in a cow shed, who rapidly became an asylum seeker in Egypt because people were coming after him to kill Him. It was this story, that people were queuing to hear again.

This was the story that they were going to sing about and this was the story that attracted 724 members of our two village communities to a churchyard in a midwinter evening to sing. They sang the story of God turning up in total weakness to find the people who had lost Him. There they sang their hearts out with a large and varied band with wonder in their eyes. You see something more than 50% off was happening. Instead, there was 100% or even 10,000% absolute commitment by God to ordinary people who would allow Him to come into their lives, to change them and change the world. The cats sat and watched and then washed behind their ears because cats are wise and they recognised that something wonderful was happening.

Edwin Martin



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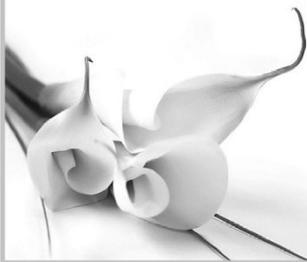
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# This month in the garden

Here we are again at the start of another gardening year. As usual, we wonder what the year will hold for us and, in particular, what the weather will be like. Already this year has been unusually dry and many of our lawns are still showing the damage from last year's drought. I have been hoping for a natural recovery but this looks increasingly unlikely and some re-sowing may well be necessary. It will be a good idea to scarify and aerate the lawn before any sowing. You can do this yourself on a small lawn, raking out dead grass and moss and going over the grass with a fork held vertically to dig holes in the soil. Professional lawn care companies will gladly do the job for you, at a cost but with a lot of saving in effort.

February is generally reckoned to be the best time to tidy up ornamental beds. Tidy gardeners like to do this in November but keeping dead seed-heads and grasses until now is often attractive in frost and the seeds attract birds. We have had some rewarding visits from goldfinches enjoying our rudbeckia seed-heads this winter. Cut down the dead growth of perennials nearly to ground level and, where possible, shred the stems and add to compost. Deciduous grasses will be looking dead by now and should be cut back. Evergreen grasses will have a lot of dead stems and foliage. Cut this out where practicable and then 'comb' the grass with a hand fork to get out more dead material. This, too, is good material for the compost bin. Keep the brown stuff dry in a sack until you can mix it in with grass cuttings. Some people like to burn off the dead stuff in pampas grasses and stipa gigantea but this obviously depends on what is close by and watch out for damage to sheds or fences.

By the end of February you should be able to remove netting from ponds without the prospect of dead leaves or other debris getting in to the pond. Cut out any dead material on the pond plants and thin excessive area of oxygenating plants. You need to keep some good areas of clear water both for attractiveness and the health of the pond. Watch out for blanket weed growth as the water warms up and scoop out any duck weed. I use a child's fishing net

If you have a vegetable patch I hope you have managed your winter digging already but, if not, it is still worth doing. Make sure the soil is fairly dry though as digging wet soil will only compact it. Rake over the soil to create a fine tilth before sowing anything. Unless the weather is unseasonably warm, which I don't think it will be, outdoor sowing needs to be left until March. You can bring the sowing time forward by putting cloches, a plastic tunnel or

horticultural fleece on the soil to warm it. If you have a conservatory or heated greenhouse you can get tomatoes and some salad crops off to an early start. It is best to use a propagator to speed up germination. After germination in small seed trays, prick out seedlings into larger trays or pots. If you haven't got a greenhouse or conservatory you can use an indoor window-sill out of direct sunlight but the seed tray will need turning every day to keep plants growing vertically. A way of getting round this is to fix a stiff piece of board covered with aluminium foil at the back of the seed tray so that light is reflected on the plants. Prepare for the sowing season by washing pots and trays used last year.

If you are still wondering what to do in the garden, green houses and cold frames should be washed inside and out so that the glass is as clear as possible. A dry spell can be used profitably for treating sheds and fences with wood preservative.

Visiting other people's gardens can start in February with many gardens open for snowdrops and hellebores.

There are two local gardens in Pavenham offering a joint visit under the National Gardens scheme. These are the Folly in the High Street and the Knoll and they are open from 1.00pm to 4.00pm on 3rd, 23rd and 24th February, admission £5.00.

Jeremy Arthern



*The Folly and The Knoll at Pavenham have extensive arrays of snowdrops and hellebores.*



## Huntingdon Male Voice Choir

will perform on Saturday 9th February  
at Bromham Baptist Church in aid of

St Owen's Church, Bromham

building extension project,

Further information at

[www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org)

# SIMPLY TREE SERVICES



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# Biddenham Gardeners Association

This year, at our meeting on 15th January, our speakers on the subject 'My Garden' were two BGA members; Liz Hurford and Rosemary Harris. Liz spoke about her garden in Church End and Rosemary talked about her garden in Nodders Way and her allotment in Queens Park on the Allen Park site.

Liz has a long, fairly narrow plot of a third of an acre running down to the Coffin Path with distant views of the trees edging the Bromham Road. A marked feature of the view is a large conifer in her neighbour's garden. Liz has lived there for over twenty years but her passion for gardening really started when she retired three years ago.

The front garden has a lawn edged with shrubs and a sheltered courtyard area with container plants near the house. This is the sunny side of the plot. The back garden is north facing but is large enough to get a good deal of sunshine. Features in the back garden are an ornamental bed backed by a trellis which breaks up the long run of the lawn and beyond this, on the left-hand side there is another large ornamental bed. Both beds are stocked with flowering shrubs and perennials with some spring bulbs.

Beyond these beds there is a fernery backed by trees and shrubs which makes good use of a dry shady area. The final feature is a wild flower patch which is sown with a commercial wild flower seed mixture and is at its best in late June, July and August.

The garden was formerly an orchard and has well-drained sandy alkaline soil. This is easy to work but needs compost to maintain productivity.

Liz illustrated the growth of the garden with a succession of photos of the same sites taken at different times of the year. She then demonstrated the form and flowering of individual shrubs and perennials in a series of very informative photos. This was complemented with pictures of the wild life that inhabits the garden. Some of the highlights in the front garden are a white tasselled garrya elliptica, a lovely laburnum tree and a fine splash of gold from a tree which lights up Church End. The trees and shrubs in the back garden make a colourful picture in Autumn and there was a striking colour combination with the pink of nerines backed by a dark purple-leaved cotinus.

Rosemary's talk was an excellent partner for Liz's but a complete contrast in its subject matter. Whereas Liz concentrates on the ornamental garden, Rosemary's chief concern is with edible productivity. Both the garden and the allotment are chiefly used for vegetables and fruit although flowers are not forgotten. Garden and allotment have the same type of sandy soil as Liz's garden but Rosemary commented that the soil on the allotment site varies a good deal between the different plots and previously she had a plot with much heavier soil which was difficult to work.

Rosemary also moved through the gardening year, with illustrations showing the range of techniques that she uses and the different stages of growth from seed germination to harvesting. This made for a very practical and informative talk laced with some self-deprecating humour. Rosemary said that she is not self-sufficient in vegetables but the range of things she grows and the sheer amount harvested was, to say the least, impressive. This allows her to have a continuous supply of vegetables throughout the year extended by freezing, bottling and pickling and with carrots stored in dry sand. We were shown pictures of root vegetables, brassicas, beans, and squashes of many kinds together with a good supply of sweet corn. The allotment is clearly of a generous size even though a third of it was left fallow, covered with discarded astro turf to prevent weed growth.

The talk was interspersed with useful growing tips. Particularly helpful was the idea of germinating large-seeded plants, such as courgette, cucumber, melons and

squashes, in the airing cupboard. These are sown on damp kitchen roll in closed plastic boxes. Germination takes only a few days and it is essential to check progress frequently and to bring the seedlings into the light as soon as they show leaves. They can then be potted on with the leaves just showing above the seed compost.

Rosemary's photos were mainly taken during 2018 which reminded us that many things suffered in the drought (potatoes and runner beans being particular victims) but Rosemary was especially pleased with her sweet corn and a magnificent crop of strawberries. The talk ended with pictures of vegetables that Rosemary exhibited at the Biddenham Show and which earned well-deserved success.

The next meeting of the BGA will be on 19th February when Rob Brett, curator of the RHS garden at Hyde Hall, will speak on 'Yours and my need for plants'.

Jeremy Arthern

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

*The Friends of St James, Biddenham*

## BEDFORD SCHOOL BRASS ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Andrew Groom



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, 7:30pm**

**St James's Church, Biddenham**

Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AR

A concert of varied music to suit all tastes

*Drinks and snacks in the interval*

**Admission:**

£10 each (£8 for members of The Friends of St James)

*Children under 16 free*

**To book, please contact:**

Chris Haydn Jones (211759) or Diana Shooter (213305)

*In aid of The Friends of St James*

*- the charity which preserves and enhances the church, churchyard and barn for future generations*



## Great Denham Parish Council

The next Parish Council meetings are on 4th February and 4th March at 7.30pm in the Mercia Suite, Great Denham Community Hall, Saxon Way. There are 15 minutes for public questions at the beginning of each meeting.

To keep up to date with developments at Great Denham log on to <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.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  
**£7 (from March)**

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month  
*Book swap*  
**Friday, 1st February, 1st March**

To book: email [firstfridaylunch@outlook.com](mailto:firstfridaylunch@outlook.com)  
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## Mobile Library

**Great Denham Community Centre**  
 Saturdays 9th & 23rd February  
 2.20pm-2.40pm  
**Biddenham**  
 Thursdays 14th, 28th February  
 Church End 10.00am-10.20am  
 Nodders Way 10.25am-10.50am  
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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](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)

### Church Barn

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

### Pavilion

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

Booking enquiries to [biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk) or Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

### Great Denham Community Hall

[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk)

## Regular Events in Biddenham

### Monday

10.00am	Cha Char Chimps	Village Hall
10.00am	Yoga	Pavilion
2.30pm	Cardiac Rehab exercise	Pavilion
6.30pm	Pilates	Pavilion
7.00pm	Mat Pilates	Church Barn
7.15pm	Guides (term-time)	Village Hall
7.45pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

### Friday

9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
11.00am	Mother & Baby Yoga (except 1st Friday)	Village Hall
3.30-7.45pm	Ballet classes (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00-4.30pm	Duplicate Bridge	Church Barn
7.00pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion
7.00pm	Choir Practice	Church Barn
8.00pm	Tango	Village Hall

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

9.00 -10.00am	Explorers	Church Barn
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## 100 CLUB



### November draw

1.	Peter Culverwell	25
2.	Prince Wani	106
3.	Angie Tatum Hume	469

Drawn by Jean Hinton

### December draw

1.	Francis Galbraith	18
2.	Trissa Willmott	135
3.	Peter Marks	471

Drawn by June Murphy

### Welcome Packs for

### New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church      Tel: 214805

## February

- Fri 1 Feb First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
**Sun 3 Feb** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Sun 3 Feb Pavenham Open Gardens, 1.00-4.00pm, see p13  
 Mon 4 Feb Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p14  
 Tue 5 Feb Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00 pm for 7.30pm, see p3  
 Sat 9 Feb Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15  
 Sat 9 Feb Huntingdon Male Voice Choir, Bromham Baptist Church, 7.00pm, see p13  
**Sun 10 Feb** Holy Communion at St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer at All Saints, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 12 Feb barn@2, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p10  
 Wed 13 Feb Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p11  
 Thu 14 Feb Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15  
 Sat 16 Feb Blunham Giant Book Sale, Blunham, 10.00am-3.00pm, see p3  
**Sun 17 Feb** Holy Communion at St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evensong at St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 19 Feb Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p10  
 Tue 19 Feb Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.30pm, see p5  
 Tue 19 Feb Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p9  
 Tue 19 Feb Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14  
 Sat 23 Feb Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15  
 Sat 23 Feb Pavenham Open Gardens, 1.00-4.00pm, see p13  
**Sun 24 Feb** Holy Communion at St James's, **9.00am**  
 No evening service  
 Sun 24 Feb Pavenham Open Gardens, 1.00-4.00pm, see p13  
 Thu 28 Feb Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15

## March

- Fri 1 Mar First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
 Sat 2 Mar Bach Motets by Candlelight, Bedford School Chapel, 7.30pm, see p2  
 Sat 2 Mar Bedford School Brass Ensemble, St James's Church, 7.30pm, see p14  
**Sun 3 Mar** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Mon 4 Mar Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p14  
 Tue 5 Mar Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, see p3  
 Tue 19 Feb Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p10  
 Tue 19 Mar Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p9

## April

- Sat 6 Apr Pond Work Morning, Biddenham Pond, 10.00am-12.00noon, see p9  
 Fri 12 Apr Frog Foray, Biddenham Pond, 9.00pm, see p9  
 Mon 29 Apr Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 8.00pm, see p7

## 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 **March** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close ([cj.sugars@talktalk.net](mailto:cj.sugars@talktalk.net)) by **Wednesday 20th February 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 15**