

# The Loop

May  
2019

£1.00

## New All Age Worship

Do you struggle to get to the 9.00am services at St James's? If so, perhaps this new service is for you!

From 19th May we will be holding a new service of All Age Worship in the Church Barn at 4.00pm on the third Sunday of the month. This will be similar to the first Sunday All Age Services in the morning in that it will be a short, informal service, with a mixture of modern and traditional music, accessible to all.

We do hope that you will join us!

Jacqui Piper

## Planning application - west of Gold Lane

There have been some developments in the progress of the planning application for 160 houses west of Gold Lane.

For an update, see page 15.



## Bulky Waste Collections

There will be bulky waste collections in Biddenham and Great Denham as follows:

### Saturday 18th May

Manor Road/Church End 8.30am-9.30am  
Main Road/Nodders Way 9.30am-11.30am  
Biddenham Pavilion 11.30am-12.30pm

### Sunday 19th May

Great Denham near 1st roundabout 8.30am-10.15am  
Darlow Drive/Ison Close 10.30am-12.30pm



*This giant bunny rabbit made an appearance in the sunshine at Great Denham's Easter events.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **BIDDENHAM GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION** \*  
 \* We are holding a plant sale on \*  
 \* Saturday 18th May at 8 Darlow Drive \*  
 \* from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. \*  
 \* All are welcome and if you have plants for \*  
 \* sale please bring them on the morning of the \*  
 \* sale. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

‘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)

# Ascension Day

## Service of Communion

7.00pm  
 Thursday 30 May  
 St James's Church  
 All welcome

### Churchwardens

The sad news is that Edwin Martin has resigned as Church Warden having been in post for the last five years. The good news is twofold. Laurie Hurn, who has been Church Warden for more than a decade, has agreed to continue in post. And secondly we have a new Church Warden, David Dunford. Some of you might be thinking. "Who"? But fear not, you can read all about him in next month's edition, and find out, among other things, his future romantic plans!

Peta Martin



### 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 David Dunford	Tel 364251 Tel 07554 151415
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	

### Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends  
 Wow. What a disappointment it is. Of course, we knew it was there, but we just could not see it. I guess it began with gossip, people all over the world, chattering about their suspicions, and then agreeing that there was something probably worth looking at.



'Let us get a photograph of it.' They said, so they set out to do just that. Eventually, it took a collaboration known as the EHT, which stands for 'Event Horizon Telescope.' The title is inaccurate, because no one telescope in the world could pick up what the EHT photographed. The EHT is actually a collection of eight telescopes working in collaboration from around the globe, and together, after spending around £13,000,000, they have produced a single photograph of a supermassive black hole, 15,000,000 light years away, at the centre of the M87 Galaxy.

Well, I have seen pictures of lots of things. Only last week, for example, I was standing with a friend of mine, in front of Rembrandt's painting of a woman bathing in steam. My friend commented on the immediacy of the picture. By that, I mean, that we were allowed so close to this great treasure, that we could reach out and touch it. Not, however, without the National Gallery's assistant curator having a few kittens first.

The trouble is that the picture of the black hole is not nearly as good. In fact, apart from it being very blurry, it looks pretty much like all the imagined black holes that we have seen routinely in other second-rate Sci-Fi films. 'Well,' say the science geeks, 'that is not strictly true. In fact, from the photo, you can tell all sorts of things about the temperature of light, and the way gravity distorts stuff, and the kind of force the almost infinitely dense core of the black hole exerts on the surrounding stars.'

Yawn! The reality is that we have extended our vision far beyond our own back yard. We have reached out, like the people of Babel, to try and touch the face of God, and simply found a dark, unfathomable chasm in the fabric of space-time, a hole in space. On one level, the picture may be interesting, but there is no immediacy or real relevance to it. In it we see no solution there to the world's problems. And, the photograph is simply an image of a vast pile of emptiness. There is simply nothing there, and quite frankly, I would not wish to have the picture on our lounge wall. Despite all the money spent on rendering this image, the world's problems are still here, and the human heart is still broken.

Visiting the art gallery in St Albans after the Maundy Thursday service, I noticed a tract on a table, from one of the local churches. It read, 'Christ is not here, He is risen.' The point of the Christian Gospel is that Christ is, indeed, risen, and because He is risen, He is, indeed here, with us, and for us.

We have no picture of Him, not even a blurry one. On the other hand, we do not need a bank of expensive electron microscopes to encounter Him. In fact, the risen Jesus is so close, and so imminent, that we can reach out to Him. In fact, He has even reached out to you across the vast distance that separates us all from God. God is here, He is imminent, and He loves us.

God bless.

Eric

# Peter's Picturehouse Review and Preview

An Oscar-winning classic, 'Casablanca'. This was April's film at Peter's Picturehouse. Many of us, including myself, had never seen it before; are those in their 60's too young? Or at best, had seen the odd extract here and there. I really enjoyed it. Filmed in 1942, it's a World War II drama and therefore contemporary at the time of filming. It focuses on an American expatriate, Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) who must choose between his love for a woman, Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman) and helping her and her husband, a Czech Resistance leader, escape from the Vichy-controlled city of Casablanca to continue his fight against the Nazis.

Maybe a little slow to get going, the film fizzed into life with the appearance of our heroine, Ingrid Bergman. How did they manage in these black and white films to make their leading women so luminously beautiful? The chemistry between her and Bogart was intense, and the flashback to their love affair in Paris at the time the Nazis entered the city was very moving. The haunting song 'As Time Goes By' was central to the film. The finale was tense. Would Bergman and her husband get on the plane? Had the police chief betrayed them to the Germans? What would our hero Rick do? Everyone breathed a sigh of relief at the end. 'Casablanca' has definitely stood the test of time.

The May film is 'Phantom Thread' (cert. 15). Written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, this is a film that came and went quite quickly when it was released early last year, and many of you might have missed it. I was lucky enough to see it at the open-air cinema in the Sydney Botanic Gardens, on a beautifully warm evening with the Harbour Bridge and Opera House in the background and a glass of wine to hand. In this setting I would have enjoyed absolutely any film, but we were agreed at the end that it had been well worth seeing.

'Phantom Thread' stars Daniel Day-Lewis (and if you saw him in 'Lincoln' you will know what a great actor he is) in supposedly his last film before retirement, and he is in top form. He plays a renowned fashion designer, Reynolds Woodcock, in 1950s London. He creates dresses for members of high society. Woodcock's charisma and genius are matched by his obsessive, controlling personality. His household and daily life are managed by his sister, Cyril (Lesley Manville). The equilibrium is totally disturbed when a young waitress, Alma, enters his life.

'Phantom Thread' scored well with the film critics. It was nominated for five Oscars (including Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress) and perhaps unsurprisingly for a film about high fashion, won the Oscar for Best Costume Design, so there is plenty to enjoy visually. One critic described it as 'strange and mesmerizing... romantic drama, with a touch of thriller and an unexpected dab of dark comedy.' 'The Independent' said it was 'wondrously bizarre'. There are one or two quite dark and unexpected twists (no violence however!). The audience reviews were somewhat more divided but many were very appreciative. It's certainly an unusual film. Not one for you if you like action movies: rather sit back and admire the visuals and the superb acting. For quite a slow-paced film, I kept wide awake and absorbed throughout.

Come and see what you think. We can't give you the Sydney Harbour setting, but you can have the glass of wine, and/or tea/coffee/ice cream if you prefer. The Village Hall doors open at 7.00p.m. on Tuesday 7th May and the film starts at 7.30pm. Admission £5.

Rosemary Harris



## Peter's Picturehouse

*proudly presents*

Date: Tuesday 7th May 2019      Ticket price: £5

Bar Open: 7:00pm

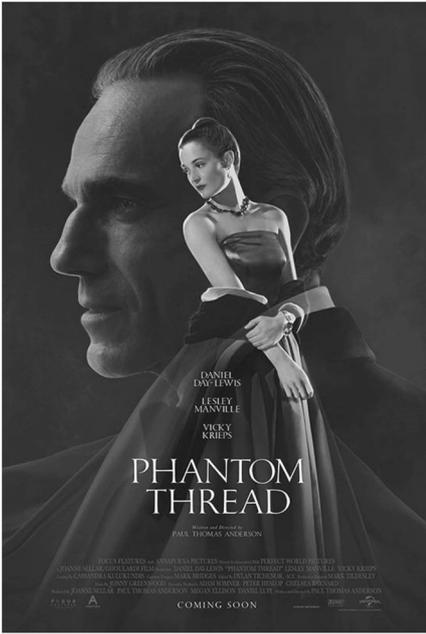
Film Showing Starts: 7:30pm

Location: Biddenham Village Hall.



Certificate: 15

If you need a lift to the Village Hall in order to see the film, please phone Marihelen on 07710288933



Phantom Thread © 2018 Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved.

**Peter's Picturehouse**

In June: **Woman in Gold**

On: **Tuesday 4th June**

Bar open: 7:00 pm, film showing starts 7:30pm

Location: In Biddenham Village Hall



## 'Church' with a difference!

Be creative  
Have fun  
Hear bible stories  
Sing songs

**Tea for the children!**

**Biddenham**  
Tuesday 21 May  
Tuesday 18 June  
4.30pm - 6.00pm  
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

**Kempston**  
Please note that the Kempston group is not currently meeting.

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

New!

# St James Biddenham

New!

# All Age Worship

(An informal service accessible to all)

4.00pm

In the Church Barn  
every third Sunday  
Starting: 19 May

## St Joseph's and St Gregory's

### The Easter Story

The whole school took part in acting out Holy Week on Friday 5th April, reminding us why we celebrate Easter. Each year group performed a different part of the story from Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, ending in the joy of the Resurrection. It was a very fitting end to our term.



### Big Spring Sing

Year 6 children have been participating in the Sing On programme which is regularly held in the Bedford area and culminated in a brilliant performance at Bedford's Corn Exchange recently. Twenty five of our children rose to the occasion and sang songs from Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat wonderfully. Well done to all involved!

### Mother's Day Lunch

Over 70 of our mothers and grandmothers came to the Lower Primary Site on Monday 1st April to share a Mothers' Day Lunch with their children. Chicken Pasta Bake or Vegetarian Curry was enjoyed by all. It was a fantastic meal and happy occasion.



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ryangascoynephg@gmail.com



## 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/)



# Highlights from St James's Annual Meetings

The Annual Meetings for St James's Church were held on Monday 1st April. 27 parishioners attended. During the meetings Laurie Hurn and David Dunford (see separate article) were elected as Churchwardens for the year (with Edwin Martin and John Richards elected as Deputy Churchwardens). Two new PCC members (Melissa Cunningham and Keeley Frampton) were elected for a three year period, along with Michael Hurford who was re-elected for a further three year term of office. Ann Morrish, Richard Moxon and Zoe Rooke all stepped down from the PCC. We are extremely grateful for their valuable contributions as PCC members.

Following the preparation of a new Electoral Roll (church membership list), it was confirmed that there were 93 names on the Roll. This was slightly down on last year but a small drop was to be expected when a new Roll is prepared.

The meeting briefly discussed all the groups connected to the church. There are too many of them to include here. If you want more information, contact me and I will send you a copy of the Annual Report. This gave a busy and vibrant picture of life within the church community, although there was a recurring theme of "more volunteers are needed!" (see advert opposite). If anyone would like to help out then please do get in touch. You don't have to come to church regularly, the time commitment is often only two or three times per year and some jobs e.g. cleaning/flowers/grass cutting can be done during the week.

The 9.00am service time was, once again, raised as an issue for some people. Eric explained to the meeting that unfortunately it was not possible to change this due to him taking services at both St James's and All Saints each week. Having said this Eric was able to confirm that a new service of All Age Worship is starting on 19th May (see page 1) which will hopefully help!

The accounts for 2018 were presented to the meeting and it was noted that the church finances were in good shape and that the Parish Share (an amount which we have to pay to the Diocese each year to help fund ministry and mission both at a local parish level and throughout the Diocese) had been paid in full. It was noted at the meeting that many people do not realise how much it costs to run the church and that it would be helpful to have an explanation. Hopefully this will be included in a future issue of The Loop!

Finally, we heard that the Diocese are not renewing David and Suzette Maguire's contract at the end of this year. This means that they will be leaving us as Community Ministers. Their departure will leave a huge hole in our ministry in Great Denham and we will be working very closely with David and Suzette over the coming months to see how we can take forward all the groundwork that they have carried out and to continue their groups such as the popular Tea & Talk and Breakfast & Play. They have worked exceptionally hard to build relationships (and a sense of community) in Great Denham and we are extremely grateful for this. Please include David and Suzette in your prayers as they seek their next challenge.

Jacqui Piper  
Jacqui.piper@btinternet.com

**Many Hands Make Light Work!**

**St James's Church Needs You!**

A number of our regular volunteers are retiring (after often decades of years' service)

**Can you help with the following?**

- Sound system for services
- Cleaning the church
- Cleaning the brass
- Serving coffee after services
- Flowers
- Grass cutting
- Sidesmen
- (and other things)

The commitment is usually only two or three times per year.

If you think you can help (or would like to know more) please contact Jacqui on 356993

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**Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE**  
**01234 266 366 peacockauction.co.uk**

# Biddenham Cricket 100 Club



**Support your Village Cricket Club and Win £££s  
by JOINING or RENEWING membership!**

The new season is about to start! We have over 80 Junior cricketers and always need new equipment to help them develop - by supporting the 100 Club you can help us raise money for this *and*, with a bit of luck, you could **win a cash prize** in one of the monthly draws! The more entries we have the more you win so don't delay - join today!

### How does it work?

1 unit or 'number' costs £12 a year - of this, 50% goes to the Cricket Club and 50% into the Prize Fund. A draw for first, second and third prize is made retrospectively on the first Friday of each month (eg May Draw on Friday 7th June).

### How do I take part?

To ensure you are entered in the May Draw (the first of the 2019 season) you can either pay directly into the 100 Club account at Natwest (email [judith@oquinn.co.uk](mailto:judith@oquinn.co.uk) for the details) or send a cheque made payable to '**BIDDENHAM CRICKET CLUB DRAW**' by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May** to '100 Club', Barn House, Duck End Lane, Biddenham, MK40 4AL. **You may purchase as many units as you wish** and you will receive confirmation of your unit number(s) in due course.

If you would like further information before committing yourself, contact Judith O'Quinn on 363489 or email [judith@oquinn.co.uk](mailto:judith@oquinn.co.uk)

# Biddenham Cricket Club

With the really dry and increasingly warm April weather thoughts have turned to summer sports much earlier than they did in 2018. Hopefully the reverse does not happen and we have a cold and wet summer in 2019 compared to the heatwaves of 2018!



Unlike 2018 the surface of the cricket ground has been rock hard for a few weeks, but there have still been challenges for David Watson our ground manager to be able to produce pitches in time for the start of the season on 27th April.

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

On Saturdays David Morrish will again lead the team in the Four Counties League now back in Division 1. The players have been training hard to be ready for a challenging season ahead.

On Sundays the team has once again moved up a division, now competing in Division 1 of the Bedfordshire County League, with matches reverting to 40 overs per side again against stronger opposition. Will Lowerson is again leading the team on Sundays, and we hope that the team can again raise their performances as they have done consistently in recent years.

The Midweek side also achieved promotion in their league in 2018. This year they will play in Division 1 of the Bedford Midweek league with most matches being played on Wednesday evenings. These matches are normally 16 overs per side against local opposition including Thurleigh and Queens Park.

The 2019 fixture programme has been produced and will be distributed to every house in Biddenham. Thanks are due to our volunteer helpers who will be "pounding the pavements" in hopefully pleasant weather.

The early season home fixtures are shown here and news of early results will appear in the next report.

Richard Fone

Up to date club news, fixtures and results appear on the website at:  
<http://biddenham.play-cricket.com>

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

### Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Club Welfare Officer	Maija Bissett	589473
100 Club	Judith O'Quinn	363489



## New Umpires' Room

Thanks to the Parish Council, and particularly Deborah Slade, for their co-operation over the winter months, it has been possible for the cricket club to set up a separate umpires changing room for the new season. This is a requirement to enable Biddenham CC to continue to be a member of the Bedfordshire County Cricket League. We hope that the benches add a "cricket feel" to essentially a functional room.



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Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 6pm and Sat 9am - 4pm

DATE	DAY	START	OPPONENTS	TEAM
27-Apr	Sat	13:30	Westcroft	Sat League
28-Apr	Sun	10:00	Kempston Hammers	U9's
28-Apr	Sun	10:00	Pavenham and Felmersham	U11 Dev
02-May	Thur	18:00	Olney Town	U15's
04-May	Sat	13:30	Olney Town	Sat League
05-May	Sun	09:30	Pavenham and Felmersham	U11 County
05-May	Sun	13:00	Eggington Foresters	Sun League
09-May	Thur	18:00	Pavenham and Felmersham	U15's
12-May	Sun	09:30	Olney Town	U11 County
12-May	Sun	13:00	Harrod	Sun League
14-May	Tue	18:00	Blunham	U13's
15-May	Wed	18:30	Queens Park Westfield Tigers	Midweek League
18-May	Sat	13:30	Thurleigh	Sat League
19-May	Sun	10:00	Olney Town	U9's
19-May	Sun	10:00	Olney Town (A)	U11 Dev
22-May	Wed	18:00	Blunham	Midweek League
23-May	Thur	18:00	Pilgrims Oakley	U15's
28-May	Tue	18:00	Olney Town	U13's
01-Jun	Sat	13:30	Milton Keynes	Sat League
02-Jun	Sun	10:00	Amphill Town	U9's
02-Jun	Sun	10:00	Olney Town (B)	U11 Dev



## A fabulous opportunity to help two amazing local charities – and have fun at the same time!

Over the past 29 years, the **St Philip & St James Charity Golf Day** has raised the massive sum of **£68,000** for local charities, thanks to supporters and donors like you.

In 2018, we shared **£13,000** between Bedford Foodbank and Tibbs Dementia Foundation, and for 2019 we're supporting two more very deserving causes:



Carers in Bedfordshire help over 8,000 unpaid carers from the age of four and upwards by providing advice and information to help them with their wellbeing. They provide one-to-one support, grants, training to develop skills, a carers discount card, family time at Carers Cafés and regular groups to help carers meet others in similar situations all over the county.



FACES supports local children and families faced with difficult issues such as mental and physical health, domestic abuse, poverty, child sexual exploitation and behavioural issues via a range of quality-tested services and family support groups, many led by the team of dedicated volunteers. In 2018, 131 fully trained volunteers supported 820 children and young people alongside their 504 parents.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Playing golf** – £20 per person or £80 per team of four • **Joining us for dinner** – £25 per person  
 • **Sponsoring a trophy or a hole** – starting from just £50 • **Sponsoring the Hole-in-One' competition** for £255 • **Donating a prize** for the raffle or after-dinner auction

### IN RETURN, YOU'LL RECEIVE

**Advertising for your service or company** in our promo material • **Your company details** on our **Main Sponsor Board** and at the evening dinner • **Your company details** in our **programme** given to every golf team and **displayed in the menu card** at the gala dinner

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS. Please get in touch if you want to know more...

Paddy Boylan 07590 380512 p4boylan@hotmail.com	Dermot Horan 07771 430664 dermot2510@hotmail.com	John McManus 01234 343886 bedfordcce@yahoo.com	Steve Wilson 07528 225003 stevewilson946@gmail.com	Mike Chappell 07973 703340 mikechappell43@btinternet.com	Dave Flatres 07551 040368 davidflatres@gmail.com	Simon Naylor 07780 954251 simonjnaylor@hotmail.co.uk
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### SHOULD YOU WISH TO SPONSOR US BY BANK TRANSFER, our charity's account details are:

**BANK** NatWest **ACCOUNT NAME** St. Philip & St James Golf Society **ACCOUNT NUMBER** 63141876 **SORT CODE** 60-02-13



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

East Anglian  
Regional Team

Musical Director: Aidan Fozard

## Handbells in concert

Saturday 4th May 2019

7.00pm

St. Paul's Church  
Bedford  
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35 musicians

over 360  
instruments

with guest soloists

For further information visit  
[www.ear.hrgb.org.uk](http://www.ear.hrgb.org.uk)

Facebook: search for EARBells

Tel: 01992 584761

Or 07534 434900

Programme includes well-known tunes and original handbell music

“Moving” “Uplifting”

Tickets available on the door

Adults: £12

Concessions: £10

Juniors (under 18) free

HRGB is a Registered Charity  
298945 (England) ; SC038918 (Scotland)

Five members of Biddenham Handbell Ringers are involved in this regional team including Anthea Slark (350644) and Rosemary Harris (210434) who can be contacted for tickets.



## Soup Lunch for Christian Aid

Everyone welcome

Friday 17th May 12.30 – 2.00

Biddenham Village Hall

With music from the St James' School Choir

Raffle and Bring and Buy

No tickets, donations welcome



News  
from the  
Pond?

Our work morning on 6th of April attracted 15 volunteers and so much was done to tidy the site and build a barrier in the far left corner. We like to keep this back corner quiet as a wildlife refuge, and it is the one area that we try to keep disturbance by people and dogs to an absolute minimum. Some of the hedges have been lowered so that we can continue to enjoy the open landscape views towards the church. We thank all concerned for their hard work and hope they enjoyed the welcome break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Chris Haydn Jones, as acting Chairman spoke to the Annual Parish Assembly about the activities at the pond and our idea to divert more water from the Manor Hospital roof to help sustain water levels in the pond. This idea met with encouragement and we are now looking for a water engineer to help us achieve this.

Our 2019 Frog Foray was the 33rd such event and this time on a cold evening Chris was joined by five adults and two enthusiastic children for an evening of scouring the dark water with lights for whatever beasts were lurking below. We were not disappointed, seeing great crested newts and common newts though not in any numbers and then the usual sightings of small invertebrates, this year noting a healthy population of Ramshorn snails despite the drying conditions of last summer.

If you enjoyed the frog foray, or feel that you have missed out, please join us on Saturday 29th June at 2.00pm for our pond dip. Children of all ages are very welcome, but they **must** be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their safety at all times. Please do not bring dogs with you as they disturb the wildlife.

In the meantime please join us at the Church Barn on Sunday 9th June at 3.30pm for our Pond Summer Event, incorporating our AGM. As usual refreshments will be available, for which no charge is made. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Pond Team

### Contact Details

Chris Jones [chrishj49@gmail.com](mailto:chrishj49@gmail.com)

Paul Godden [pgodden@btinternet.com](mailto:pgodden@btinternet.com)

Jane Knight [jane@80kltd.co.uk](mailto:jane@80kltd.co.uk)

### Forthcoming dates:

AGM and tea Church Barn, Sunday 9th June, 3.30pm

Pond dip Saturday 29th June, 2.00pm

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

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



## Great Denham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13th May at 7.30pm in the Mercia Suite, Great Denham Community Hall, Saxon Way..

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 3rd June. There are 15 minutes for public questions at the beginning of the meeting.

To keep up to date with developments at Great Denham log on to <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>

# Amina

Amina was a little prune of a thing, all arms and legs and eyes, not much different really from many of the children we saw in the Arhiba clinic in Djibouti. She arrived on her



mother's back, the thin orange streaked hair of malnutrition sticking out one end of the shawl, and rather swollen ankles sticking out the other. She cried constantly. Fatouma her mother was a clandestine refugee from Ethiopia, and they lived on a track between two makeshift houses made of cardboard and bits of tin. They did not have a hut of their own. Fatouma ate every two or three days, whenever she had some money, usually just bread and tea. She tried to breast feed Amina despite the fact that she was fourteen months old. It was not surprising that Amina weighed only 55% of the proper weight for a Djiboutian baby, already much less than that for a western baby. Life was grim, but apparently not so grim as it had been in Ethiopia, otherwise why were they in Djibouti?

We have a nutrition unit in the clinic. Children who are grossly malnourished are taken in and fed on high-energy protein rich foods and their parents are taught about how to feed children on very low incomes. There is not enough money to feed them in the unit after they attain 70% of their expected weight so they are then discharged back into the care of their illiterate mothers and jobless fathers. Often after a while they are readmitted to the nutrition centre grossly malnourished again. What can parents do when they live in a desert and there is no work to be found? Amina joined all the other little mites sitting on the floor, with their mums feeding them with the revolting looking mush that seemed to save so many children. The food was cooked in big pots on paraffin stoves by volunteers from the area of Arhiba, the poorest area of the whole country. There was a companionable feeling to the 30 to 40 families attending each day. At least something was being done for their children.

Amina vomited every meal. Fatouma was advised about giving the food very slowly over a long period of time. That just meant that there was also a longer period of time before the inevitable vomit. Amina seemed to be wasting away before everybody's eyes. Edwin re-examined her and thought that she probably had Tuberculosis, and referred her to the Tuberculosis hospital in town. The next day Fatouma was back with Amina. They would not let them in through the gate despite my referral. Fatouma said that they had demanded money before they would let them in,

and she didn't have any. Tuberculosis treatment is supposed to be free. The hospital said nobody demanded money, so back she went the next day. Again they were not allowed in. Finally somebody was found to receive Amina at the gate, and escort her to see the doctor. For a time we did not see Amina.

Two months later she reappeared. Amina had put on weight and stopped crying. At that stage she hadn't got round to producing a smile, but that came later. She had been admitted to hospital, and her Tuberculosis treatment had been started. She rejoined the nutrition unit, and this time she didn't vomit. Every time she came to the clinic she wore an old but exceedingly elegant bonnet. Among the 130 or so children who turned up at the clinic each day she was a clear favourite. Before long she was smiling and walking.

One day Fatouma brought her in to the clinic with severe pneumonia and we immediately sent her off to hospital. It costs £12 to just get through the gate of the general hospital, but Fatouma could no more find £12 than she could fly to the moon. In any case all of the 14 beds that serve the children of the whole of Djibouti were full. Amina appeared at the clinic the next day desperately ill, and we gave her antibiotics. The next day she died.

We saw Fatouma once after that. She wept for her only child who had been so ill, recovered so well, and had then died. The fact that a quarter of all children in Djibouti die before they are five years old was both unknown and unimportant to her.

Edwin and Peta



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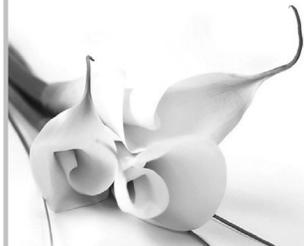
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TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
2PM CHURCH BARN



# BUTTERFLY POETRY

By Richard Harrington

ALL WELCOME – MEMBERS £3 – NON MEMBERS £5

## barn@2 Radio Days

This was a talk-cum-quiz about the programmes we listened to when the wireless hummed and the dial took us to such stations as Hilversum, Caroline and Luxemburg. Kevin Varty's audio presentation, complete with a cat sitting on top of the radio, kept us amused and guessing at the tunes and characters in the programmes. One of our members, Marion Burton, astounded us with her incredible knowledge and helped us to score more points than the presenter!

The following list refers to the music introducing the programmes, and the years which they ran, but we heard so many additional interesting facts from Kevin and audience members too. Sorry you missed it but here's the guessing game for you, if your memory goes that far back!

Can you name some of the characters who appeared in the following?

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 The Archers            | 1st January 1951 to current day |
| 2 Billy Cotton Band Show | 1949 – 68                       |
| 3 Clitheroe Kid          | 1957 – 72                       |
| 4 Dick Barton            | 1946 – 51                       |
| 5 Educating Archi        | 1950 – 58                       |
| 6 Hancock's Half Hour    | 1954 – 61                       |
| 7 Housewives' Choice     | 1946 – 67                       |
| 8 ITMA                   | 1935 – 45                       |
| 9 In Town Tonight        | 1933 – 60                       |
| 10 Journey into Space    | 1953 – 58                       |
| 11 Listen with Mother    | 1950 – 82                       |
| 12 Marriage Lines        | 1961 – 66                       |
| 13 Mrs Dale's Diary      | 1948 - 69                       |
| 14 Workers' Playtime     | 1940 – 67                       |
| 15 Navy Lark             | 1959 – 77                       |
| 16 Paul Temple           | 1938 – 68                       |
| 17 Radio Newsreel        | 1940 – 88                       |
| 18 Ray's a Laugh         | 1949 – 61                       |
| 19 Roundabout            | mid 70s                         |
| 20 Round the Horn        | 1965 – 68                       |
| 21 Take it from Here     | 1948 – 60                       |
| 22 The Glums             | 1954 - ?                        |
| 23 Desert Island Discs   | 1942 to current day             |
| 24 Wilfred Pickles       | 1946 – 67                       |

With apologies to our younger readers, who can hardly envisage homes without televisions, washing machines, refrigerators or even landline telephones. The radio was our 'life-line' then.

Please remember that barn@2 welcomes all-comers and our next meeting, on 14th May at 2.00pm, should have a broad appeal, especially so if you are keen on natural history and poetic forms, because Richard Harrington, who is a professional entomologist and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, is coming to read some of his butterfly poetry to us and illustrate it with stunning photographs.

His book, The Butterfly Collection, will be on sale.

Val Fitzhugh

### Explore the gardens of Church End



**Sunday 7th July 2019, 2pm–5pm**

Come and explore the variety of gardens along Church End, The Old Barns and Manor Road, Biddenham. Several residents have kindly offered to open their gardens – whether pristine, everyday, interesting or just "work in progress" – for others to enjoy.

**Afternoon tea** with home-made cakes for sale in the Church Barn.

**Plants** for sale.

**Tickets £5 per person** for all gardens, available on the day from the Church Barn (next to St James's Church at MK40 4AS).

Accompanied children under 12 free. Map of gardens provided.

*Parking along Main Road. Well controlled dogs on leads, children and buggies all welcome.  
Note: There are ponds, steps and other hazards in some gardens and wheelchair access may be limited in some areas.*

For more information, contact  
Diana Shooter on 01234 213305

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# Bedford Daycare Hospice

## Are we ready to build a compassionate society?

Death is a certainty for us all but many of us feel uncomfortable talking about death, dying and bereavement. With a growing ageing population and people living longer with life-limiting conditions discussing death is becoming increasingly more important.

Many of us have strong views about how we would wish to be cared for as we approach the end of our life, where we would like to be looked after, specific treatments we would not want and about our funeral plans. But if we don't talk about our wishes it may be too late.

You don't have to be ill to talk about dying or to put plans into place. Starting the conversation isn't easy but it could be one of the most important conversations you will have.

To encourage people to talk more openly about death, dying and bereavement and to make plans for the end of life Dying Matters Awareness Week, 13th to 19th May, focuses this year on the theme: "Are We Ready?" Many events are planned nationwide during this week with the ultimate goal to tackle the barriers around this sensitive subject.

Bedford Daycare Hospice will be taking part in this initiative by holding open afternoons at our premises at 3 Linden Road, Bedford from 1.30-3.30pm each weekday Monday 13th to Friday 17th May. The theme of this event will be: "Are We Ready ... to build a compassionate community?" Please come along to one of our open afternoons, talk to staff and look at the Dying Matters resources available.

Compassionate communities recognize that natural cycles of sickness and health, birth and death, love and loss occur every day as part of a human existence. It's a community that cares for one another at times of crisis and loss and believes this isn't simply a task for health and social care professionals but is everyone's responsibility. A community that provides support to someone approaching the end of their life through small acts of compassion and basic human kindness enables them to die well.

Not talking about death won't make it go away, talking about death won't make it happen sooner. But talking about death may take a weight off your mind. Are you ready?

Linda Byer

Nurse Manager

Bedford Daycare Hospice

Linda.byer@bdc-hospice.org.uk



## Bedford Daycare Hospice

Bedford Daycare Hospice invites you to one of our

**Open Afternoons**

at Gladys Ibbett House, 3 Linden Road, Bedford  
MK40 2DD

**13th -17th May 1.30-3.30pm**

**Help tackle the barriers around death, dying and bereavement.**

**Come in and talk to our staff.**

**For further information contact  
Linda.byer@bdc-hospice.org.uk**

# Richard Inwood

## Former Bishop of Bedford

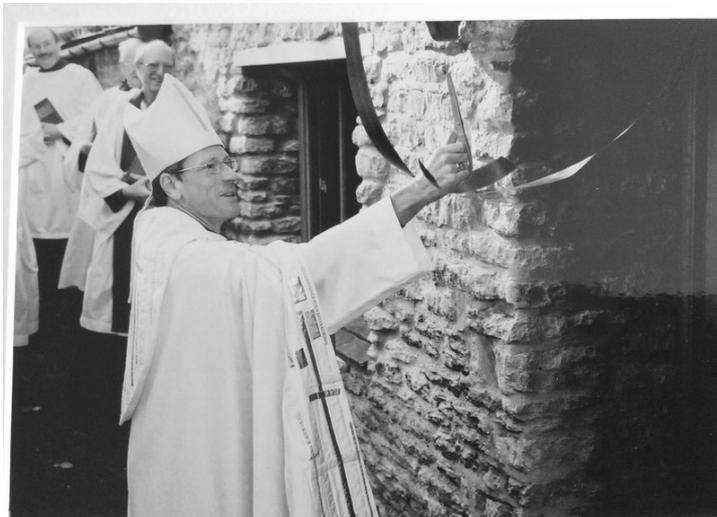
Richard Inwood died on 14th April, Palm Sunday. He was a much loved man who was very approachable and caring, Peta Martin reports.

Speaking about this news, the Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, said:

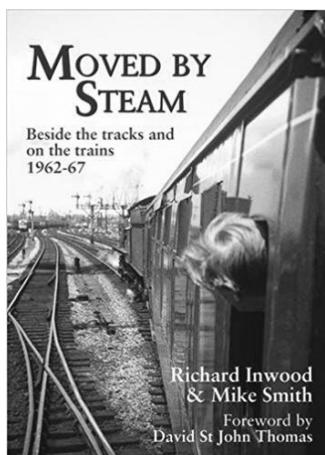
"Richard served as Bishop of Bedford for nine years before his retirement in 2012. He will be fondly remembered for his infectious faith, pastoral care and practical wisdom, as well as his abiding love of steam trains. Richard never forgot his formative roots as a parish priest and gave the highest priority to visiting the churches and schools in Bedfordshire. His work as Central Chaplain to the Mothers Union strengthened ministry among women both in the Diocese of St Albans and nationally. We pray for Liz and his family as they give thanks for his life and witness and as they grieve his loss."

Richard Inwood was ordained in 1974 and served his curacy in Sheffield Diocese. He then held posts in London, Bath and Yeovil during which he was a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral. He was made Archdeacon of Halifax in 1995 and was consecrated in 2003.

He visited St. James's on at least one occasion at the official opening of the Church Barn.



Chris Jones adds:



Richard Inwood was a confirmed and very well informed railway enthusiast as I am sure all bishops are. Richard wrote two well received railway books about his travels in the days of steam, even managing a trip to Wales!

Remember the great Bishop Eric Treacy who died when photographing a steam train at Appleby and there was Godfrey Tearle as the Bishop of Welchester who famously fired the voracious firebox of the steam locomotive "Lion" in that film beloved of the BBC at Christmas "The

Titfield Thunderbolt". And then our own Rev Steven Huckle though not a bishop but an expert on Southern locomotives and as for Paul the organist I could just go on and on.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Richard's life in Christ Church, Bedford, on Thursday 9th May at 2.30pm.

# Biddenham Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly Chairman's Report



My fourth year as Parish Council chairman has seen some very significant issues, mainly regarding planning around the village. This is my report for the Annual Parish meeting, held on 10th April 2019.

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for attending this year's annual Parish Meeting. This, and the regular Parish Council meetings held in this building, are intended to be a forum for debate and decisions about issues that matter to us, as a community. I shall get this out of the way straight away: the increased use of social media and email in society has its benefits. Raising issues, and putting forward ideas can, of course, be done in this way. So can the celebration of successes and the positive things that go on in our village.

But when it comes to debating and deciding what to do, especially if tax-payers' money is involved, the guidelines issued by Government are very clear: Parish Councils can only make decisions at designated Parish Council meetings. The public are welcome to attend, both to put forward their concerns and their views, and to watch as our councillors deliberate and make decisions.

One thing people who attend Parish Council meetings notice is how limited our powers are. We are often asked why we cannot stop a planning application from being approved, or change things like speed limits. Sadly, a Parish Council has little more power than individual residents. Yes, we have a budget for cutting grass and ensuring the flagpole is vertical. And it is true that our

voice, as that which is considered to represent the village as a whole, has a certain influence beyond any one person. But it is really the Borough Council which has the power, and this is why a lot of what we do involves lobbying them to understand our point of view, and pestering them to get certain things done.

When we do debate and decide how to spend your money, we hide nothing. We have operated in a way intended to allow anyone – *anyone* – to have their say. That some may not agree with our decisions is an inevitable fact of life. We are all different, and have our different perspectives. However, I say this: if you have strong views on a given matter, then please attend our meetings. If you can't attend, send someone to represent you. We cannot, and will not, make or change decisions over email. What's more, if those emails become aggressive or derogatory, they will not be responded to.

We are, all of us, just ordinary residents who have put their hands up to perform the duties of parish councillors. With the exception of Jon Gambold, who is standing down from the PC after this meeting, we're none of us politicians – just volunteers. And we don't *want* to be politicians. We are asked to represent the community as best we can. There being nine of us, that should be adequate, although we are consulting the Borough Council about increasing that given all the residents now living in the new development north of Bromham Road.

It is those new residents, by the way, whose Council Tax contributions have caused the 5% reduction in your bill to Biddenham Parish Council. We have held our budget – the "Parish Precept" – at £43,000 for a second year, having put it up from £40,000, where it was for several previous years.

It was at this meeting last year that the severity of the illness of our clerk, Alison Southern, was becoming apparent. For those of you who don't know Alison, she had been our clerk since 2008, and shown great commitment and good sense in handling many matters of importance to residents. She sadly has terminal cancer of the spine, and suffers with a lot of pain. However, she is doing ok, her cancer is stable and – as I know from seeing her recently – she is chipper and the same, positive person she always has been. I know we all send her our best wishes.

I'm grateful to Lyn Lyman, who has stepped in to carry out the Parish clerk's duties. There have been additional sick pay costs as a result of Alison's illness, which Lyn and I are looking at recovering via our insurance policy.

And so to the matters we have tackled this year.

Since late 2017, we have all been concerned by the possibility of a large number of houses being built on the land between Gold Lane and the river. This would mean the protection put in place by the Borough Council to preserve this land as a piece of what you and I would call green belt, and is officially called an "urban gap", would be overridden. This time last year, we were in the thick of encouraging people to object to the developer's planning application for 250 houses, and the Borough's Local Plan policy to remove the protection from the land. Fully 600 objections were received to the application, and 650 to the Local Plan. Thank you to anyone here who objected, or indeed encouraged others to do so. Such numbers are quite extraordinary, although even they have now been surpassed by the 900 plus objections to the latest planning application for 160 houses.

It took until the end of October for the original planning application to be debated at the Borough's Planning Committee, and yours truly was asked to represent the village's reasons for objecting to it. Our argument won the day, but this was because the protection was (and still is) in place on the land.

So the next battle, to prevent that protection being removed in the Borough's Local Plan for 2021 to 2030, is absolutely key. The only way to prevent that happening is at the independent hearings regarding the Local Plan that

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are taking place in May and June. These will be held in front of two planning inspectors appointed by the government. We will have a chance to say our bit in front of them, but to do so effectively will require clear, legal argument. There is no more important issue facing our community than this erosion of our separation with Bromham. At our last meeting we agreed to spend up to £4,000 consulting a legal expert, the main aim of which is to establish the best arguments we have, and to decide on the best way to present those arguments. If the latter is to use a barrister in front of the planning inspectors then we will consider this. There are, however, those who think a commoner would put forward a more heartfelt case. Parish Councillors will be guided by the arguments, and make a decision which could cost us up to another few thousand pounds.

I realise spending as much money as this is controversial. I am very grateful to members of the public who attend Parish Council meetings, as they help judge the mood of residents in the face of such decisions. At the last meeting, that "mood" was very much in favour of spending the sums proposed, and one gentleman even said he would be at a loss to explain why we wouldn't do so. Subsequently, others have disagreed with the decision we have taken. All I can say is, we have to get on with things; and the best way for all points of view to be considered, in a timely fashion, is if people attend Parish Council meetings and take part in the debate.

Similarly, the matter of what to plant to replace the foliage removed from near the war memorial has resulted in a very heated, and very one-sided email barrage from a few, concerned residents. Whilst I am personally involved up to my eyebrows in this matter, I say this: decisions made at the Parish Council will stand. No amount of blistering, and very rude, personal attacks and condemnation of the Parish Council will make us operate in any other way than to debate and decide issues at properly constituted meetings.

You may have noticed that said hedge has now been planted. I'm grateful for your patience in this matter, as for a long time the owner of the fence said he would plant the hedge at his own expense. As it is, we now have a new community asset, and it's true we will have to pay for its maintenance in years to come.



*A new hedge has been planted at the War Memorial*

The overall state of the Parish Council's finances are that they are in good health. We have reserves in the bank of around £50,000. Considering our precept is £43,000, and other income brings this up to around £50,000, we are holding about one year's worth of expenditure in reserve. This is quite reasonable, and can be used to pay for planned

works or unforeseen expenses. The £4,000, or possibly £8,000, to marshal and present our arguments to the Local Plan inquiry should be seen in this context.

We are grateful for everyone's support. As your Parish Council we will continue to hear your concerns, be proactive, and use the limited influence granted to us.

I'd like to thank all my fellow Councillors, our two Borough Councillors, Jon and Roger, and our clerk, Lyn Lyman for their great commitment and effort. In particular, we have four councillors retiring from the council after this meeting: Joe Warren, Terry Platt, Krzys Osuch and Jon Gambold. I would like to propose our thanks to all of them for their commitment and sterling contributions over the past few years. Their sense of public duty has been clear for all to see, and is an example to us all.

Peter Chase  
Chairman

## New post collection times in Biddenham

You may have noticed that the collection times at your local post box have changed recently. The boxes at Church End, Biddenham Turn and Bromham Road (at the top of Day's Lane) are now emptied in the mornings; at 9.00am on Mondays to Fridays and 7.00am on Sundays.



However there is still a late collection at Redgates (Main Road at the bottom of Day's Lane) and at the entrance to Deep Spinney. Collections here are at 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 11.45am on Saturday.

## Bromham Road railway bridge reopens to two-way traffic

Work has progressed well on removing and relocating utilities that ran through the bridge, such that the bridge was able to reopen as promised for the Easter weekend.

Progress towards demolition of the bridge will continue overnight from 23rd April to Friday 21st June. Traffic during the day will be permitted in both directions controlled by traffic lights. Thereafter demolition and reconstruction work on the bridge will continue into 2020.

Once the bridge closes, pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use a temporary footbridge that is being constructed parallel to the road bridge.

# St James' Primary School



As I write, School is closed for the Easter break, and the sun is out shining, which is hopefully a sign of things to come during the upcoming Summer Term.

During the latter part of the Spring Term, we were excited to have borrowed the Moon for a week. As part of the Lunar Loan Scheme, we received a box full of treasures from space, including lunar rocks, and parts of meteorites, as well as some Earth rocks and fossils. The samples from the Moon were collected in the 1970s as part of the Apollo 15, 16 and 17 missions. Children really enjoyed handling the samples, some of which were incredibly heavy because of the iron content, and were surprised by how cold they were to hold.

Our Year 4 children enjoyed a Mayan day, as part of their studies in history. They dressed as Mayans for the day, tried some Mayan cookery, played Mayan sports games and made Mayan masks. They had a wonderful day, which really brought the magic of this ancient civilisation to life for them.



Younger children in Reception created an Easter Garden for everyone to enjoy in the run up to the Easter holidays, helping to learn and understand the journey of Jesus during his final days. Year 6 children took a break from their SATs tests preparations and took part in a performance of Joseph and his Technicoloured Dreamcoat with other Bedford schools at the Corn Exchange, a long hot day, but they sang their hearts out and did us proud!



Some of our closer neighbours may have been concerned by the appearance of an ambulance in the car park, but worry not, this was a planned visit from one of our paramedic dads who shared his ambulance with the children, who were able to explore all the kit in the ambulance, including the all important siren!



Our PSA continues to be focussed on raising money for new playground equipment. If you plan to go to the Bedford Proms in the Park later in the summer (the Sunday event), please consider buying your tickets from the school, as we will receive a donation of £5 per ticket we sell - Adult Proms tickets cost £30 before 30th April, and £35 thereafter. Please get in touch with the School Office, if you would like to support us in this way on 01234 352721 or [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk).

We are also still collecting bottle tops for our eco-project to highlight the problems of plastic waste, as well as any old/spare currency, and shortly, we will also be collecting batteries for recycling. Please just pop into the school with any donations. The office is open from 9.00am to 3.30pm; outside of those hours, there may be someone available to open the door, but if not, please feel free to leave in the front porch.

As always, we thank you all for your on-going support for your village school!

Maria Soulsby  
Headteacher

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## New landlords for the Three Tuns

Easter weekend saw the arrival of new landlords at the Three Tuns. We are sorry to see Wayne and Jane depart and wish them well for the future.

The new landlords, Kati and Peter have spent their lives in the hospitality industry, most recently in Hertfordshire. They are excited by the opportunity the Three Tuns represents and hope to make it a real heart of the community.

Kati, whilst a chef herself, says that they are planning to employ a dedicated chef. She says 'You can't run a pub from the kitchen', and her focus will be on creating popular menus and organising events that will attract local people. She plans tapas available all day in the bar with deals between noon and 3.00pm; kids' menus and senior menus (last seen in Tina's day); and roast Sunday lunches featuring beef, lamb and chicken and a guest meat every week. All the food is home cooked from fresh. The pictures of her sausage and mash and sharing plates look truly delicious.

Jean Gambold

## Update on the proposal to build 160 houses west of Gold Lane

If you responded to the latest planning application for building on the land west of Gold Lane, you will have had a letter from the Borough telling you that the application is due to be heard at the Planning Committee meeting on Monday 29th April and that the Planning Officers are recommending approval. What that letter does not tell you is that there has been an extension to the consultation period because the applicants have now provided a traffic assessment. The consultation period now ends on Tuesday 30th April. Even if you have already commented on the overall application you may wish to respond specifically to the traffic analysis. Experts who have looked at the traffic report tell us that it is technically inadequate for the purpose and open to challenge on many levels, both in the construction of the survey and the conclusions reached. They will be making detailed comments about this and it would be unrealistic for a layman to attempt to make those arguments.

However, one of the key factors is that the analysis looks at the impact of the proposed development on the traffic flows on the Deep Spinney roundabout but does not address the fundamental problem that access to the new estate would not be directly off the roundabout but from Gold Lane. As everyone in the village knows, Gold Lane is already a busy road and can be dangerous. An additional junction and increase in traffic to accommodate the residents of 160 houses can only make it worse but there is no accident risk assessment in the report.

So, if you would like to make a further objection to the application, you should say that you have already made objection to the overall application but now wish to address the traffic assessment specifically. You can then state that you believe the traffic survey is unreliable and that it is not fit for purpose in that it ignores the accident risk on Gold Lane, already a busy, dangerous road (you could add your own experience here).

If you would like to make a further comment about the application reference 18/03100/MAO you must do so by Tuesday 30th April.

You can object by email to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk) and cc [greg.logan@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:greg.logan@bedford.gov.uk). You must include your name and full postal address in your email. Do not be tempted to write from the 'household', write separately and ideally a day apart for maximum value.

Peter Chase



*New landlords, Peter and Kati*

### The Three Tuns, Biddenham



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# Spring Harvest

So, what's a Spring Harvest then? Surely Harvest time is in the autumn isn't it? Well, yes, it is - but then again, a harvest normally involves collecting in and reaping rewards, whereas Spring Harvest is about almost exactly the opposite. It's all about refreshing and equipping God's Church to do his work.

And that's one of the reasons it takes place at Butlins where there are plenty of venues for praise, learning and prayer, but also to relax and unwind, enjoying facilities like the indoor water park and the funfair, not to mention late night concerts from the likes of Ishmael and Graham Kendrick, and plays and sketch shows from Christian theatre groups.



This year a group of 14 people from the St James's church community made their way to sunny Skegness (no really, it was) to spend the Monday to Friday of Holy Week learning about prayer. There were organised groups for the children as well as open all age praise and learning sessions, as well as seminars, teaching and worship sessions for the adults (when they weren't being dragged around the swimming pool).

A highlight of each day for some was The Big Start, appropriately enough taking place in the 4,000 seat Big Top venue, a half hour of praise and learning through sketches for all the family. This year the theme was School of Prayer, with drama from the 4Front Theatre Group and music lessons provided by the school band led by Lou Roll, aka Lou Fellingham. Lou and the band also led the worship in the grownups' Big Top sessions, which included a morning bible study series and evening sessions with guest speakers.



With a theme of resourcing God's church the sessions were all packed with a blend of bible based teaching and practical everyday hints, like praying for every street you walk down when out delivering church leaflets (or Christmas or Easter cards), and praying for the people behind each door as you post the card through the letterbox. There was a huge bookshop, as well as a wealth of materials from organisations like Care for the Family and also the opportunity to support tremendous initiatives like the Mercy Ships floating teaching hospital.

Our daughter Evelyn (age 10) said about the week *"Things that I enjoyed: Imaginators (the 8-11's group) because you get to sing songs to worship and praise God and it helped me understand loads more about God and prayer. The Big Start because it tells a story that is related to God's love, power and forgiveness in some way. Again you get to sing songs of worship and praise. Duggie Dug Dug (Doug Horley) came in to hold a 'Praise Party' where we sang some of our favourite songs and got quite wet (they had water pistols)! I loved the Swimming Pool, because there is a wide range of things to do in the pool, from the jacuzzi to the river rapids slide and more. There was a bookshop with a wide range of Christian books and CDs. We bought a Lou Fellingham CD and she signed it for us! Mummy also got a Graham Kendrick CD signed by him. I would really recommend it to other kids because it helped me understand a lot more about my Christianity and it is lots of fun"*.

A great time was had by all from our group. Some have already booked for next year, and if the Skegness dates don't suit then there are events at Minehead Butlins, and also an event in Harrogate, although that has a slightly different feel as accommodation is booked individually around the town. But if you're interested in a spring break with a difference for next year, have a word with Edwin Martin or Jacqui Piper (contact details on the back page) and they'll be able to point you in the right direction.

Jason Piper



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or email: [info@ovallaw.co.uk](mailto:info@ovallaw.co.uk)

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

# This month in the garden

As I write in mid-April, the vegetables seeds I sowed in March have just begun to germinate. I have needed to water them, though, because we have not had any appreciable rainfall since then. If this continues it will mean that watering will, once again, be at the top of our list of priorities (provided there isn't a hosepipe ban). Wherever possible, water in the evening so that loss from evaporation is reduced. It is best to water plants thoroughly once a week rather than do frequent light watering although plants in containers may well need daily watering. Although time consuming, it is more economical to use a hose to put water exactly where it is needed rather than using a sprinkler. If you have acid-loving plants keep rain water in butts for them, as tap water is alkaline and will not suit them. The lack of rain is a problem but a happy side-effect is the absence of damage by slugs and snails.

If you grow vegetables, there will be a lot to do in May. You will probably have made some outdoor sowings by now but maintain successional sowings to prolong the harvesting season. The best way to have a continuous supply of lettuce is to sow a few seeds every fortnight. Successional sowing requires some discipline and it may be helpful to make a diary note of when it is due. This also applies to liquid fertiliser when, say, weekly or 10 day application may be recommended. French beans and runner beans, sweet corn and courgettes started under glass should not be planted out until mid-May to avoid frost damage. Outdoor sowings can be made from now on. For runner beans grown in a row dig a double trench two feet apart (60cm) and mix the soil with garden compost before setting up the supports. I grow cucumber and tomatoes in a cold greenhouse but they can, of course be grown outside. I find a couple of cucumber plants are sufficient for two of us and I buy plants from a nursery as a packet of seed costs nearly as much as a couple of bought plants. As always, weeds in the vegetable plot need to be controlled and this is best done with frequent hoeing rather than an occasional blitz on well-grown weeds.

May is the month for planting out annual bedding in containers or borders. Here again, don't plant them out until the danger of frost has passed. Keep them well watered and remember also that roses and clematis need generous watering. Give roses an appropriate fertiliser a couple of times in the growing season but clematis benefit from frequent feeding with liquid fertiliser such as tomato fertiliser or all-purpose Miracle Gro.

Dahlias are becoming fashionable again and they do provide a long season of colour; repaying attention with watering, feeding, nipping out and dead-heading. If plants have been in the ground all winter they may well be showing growth above ground by now and this will need protection from frost until well on in the month. Either cover the new growth with soil or cover foliage with horticultural fleece when frost threatens. Pay attention to weather forecasts. Stake plants and restrict them to one or two main stems, cutting out other shoots (which can be used as cuttings) and nipping out the top of the of the shoots selected as main stems once they are 4 or 5 inches high (10/13cm). When flower buds start forming, the largest flowers are obtained by nipping out the pair of buds immediately below the main one at the top of each shoot.

It is a bit late now but you can still divide clumps of perennial flowers to cut out weakened centres or increase your stock. Lift the clump with a fork and then split by hand, teasing out the roots or use two forks back to back to prise them apart. Fleshy roots, like hosta, can be divided by cutting with a spade. Take the opportunity of lifting a clump to incorporate garden compost or well-rotted manure in the soil where the divided plants will be repositioned.

Jeremy Arthern



## Bedfordshire Open Gardens 2019

**Woodbury Hall, Everton, SG19 2HR**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 13:30-17:00**

**Tofte Manor, Sharnbrook, MK44 1HH**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 13:30-17:00**

**The Manor House, Milton Ernest, MK44 1RF**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 13:30-17:00**

**Addersey End House, Stoke Goldington,  
MK16 8LP**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 13:30-17:00**

**Southill Park, Southill, SG18 9LL**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 14:00-17:00**

**Howbury Hall, Renhold, MK41 0JB**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 13:30-17:00**

Visit [www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens](http://www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens) for more information

Or contact Charmaine Norrish [cnorrish@redcross.org.uk](mailto:cnorrish@redcross.org.uk)

The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1900, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738) and Isle of Man (0752).



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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.

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visit: [greenthumb.co.uk](http://greenthumb.co.uk)



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

*Café B...*



*Tuesday 21st May*

*Biddenham Village Hall*

*10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

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

*Home baked cakes*

*Book Swap*

*Next café 18th June*

## **Biddenham Gardeners Association Strictly Daylilies**

We were joined on 16th April by Paula Dyason and her husband Chris. They are the owners of the Strictly Daylilies Nursery in the village of Histon, just north of Cambridge. Paula grew up in America where hemerocallis, to give them their proper name, are very popular. Paula's mother was an enthusiastic collector of daylilies and when Paula moved to England she wanted to cultivate a typical English garden but populate it with these plants. Soon the opportunity arose to turn a hobby into a business and the nursery was started 5 years ago with 300 cultivars. Strictly Daylilies now has 1,700 cultivars, their display garden has 600 varieties and they show at Chelsea and RHS Hampton Court. The nursery has 5 acres and is one of the largest growers of daylilies in the UK. Paula has begun a significant breeding programme and produces about 8,000 seedlings a year. The emphasis is on producing clear bright colours and patterned unusual forms with habits which are suited to the UK climate.

The genus hemerocallis translates as "Beauty for a Day". However it is not a true lily, it has a fibrous root and no bulb. The species are native to Asia where they are farmed as a food source. Hybridising started in the 1930s using around 20 species. There are now over 88,000 registered varieties of daylilies. Paula took us through the classification of daylilies. This includes colour, some are just one colour. Colour patterns where two or more colours are blended and petals and sepals may have different intensity of colour. Blooms can be single, double, polyploid (4, 5 or 6 petals and sepals), or spider (long and thin). Bloom diameter ranges from less than 3 inches to greater than 7.5 inches. Height can range from 6-24 inches to over 36 inches. Bloom times range from extra early May-June to very late September-October. So there are very many hemerocallis to choose from to suit all aspects and taste. However, the biggest advance in the modern daylily is the ability to re-bloom.

Paula talked us through caring for our daylilies. They are quite hardy, are not fussy about soil type or situation, although a sunny spot is best, and are drought tolerant. Their main pest is the gall midge which seems to only affect the early varieties; so these are best avoided. Grubs feast on the buds which are then recognised by their bulbous shape. These buds should be picked off and destroyed. Dividing is best done after the plant has flowered. Dig up the clump, rinse off the soil and twist apart, plant the crown no more than an inch below the surface of the soil.

It was a pleasure to listen to someone who is so passionate about what they grow and we were given a wealth of information. The nursery is open for visits on specific days and there is a comprehensive website giving all the details. As Paula says on her website, she is on a mission to convince the world that daylilies should be in every garden. They have certainly come a long way from the orange hemerocallis many of us remember in our grandparents' gardens.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st May when Anne Luder will be talking to us about Capel Manor College and Gardens. Please do join us. Just come along to the Village Hall for a 7.30 pm start. You will be made very welcome.

Linda Truscott

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

[www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk)

### **Plant Fair And Open Gardens**



**At Moggerhanger Park  
Sunday 2nd June 10.00 - 4.00**

**Plant Heritage (Herts & Beds) Plant Fair  
Garden and Ice House Tours  
Forest School**

**[www.moggerhangerpark.com](http://www.moggerhangerpark.com) - Events**



Moggerhanger Park - Park Rd - Moggerhanger - Beds - MK44 3RW  
Entry to the Walled Garden Adult £3.00 - U16's £1.00 which includes Plant A Pansy activity



# 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  
**£7.00**

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month  
*Book swap*  
**Friday, 3rd May, 7th June**

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

## Mobile Library

**Great Denham Community Centre**  
Saturdays 4th & 18th May, 1st June  
2.20pm-2.40pm  
**Biddenham**  
Thursdays 9th & 23rd May  
Church End 10.00am-10.20am  
Nodders Way 10.25am-10.50am  
*Remember your library card!*



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

Membership      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. Contact details for regular events are also there.  
[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
6.30pm	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

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
10.00am	Tai Chi	Church Barn
10.00,11.00 & 12.00	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
7.30pm	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 (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

### Friday

8.30 & 9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
11.00am	Mother & Baby Yoga (except 1st Friday)	Village Hall
3.30-7.30pm	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
7.30pm	Karma Yoga	Village Hall

For regular events at Great Denham Community Hall, go to  
[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/)



## 100 CLUB

### March draw

1.	Simon Chalkley	39
2.	Linzi Parry	431
3.	Julia Johnson	287

Drawn by Queenie Murdie



Subs are due for the new season on 1st May. See the advertisement on page 6 for details.

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

## May

- Fri 3 May First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19  
 Sat 4 May Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19  
 Sat 4 May Handbell ringers concert, St Paul's church, 7.00pm, see p8  
**Sun 5 May** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 7 May Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, see p3  
 Thu 9 May Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19  
 Thu 9 May Service of Thanksgiving for Richard Inwood, Christ Church, Bedford, 2.30pm, see p11  
**Sun 12 May** Parish Communion, St James's. **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**  
 Sun 12 May Open Garden, Woodbury Hall, Everton, 1.30-5.00pm, see p17  
 Mon 13-Fri 17 May Open Afternoons, Bedford Daycare Hospice, 1.30-3.30pm, see p11  
 Mon 13 May Great Denham Annual Parish Meetings, GD Community Hall, see p8  
 Tue 14 May barn@2, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p10  
 Wed 15 May Biddenham Parish Council meeting, Pavilion, 7.30pm  
 Fri 17 May Christian Aid Soup Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.00pm, see p8  
 Sat 18 May Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19  
 Sat 18 May Plant Sale, 8 Darlow Drive, 2.00-4.00pm, see p1  
 Sat/Sun 18/19 May Bulky waste collections, see p1  
**Sun 19 May** Parish Communion, St James's. **9.00am**  
 All Age Worship, Church Barn, **4.00pm**, see p1  
 Evening Prayer, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 21 May Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p18  
 Tue 21 May Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p3  
 Tue 21 May Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p18  
 Thu 23 May Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19  
**Sun 26 May** Parish Communion, St James's. **9.00am**  
 No evening service  
**Thu 30 May** **Ascension Day**  
 Communion Service, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2  
 Charity Golf Day, see p7  
 Fri 31 May

## June

- Sat 1 Jun Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19  
**Sun 2 Jun** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**,  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Sun 2 Jun Plant Fair & Open Gardens, Moggerhanger Park, 10.00am-4.00pm, see p18  
 Mon 3 Jun Great Denham Parish Council meeting, GD Community Hall, see p8  
 Fri 7 Jun First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
 Sun 9 Jun Open Garden, Tofte Manor, Sharnbrook, 1.30-5.00pm, see p17  
 Sun 9 Jun Biddenham Pond Summer Event & AGM, Church Barn, 3.30pm, see p8  
 Sun 16 Jun Manor House, Milton Ernest, 1.30-5.00pm, see p17  
 Tue 18 Jun Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p18  
 Tue 18 Jun Messy Church, Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm, see p3  
 Sun 23 Jun Open Garden, Addersey End House, Stoke Goldington, 1.30-5.00pm, see p17  
 Sat 29 Jun Biddenham Pond Dip, 2.00pm, see p8  
 Sun 30 Jun Open Garden, Southill, 2.00-5.00pm, see p17

## The Loop

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All **June** 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) by **Wednesday 22nd May please.**



*The views expressed in 'The Loop' by various community groups do not necessarily represent the views of St James's Church or the Parochial Church Council.*

**For regular events listings see page 19**

**For cricket fixtures see page 7**